

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

February 23, 2015
Meeting held at Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Robert Merry, Vice Chairman Joseph Perry, David Petersen (Town Administrator Deborah Eagan, Assistant Town Administrator Amy Lydon) Jack Cook- ABSENT Clerk Robert Snow - ABSENT

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Lawrence White - Finance Committee; Brent Baeslack - Conservation Agent; Bill DiMento - Harbormaster

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Robert Merry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He said the meeting is being audio and video recorded digitally.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Harbormaster Bill DiMento led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

2. Discuss Town Wharf Bid results
3. Discuss Town Landing Dock Project

Harbormaster Bill DiMento said two bids were received for the Town Wharf project, but both were over budget. He said it was tough to see the work needed since everything is covered in snow, and he suggested going out to bid again in another two weeks. He said he feels the bids will come in lower once the bidders can see the work that needs to be done.

DiMento said he requested information from the low bidder on the Town Landing Dock Project and they were not compliant, so the bid was disqualified. He said the second bid also came in under the project limit and they can deliver the docks before April 1st.

Dave Petersen made a motion to award the bid for the Town Landing Dock Project to Custom Float Services for \$24,996.40, Joseph Perry second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Jack Cook- ABSENT Robert Snow - ABSENT

7:05 – 7:15 p.m. CITIZEN QUERY

Citizen's Query opened at 7:05 p.m. and continued until 7:15 p.m. There were no citizen's queries.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Request from Library Director Pam Jacobson to lift hiring freeze for library technician position

Chairman Merry read the request.

Joseph Perry made a motion to lift the hiring freeze as requested, Dave Petersen second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Jack Cook- ABSENT Robert Snow - ABSENT

2. Request from Police Chief Robert Barker to lift hiring freeze for police officer position

Chairman Merry read the request.

Dave Petersen made a motion to lift the hiring freeze for both positions as requested, Joseph Perry second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Jack Cook- ABSENT Robert Snow - ABSENT

NEW BUSINESS

1. Open Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Chairman Merry said, "The Board of Selectmen needs to vote to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and to close it at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2015."

Joseph Perry made a motion to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and to close it at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2015, Dave Petersen second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Jack Cook- ABSENT Robert Snow - ABSENT

Merry reviewed the attached Town Meeting Schedule.

2. Discuss Street Layout Hearings for Hawkesworth Village and Wild Pastures

Chairman Merry read the following:

Town Planner Kirk Baker has informed us that the Planning Board is finishing up their review of the as-built plans for two separate subdivision developments – Hawkesworth Village and Wild Pastures.

We haven't received anything yet, but anticipate receiving a formal notification soon, at which time we will have need to hold street layout hearings for each of these subdivisions.

Eagan said the Planning Board met last Wednesday and we will have to have a hearing on this and articles on the Town Meeting warrant. She said there is no action required tonight.

3. Discuss reserve fund transfer for the Veterans Benefits line

Chairman Merry read the following:

The balance is \$5,981.00

We have additional cases and we're drawing down more than \$10,000 a month. Debbie recommends that we seek a reserve fund transfer for \$10,000 to carry us through mid-March to mid-April. We can put an article on the Special Town Meeting warrant to transfer funds for the remainder of the year.

Joseph Perry made a motion to approve a reserve fund transfer for \$10,000 as outlined by Merry, Dave Petersen second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Jack Cook- ABSENT Robert Snow - ABSENT

Petersen asked what the original appropriation was. Eagan said \$45,000. Petersen said we should ask the Veterans agent to discuss where this may be going with a couple of Selectmen for budget planning purposes.

4. Review Northeast Mosquito Control proposed FY 16 budget

Chairman Merry read the following:

The Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District has sent us the proposed FY 16 Assessment. The Assessment comes in the form of a charge to the Town's state aid. The District has scheduled an informational public meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 27, 2015 at Salisbury Town Hall. Rowley's proposed FY 16 assessment is \$54,657.00, which reflects no increase. The FY 15 assessment was \$54,657.00

If the Board is satisfied, then it needs to vote to indicate the support of the FY 16 budget and the chairman will need to sign the document.

Dave Petersen made a motion to support the FY 16 budget and authorize the chairman to sign the document, Joseph Perry second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Jack Cook- ABSENT Robert Snow - ABSENT

7:15 p.m. Appointment - Conservation Agent Brent Baeslack to discuss Conservation Restriction on the Bradstreet Farm Conservation Area

Baeslack said there have been three public hearings on this Conservation Restriction and Robert Ford from the Mass. Audubon and Town Counsel Judy Pickett have reviewed the final document. Merry said he did see one item that needs to be corrected. Eagan said the reference to Middlesex Registry of Deeds has been updated to the Essex Country Registry of Deeds. Baeslack said the Conservation Restriction prohibits trapping and hunting given the community garden area and the recreation parcel.

Joseph Perry made a motion to sign the Conservation Restriction on the Bradstreet Farm Conservation Area, Dave Petersen second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Jack Cook- ABSENT Robert Snow - ABSENT

The Board signed the document and Baeslack notarized their signatures.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss re-scheduling postponed hearing on the Proposed Reconstruction of Central Street with Highway Surveyor Patrick Snow and Norman Brown of Bayside Engineering

Chairman Merry read the following:

Pat Snow had to cancel this meeting due to the recent snowstorms.

