

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

March 24, 2014
Meeting held at Town Hall

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

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Lawrence White – FINCOM; Brent Baeslack - Conservation Agent; Mark Griffin - Water Department; Stuart L. Dalzell Sr. - Water Board; Roy Ricker - Water Board; Tim Toomey - Water Board; Karen Summit - Treasurer/Collector; Peter Dalzell - Cemetery Commissioner

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Robert Snow called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He said the meeting is being audio and video recorded digitally.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Brent Baeslack - Conservation Agent, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

None.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Sign Equal Pay for Women Proclamation

Chairman Snow read the proclamation (COPY ATTACHED).

Jack Cook made a motion to sign the proclamation, Joseph Perry second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

Snow signed the proclamation.

7:05 – 7:15 p.m. CITIZEN QUERY

Citizen's Query opened.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss March 18, 2014 School funding presentation

Chairman Snow said, "Bob Snow, Joe Perry and Bob Merry attended the school funding presentation by Senator Tarr and Roger Hatch of the Department of Education. They will brief the Board on the highlights of the presentation. Attached is a copy of the DOE handout."

Perry said Hatch from the DOE presented a lot of information, which was overwhelming, about the State formula. He said he feels that parts of the State formula need to be adjusted since most of the money is going to the cities, and regional districts are receiving less money per student. Merry said he was encouraged by Tarr's and Hill's presentation and said both of them realize that there is an issue with the State's formula. He said they are interested in doing something at the State level and hopefully an adjustment will come. Snow said he was impressed by Tarr's and Hill's understanding of the formula, and they added to Hatch's presentation. He said because of this process, we have an adversarial relationship with the school during budget season, the State numbers are available in July which makes the process difficult. Perry said he encourages House Speaker DeLeo to support changes to Chapter 70 funding. Petersen said the back page of the handout clearly illustrates the problem. He said Chapter 70 aid was dropped in 2004 and ten years later it is not back to the level that it used to be. He said required net school spending has skyrocketed, and towns have to make up the difference. He said the State reported that revenues have increased by 5%, but they only put a pittance in local aid. He said the chart should be put on the Town's website to illustrate that the funding issues are not the Town's fault.

Snow asked if the decreasing student population is a factor in the equation. Petersen said there are many factors, such as number of students, town population, and property values. He said if Chapter 70 aid had increased at the same rate as everything else we would be okay. He said next year, we need to meet with the schools earlier.

Joseph Perry made a motion to send a letter to House Speaker DeLeo urging him to support revising the Chapter 70 formula, Jack Cook second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

7:05 – 7:15 p.m. CITIZEN QUERY

Citizen's Query closed. There were no Citizen's queries.

7:15 p.m. Appointment – Conservation Agent Brent Baeslack to discuss Open Space Plan and update on FEMA Floodplain maps

Conservation Agent Brent Baeslack said the Open Space Plan has eleven sections, nine of which are substantive. He said there is a section for public comments, gathered from a Citizen's survey. He said this survey guides the direction of the Open Space Plan.

Baeslack said several sections require substantial revisions and he is awaiting documentation from the former Open Space Committee Chairman. He said he has

completed editing and revising the first two sections of the Plan and he is working on section five now, which is an inventory of land. He said he has the maps, he has sent them to MVPC for revision, and they will tell him how many hours this takes. He said the five year action plan hasn't been done and substantial work is needed in other sections. He said Greenbelt recommended a consultant, Nellie Aikenhead, who can possibly help with the update of the Plan. He said he is awaiting a quote from her, but has not yet spoken to the Conservation Commission or the Open Space Committee. He said the Conservation Commission has a land conservation fund from 1974 and read the relevant Town Meeting Articles number 6 and number 2 regarding the fund (COPIES ATTACHED). He said the current balance in this fund is slightly more than \$10,000. Merry said this fund was set up to purchase land since there was no CPC in those days. He said they tried to appropriate \$10,000 per year into this fund and this was never spent. He said spending from it requires FINCOM approval, but it isn't necessary for the FINCOM to recommend this. Baeslack said FINCOM recommendation is a good practice, and he needs to speak to the Conservation Commission about this.