Pat is requesting that this meeting be re-scheduled to Monday, March 30, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Joseph Perry made a motion to re-scheduled this hearing to Monday, March 30, 2015 at 7:30 p.m., Dave Petersen second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Jack Cook- ABSENT Robert Snow - ABSENT

Merry said the Highway Surveyor will send a notice about this to the abutters.

4. Discuss FY 16 Triton Tentative Budget and Stadium Project

Joseph Perry read the following:

The Triton School Committee is holding a public hearing on their FY 16 Tentative Budget.

The Tentative Budget calls for a four percent increase. A four percent increase comes out to \$333,154.00

The FY 15 Snow and Ice deficit as of today is approximately \$200,000 over the budgeted \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen may consider asking the School Committee to look at an increase of no more than 2.5 percent, which will be about a \$208,000 increase. Does the Board wish to have a letter presented to Triton requesting a lower assessment increase?

Perry said he is planning to attend the public hearing and will express the wishes of the Board, and can submit a letter if that is what the Board would like. Merry said he can't attend, but would appreciate putting a letter together and having Perry present it. Perry said he will, and it will be part of the meeting minutes. He said he hopes Triton can make some cuts since Rowley cannot afford a 4% increase. Petersen said he cannot make the meeting. He said the proposed increase will take three quarters of the Town's new revenue and growth. He said we need to increase Town budgets, such as Veterans Benefits, and funding is being requested for the new stadium. He said we should state in the letter that because of the budget increase, the Town will need to seek an override to fund the stadium, and the taxpayers will have to decide if this gets funded. He said Town departments have been told to level fund their budgets except for extreme situations, and this is a tough year with high snow & ice removal costs with four to five more weeks of winter to go. He said the Governor's budget has been cut by forty million so far due to reduced sales and gas taxes from the winter weather. He said copies of the letter should be given to each school committee member. He said we are in a real crisis. Eagan asked if the letter should request a reduced amount. Petersen said we need to ask for as close to a 2.5% increase as possible.

Dave Petersen made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to prepare a letter to the Triton School Committee, using her discretion for appropriate language, to be signed by the Chairman with copies going to each School Committee member, Joseph Perry second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Jack Cook- ABSENT Robert Snow - ABSENT

MINUTES

- December 1, 2014 Executive

Dave Petersen made a motion to approve the minutes from December 1, 2014 Executive Session, Joseph Perry second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Jack Cook- ABSENT Robert Snow - ABSENT

- December 8, 2014

Joseph Perry made a motion to approve the minutes from December 8, 2014, Dave Petersen second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Jack Cook- ABSENT Robert Snow - ABSENT

- January 26, 2015

Approval of these minutes was tabled since Petersen was absent from the January 26th meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Board of Selectmen is reminding residents that if they have the opportunity and the ability to clear hydrants near their homes
- The Town has the following vacancies:
 - a) **Fence Viewer**– three positions;
 - b) **Wood, Lumber & Bark Inspector**; and
 - c) **Zoning Board of Appeals Associate** – two open seats
 - d) **Historical Commission-Historic District Commission** - two seats
 - e) **Parks and Recreation Committee** - two seats
 - f) **Open Space Committee** is seeking membersFor more information on these positions, please contact the Selectmen's Office at 948-2372
- Rowley Food Pantry is in need of donations. The Food Pantry is open Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Merry called for a motion to adjourn. Joseph Perry so moved, Dave Petersen second, all in favor – aye (3-0).
Jack Cook- ABSENT Robert Snow - ABSENT

Open meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lydon
Assistant Town Administrator

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Meeting memo regarding Old Business #2: Discuss Town Wharf Bid results
2. Meeting memo regarding Old Business #3: Discuss Town Landing Dock Project
3. Request from Library Director Pam Jacobson to lift hiring freeze for library technician position
4. Request from Police Chief Robert Barker to lift hiring freeze for police officer position
5. Meeting memo regarding New Business #1: Open Annual Town Meeting Warrant
6. 2015 Annual and Special Town Meeting Schedule
7. Meeting memo regarding New Business #2: Discuss Street Layout Hearings for Hawkesworth Village and Wild Pastures
8. Meeting memo regarding New Business #3: Discuss reserve fund transfer for Veterans Benefits line

9. Meeting memo regarding New Business #4: Review Northeast Mosquito Control proposed FY 16 budget
10. Proposed budget package from Northeast Mosquito Control
11. Meeting memo regarding 7:15 p.m. Appointment - Conservation Agent Brent Baeslack to discuss Conservation Restriction on the Bradstreet Farm Conservation Area
12. Letter from Conservation Agent Brent Baeslack to Board of Selectmen dated February 19, 2015
13. Conservation Restriction on the Bradstreet Farm Conservation Area
14. Meeting memo regarding Old Business #1: Discuss re-scheduling postponed hearing on the Proposed Reconstruction of Central Street with Highway Surveyor Patrick Snow and Norman Brown of Bayside Engineering
15. Draft Minutes of the December 8, 2014 Selectmen's meeting
16. Draft Minutes of the January 26, 2015 Selectmen's meeting