Eagan said an inordinate amount of work is required to update the Open Space Plan, it needs to be filed with the State and then used for land grants. She said with the amount of work that Baeslack handles in the office, the consultant can help complete the plan, which has many more holes than we thought, and records haven't been turned over to the Town. She said the Board can recommend use of these funds to hire a consultant to help update the Open Space Plan.

Bob Merry made a motion to hire a consultant to help update the Open Space Plan and someone to help with Microsoft Word formatting, Dave Petersen second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

Petersen said we threw a huge burden on Baeslack, but we thought the Plan needed to be just updated. He said whatever assistance we can give to Baeslack, he will support. He asked Baeslack if he is optimistic that the Plan can be completed by June. Baeslack said he hopes it is ready before Town Meeting, but there are factors that are out of his control. Merry said this Plan is important for the Town, and will make us eligible for some serious funding, but it needs to be updated.

Baeslack said a public hearing was held and the Planning Board has given the Board of Selectmen an article for the new flood plain maps (COPY ATTACHED). He said there were no public inquiries and the new maps are available in the Conservation office and on the FEMA website. Baeslack suggested that these new maps be posted to the Town's website once they are voted on. Snow thanked Baeslack for all of his work on this project.

7:30 p.m. JOINT MEETING – Board of Water Commissioners to discuss

- draft FY 15 Water Department budget
- water treatment plant update

- discuss and sign special town meeting transfer article

Chairman Snow called for a motion to open the joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Water Commissioners. Joseph Perry so moved, Jack Cook second, all in favor – roll call vote: Robert Merry – aye, David Petersen – aye, Joseph Perry – aye, Robert Snow - aye, Jack Cook – aye, Stuart L. Dalzell Sr. - aye; Roy Ricker - aye; Tim Toomey - aye.

Joint meeting opened at 7:42 p.m.

Water Board Chairman Tim Toomey said they are recovering from changes in the department. He said Acting Superintendent Mark Griffin has been meeting with the fiscal team, the budget is heading in the right direction, and they are getting on the same page. He said they are working on clarifying some discrepancies in the categories, especially the expense line. He said this afternoon they compared year-to-date expenses against last year, and many lines have not been used. He said they have a draft budget prepared, and hope to have it finalized this week. He said the engineer has estimated the power consumption at the new treatment plant at \$240,000. Snow asked how many pumps will be at the new plant. Griffin said there are pumps of various sizes and said there are about twenty to thirty pumps. Snow asked when it came to their attention that the power cost would be \$240,000. Toomey said they tried to guestimate, and they talked to Weston & Sampson to come up with the estimate. Perry asked how long ago this was discussed. Toomey said it was discussed about this time last year. Snow said the Water Department spoke about using solar panels a while back and asked if that was correlated with this. Ricker said Senator Tarr brought it up at the groundbreaking, but there hasn't been discussion since then. Snow said there was a circumvention of the Board of Selectmen on that. Toomey said he isn't sure that anyone knows the facts since that happened under the former Chairman.

Petersen asked if we have ever received a comprehensive plan from Weston & Sampson showing the anticipated plant costs, such as electricity, heating and manpower. He said he wonders why we don't have one so that it can be discussed at Town Meeting. Ricker said he has been on the Water Board for five years and has been trying to find out the requirement for manpower at the plant, and he doesn't have an answer yet. Petersen said he is disappointed that they don't have any information from Weston & Sampson. Griffin said he has been getting help from the other departments and there is a delay since he is still coming up to speed. He said the proposal from Weston & Sampson had energy costs, and the information needs to be digested. He said it was assumed that the plant would be able to automatically run, but they have been told by the DEP that they may need someone at the plant whenever the

plant is running. He said the numbers in this budget are from this Weston & Sampson proposal. Petersen said nobody had any indication that one or two people would need to staff the plant when it is operating. He said these are unexpected costs and he feels nobody has a good idea where this is going and asked if we need licensed people. Ricker said when they visited the plant in Gardner, the employees could run it from a computer at their house. Toomey said they asked the DEP what they need, and they said one Primary and one Secondary Operator each with T2 and D2 licenses. He said they didn't know the plant would run eleven or twelve hours per day, but thought it would run during the regular shift and the regular guys could take care of it along with their other work. He said they are looking into whether or not they need to run the plant for eleven/twelve hours per day. Petersen said they need at least one current employee at the plant anytime it is running, they have three full time employees, and if there is an emergency, such as a pipe break, they can't help. Toomey said the skater system will help with automation, he thinks the current staff can handle it and will be able to leave the plant to do other tasks and then return to the plant. He said they are looking at their manpower needs. Petersen asked what the drop dead date is to have this budget. Eagan said she wants the Board to sign the warrants on April 9th or April 10th. She said she will have a draft of the warrant available for the Board to review on April 7th, so there will be a day or two after that for clean-up items and Finance Committee review. She said we are running out of time. Petersen said we are in a deep hole and maybe a joint working session will be required to finalize the water budget. He said he is disappointed that we don't have more information from Weston & Sampson, given that the plant is opening up in a couple of months and we have no idea how we will staff it, or an estimate for overtime costs. Snow said when he visited Pennichuck, they had a skater system which would send an alarm when there was a problem, and a technician would be dispatched to address it. He said the Water Department is now talking about funding an unknown number of positions to operate the plant. Toomey said Griffin added money to the overtime budget to cover staffing at the plant. Snow said the Water Board sold this plant as a state-of-the-art system that would run itself. Toomey said it is automated, and staff will have to intervene only when there is a problem. Snow said he was under the impression that staff wouldn't need to be there. Ricker said that is how the system was presented to the Water Board in Gardner. Toomey said the plant was designed to operate eight hours per day and then shut down. Eagan asked for clarification about whether the plant will run ten to twelve hours per day, or eight hours per day. Toomey said eight hours. Summit asked if this is a permanent staffing, or if this is a temporary arrangement mandated by the DEP. Summit asked if anyone has sat down with the Light Department to discuss the electricity costs for a reality check.

Griffin said the budget will be ready, and has been a challenge. He said regarding automation, it can and will happen in Rowley. He said in Gardner, they probably were required to have one or two people staffing the plant in the beginning. He said the staffing requirement may go away once the plant proves itself. He said they have three full time people, and the Primary Operator would work out of the office at the plant doing his paperwork, which covers forty hours. He said when the Primary has to leave the plant, someone can take his place, or they can shut the plant down. He said people are conserving water, so the plant may be able to produce sufficient capacity in eight hours. Merry said the price of water is driving conservation, and if the prices don't go down, people may drill wells. Toomey said their goal is to provide safe drinking water, and they are doing that as cost effectively as they can. Snow asked if the Water Board has discussed contract services for the water treatment plant. Stuart L. Dalzell Sr. said he is highly in favor of this. Toomey said they haven't discussed it lately. Petersen said the engineering firm should be able to tell us based on usage what we should expect rather than this group trying to guestimate. He said there is no clear documentation and we are a week away from the budget deadline. Toomey said he understands Petersen's frustration, this is complicated, they have an estimate which will be fine tuned in the next couple of months. He said he knows we need the budget numbers now, and Griffin has been doing a good job, but we don't have a history yet. Petersen said it is frustrating that the engineer hasn't provided their expertise. Toomey said they estimated the plant to run twelve hours per day, and the Water Board is questioning this. Griffin said they did provide information early on that needs to be revisited, and they have helped. He said they are trying to handle the plant using overtime at the beginning, and after some experience running it, they may look to change that. Snow asked if the budget will be done this week, Griffin said it is almost done now. Eagan said if it does come in, the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen can review it next week. She said we are late in the process and the draft doesn't yet include the rate analysis, and the Water Department sustains their expenses through the water rates. She said the estimates include a part time Secondary Water Operator with licenses, and after Town Meeting, costs can be reviewed and a long term water operator plan can be created. Griffin said the draft that will be ready this week won't include revenues, but they plan to hire a rate specialist who the Water Department has used before.

Summit said there is an article drafted for the Special Town Meeting because an amount was budgeted for legal fees for the permanent borrowing for the water treatment plant, but the actual fees came in \$3,659.75 over this budgeted amount. She said that the Water Commissioners need to vote to transfer that amount out of their maintenance account into the cost of debt issuance line. Summit read the draft article (COPY ATTACHED).

Tim Toomey made a motion to approve the article for the Special Town Meeting, Stuart L. Dalzell Sr. second, all in favor – roll call vote: Stuart L. Dalzell Sr. - aye; Roy Ricker - aye; Tim Toomey - aye.

The Water Commissioners signed the article. Eagan said the Water Department's draft for the Town Report was sent to the printer today, since we had to send it for printing deadlines. She said the Water Board should vote to ratify it at their next open meeting.

Joseph Perry made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Water Commissioners, Jack Cook second, all in favor – roll call vote: Robert Merry – aye, David Petersen – aye, Robert Snow – aye, Jack Cook – aye, Joseph Perry – aye, Tim Toomey - aye, Stuart L. Dalzell Sr. – aye, Roy Ricker – aye.

Joint meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

7:45 p.m. Appointment – Police Chief Robert Barker to discuss FY 15 Police Department budget

Chairman Snow said, "Chief Barker will give an overview of his budget. There are no wage changes to the full-time and reserve police officers because the Town is still in negotiations."

Barker said there are wage increases in the budget for dispatchers and non-union personnel. He said for the past three years, they have been operating with \$28,000 of 911 grant money, which is slowly creeping into the normal budget. He said if the grant dries out, they will be looking to the Town to make up the difference. He said Gamache is retiring no later than December 31, 2014, which will leave the number two Detective position open. He said they will need to hire a patrolman, and if the person is new, they will have to spend five months in the academy. He said he can fill the position with reserves, but it will cost \$16,000. Petersen said when Gamache leaves, there will be a plain Lieutenant position and a patrolman will be promoted to the Detective position. He said there will be one new patrolman to be hired. He said when Barker became Chief, they got rid of the Deputy Chief position, which saved the Town money. He said we should look at hiring an additional patrolman. Barker said he is in favor of this, they have been short two men since he took over in 2009 and the budget hasn't been increased since then. Eagan said it is too soon to say if the Town has funds to do this, and we are waiting for a union settlement on wage increases. Petersen said the need for another patrolman is there and last week there were two drug arrests and a variety of other police activities.

Barker said the Department cannot function without a Detective, which is a \$5,000 increase in salary. Eagan said this budget doesn't need to be approved, but this is the minimum amount for the budget until a union settlement is reached. Petersen asked if

the new cruiser is included in the budget. Barker said yes. Eagan said there is an additional cruiser in an article, and another article for funds to look at a new police / fire station. She said the station project will be a priority in the next few months if it passes since the Board wants to present the project at the next Annual Town Meeting. Barker said he did increase the budget for gasoline and service contracts, but it is not a lot of money.

7:30 p.m. JOINT MEETING – Board of Cemetery Commissioners to discuss FY 14 revolving fund cap and FY 15 Revolving Fund

Jack Cook left the Selectmen's table and sat in the audience at 8:55 p.m.

Chairman Snow called for a motion to open the joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Cemetery Commissioners. Joseph Perry so moved, David Petersen second, all in favor – roll call vote: Robert Merry – aye, David Petersen – aye, Joseph Perry – aye, Robert Snow - aye, Peter Dalzell – aye, Jack Cook – aye. Bill Gaynor - ABSENT

Joint meeting opened at 8:56p.m.

Chairman Snow read the following:

Cemetery Commissioner Bill Gaynor is on vacation and is unable to attend. He met with Debbie and explained that the Cemetery Board needs to have their FY 14 Revolving Fund Expenditure Cap raised to \$20,000. The Cemetery Revolving Fund has a balance of \$15,512; they have spent \$9,784 to date and need to access these funds to continue operating the Cemetery Department through June 30, 2014.

In the FY 15 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, the cap will be set at \$20,000:

9	<i>Board of Cemetery Commissioners – into which one-half (1/2) of cemetery plot grave digging and footings installation fees shall be deposited and which may be used by said Board of Cemetery Commissioners for Cemetery Department operations. [Beginning balance \$; Income \$; Expense \$; Ending balance on 2/28/14 \$]</i>	<i>Expenditures not to exceed \$10,000. \$20,000</i>
---	---	--

The Board of Selectmen needs to vote to approve the expenditure cap of \$20,000 by a roll call vote. The Cemetery Board needs to also receive approval from the Finance Committee.

Cook said for the last two years, they have been digging graves year round, and the rate increases for a winter burial. He said they use the Revolving Fund, not taxpayer money. He said 50% of the fees for burials are deposited into the Revolving Fund, and the other 50% goes to the Town. He said there is a \$10,000 cap on the amount that can be spent from the Revolving Fund each fiscal year, and if an additional \$5,000 of spending is allowed this year, there will still be \$10,000 left in the revolving account. He said they can only spend what they have, and this money helps them to continue burials over the winter. Petersen said the costs are higher, and so the fees are higher and said they can increase the cap to \$20,000 per year to help make ends meet. Cook said there are a lot of cremations. Dalzell said about 40% of the burials are cremations.

Dave Petersen made a motion to increase the spending cap on the Revolving Fund to \$20,000 per fiscal year, including FY 14, Joseph Perry second, all in favor – roll call vote: Robert Merry – aye, David Petersen – aye, Joseph Perry – aye, Robert Snow - aye, Peter Dalzell – aye, Jack Cook – aye. Bill Gaynor - ABSENT

Eagan said a representative from the Cemetery Board should attend the Finance Committee meeting and if they vote to approve this, they will be all set for FY 14. She said going forward, the cap amount in the article on the warrant will be increased to \$20,000.

Dave Petersen made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Cemetery Commissioners, Joseph Perry second, all in favor – roll call vote: Robert Merry – aye, David Petersen – aye, Joseph Perry – aye, Robert Snow - aye, Peter Dalzell – aye, Jack Cook – aye. Bill Gaynor - ABSENT

Joint meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Jack Cook sat back at the Selectmen's table.

OLD BUSINESS

2. Discuss and review FY 15 Budgets and Town Meeting articles

Petersen said the Parks & Recreation budget (COPY ATTACHED) has been discussed with the Parks & Recreation Committee, and the wages for FY 15 were decreased from \$7,792 to \$3,896. He said the position has been unfilled, and this money is being moved into the expense account to cover increasing maintenance costs. He said as they move forward with the Bradstreet ballfield project, they will review the entire budget to account for these changes, and they will need to pay someone to do this.

Dave Petersen made a motion approve the Parks and Recreation budget, Jack Cook second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

Joseph Perry said the Whittier budget has increased \$38,000. Eagan said the Whittier Superintendent emailed her their budget number, but it is not final yet, so they can hold off on approving the School's budget (COPY ATTACHED). Petersen said this is the maximum budget and it should come down.

Joseph Perry made a motion approve the School's budget, Dave Petersen second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

Dave Petersen said the Insurance budget is higher (COPY ATTACHED). Eagan said Property & Casualty and Worker's Compensation claims this year have triggered an increase to the Town's premium. She said the Town pays deductibles, and the costs are offset with savings from employee training, dividends, and prompt payment discounts. She said she is optimistic that the total cost will be lower than the amount budgeted for.

Dave Petersen made a motion to approve the Insurance budget, Jack Cook second, all in favor – aye (4-0). Bob Merry- ABSTAINED

Joseph Perry made a motion to withdraw the previous vote on the Insurance budget, Dave Petersen second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

Dave Petersen made a motion to approve the Insurance budget, Joseph Perry second, all in favor – aye (3-0). Bob Merry- ABSTAINED, Jack Cook - ABSTAINED

Dave Petersen made a motion to approve the Street Lights budget (COPY ATTACHED), Joseph Perry second, all in favor – aye (3-0). Bob Merry- ABSTAINED, Bob Snow - ABSTAINED

Dave Petersen made a motion to approve the Hydrants budget (COPY ATTACHED), Joseph Perry second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

Dave Petersen made a motion to approve the Historic District Commission / Historical Commission budget (COPY ATTACHED), Jack Cook second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

Dave Petersen made a motion to approve the Harbormaster budget (COPY ATTACHED), Jack Cook second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

Joseph Perry said the Debt budget has decreased 16% (COPY ATTACHED). Snow said the Town's debt is low compared to other Towns. Eagan said the budget includes FY 15 borrowing and will change if the ladder truck doesn't pass.

Dave Petersen made a motion to approve the Debt budget, Jack Cook second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

Eagan said the articles have been sent to bond counsel. Snow read the article for various capital items for the Special Town Meeting (COPY ATTACHED).

Dave Petersen made a motion to put this article on the Special Town Meeting warrant, Joseph Perry second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

Snow read the article for the dump truck for the Annual Town Meeting (COPY ATTACHED).

Dave Petersen made a motion to put this article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant, Joseph Perry second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

3. Discuss Fire Department ladder truck override ballot question

Chairman Snow read the following:

The bond counsel has approved the following article and ballot questions. The Board of Selectmen needs to vote to place the question on the May 13, 2014 Annual Town Election ballot. (The selectmen already voted to place this article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.)

(2014 Annual Town Meeting)

(Ladder Truck)

Article __: To see if the Town will appropriate \$735,000, or any other amount, to be expended by the Board of Selectmen, to pay costs of purchasing a ladder truck for the Fire Department, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any and all action necessary to accomplish the purposes of this article, to take any other action relative thereto.

Motion __: That the sum of \$735,000 is appropriated, to be expended at the direction of the Board of Selectmen, to pay costs of purchasing a ladder truck for the Fire Department, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(9) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. The Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any and all action necessary to accomplish the purposes of this vote. No sums shall be borrowed or expended pursuant to this vote unless and until the Town shall have voted to exclude the amounts needed to repay any borrowing authorized by this vote from the limitations

on total property taxes contained in Chapter 59, Section 21C of the General Laws (Proposition 2 1/2).

Ballot Question: Shall the Town of Rowley be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to pay costs of purchasing a ladder truck for the Fire Department, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto?

Eagan said the question language provided by Bond Counsel does not include the cost of the truck - \$735,000.

Dave Petersen made a motion to put this ballot question on the Annual Town Meeting warrant, including the cost of \$735,000, Jack Cook second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

4. Discuss purchase of Rowley Girl Scouts Camp land

Chairman Snow read the following:

The Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts have accepted an offer by the Selectmen to purchase the Rowley Girl Scouts Camp for \$2.5 million, this is well-below the Town's appraised price of \$2.9 million and the Girl Scouts appraised price of \$3.1 million.

The Town can afford to purchase this land through a combination of "appropriated" Community Preservation Act funds and "borrowed" Community Preservation funds.

The Board of Selectmen needs to take the following actions:

- 1) Vote to place an article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant authorizing the purchase of the property in the amount of \$2.5 million through a combination of CPA available funds (\$1.7 million) and CPA borrowed funds (\$800,000).*
- 2) Vote to place an article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant appropriating \$20,000 - \$25,000 of CPA funds to cover the following costs: survey of the Girl Scouts land, legal work including writing purchase and sales agreement; deed, recording costs; and consultants to assist with grant applications.*
- 3) Designate one selectman (Dave or Bob Merry) to attend the CPC meeting on Thursday and present the draft article for the purchase of the land and the article seeking funding to be used for the costs associated with the purchase.*

Debbie has sent Town Counsel a draft of the Girl Scouts land purchasing article. After Town Counsel has reviewed it, it will be sent to Bond Counsel.

Dave Petersen made a motion to place an article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant authorizing the purchase of the property in the amount of \$2.5 million through a

combination of CPA available funds (\$1.7 million) and CPA borrowed funds (\$800,000), Joseph Perry second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

Joseph Perry made a motion to place an article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant appropriating \$25,000 of CPA funds to cover the following costs: survey of the Girl Scouts land, legal work including writing purchase and sales agreement; deed, recording costs; and consultants to assist with grant applications, Jack Cook second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

Joseph Perry made a motion to designate Dave Petersen to attend the CPC meeting on Thursday and present the draft article for the purchase of the land and the article seeking funding to be used for the costs associated with the purchases, Jack Cook second, all in favor – aye (5-0).

Petersen said he, Bob Merry and Debbie Eagan talked to the Girl Scouts on Monday, but didn't hear back from them until Friday. He said this is good news and a great piece of property for the Town's future use. Snow said this is an advantage for the Town. Eagan said the camp can be leased out to an organization to run a day camp, and this would bring community based programs to the Town, and would create jobs for teenagers. Snow said this will preserve the core and heart of the Town. Merry said this land abuts the recreational fields on Haverhill Street, and since the Girl Scouts haven't been paying taxes on this land, the Town's purchase of this land will not cause it to be taken off of the tax roll.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve FY 15 health insurance renewal

Chairman Snow said, "The Town's group health insurance is going up by 5.53 percent in FY 15 for all plans. The Board of Selectmen needs to vote to accept the increase and authorize Debbie to sign the renewal proposal."

Dave Petersen made a motion to accept the health insurance rate increases (COPY ATTACHED), Joseph Perry second, all in favor – aye (3-0). Bob Merry – RECUSED, Jack Cook – RECUSED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Rowley Veterans Association – Community Blood Drive March 31, 2014
- The Town has the following vacancies:
 - **Conservation Commission** – one seat;
 - **Finance Committee** – one seat;
 - **Fence Viewer**– two positions;
 - **Wood, Lumber & Bark Inspector**; and
 - **Zoning Board of Appeals Associate** – two open seats

For more information on these positions, please contact the Selectmen's Office at 948-2372

- 375th Anniversary information and events are posted on the Town's website, www.townofrowley.net
- Battery recycling box located at the Town Hall and Library
- 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.
- Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 5, 2014

Chairman Snow called for a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategies with respect to litigation because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating positions of the Town and not to return to open session. Jack Cook so moved, Joseph Perry second, all in favor – roll call vote: Robert Merry – aye, David Petersen – aye, Joseph Perry – aye, Robert Snow – aye, Jack Cook – aye.

Open meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lydon
Assistant Town Administrator

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Equal Pay for Women Proclamation
2. DOE handout from March 18, 2014 presentation
3. 1974 Town Meeting Articles excerpt
4. Letter to Alan Roscoe regarding open space records
5. Letter to MVPC from Brent Baeslack
6. Article for new floodplain maps
7. Water Department draft budget information
8. Draft article for Special Town meeting for a transfer to cover Water Treatment Plant bond counsel fees
9. Memo from Police Chief Robert Barker and first draft of Police Department budget
10. FY 15 budgets and town meeting articles discussed under Old Business 2
11. MIIA Renewal Proposal for FY15 Health Insurance Rates