

## **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

November 20, 2017

Meeting held at Town Hall, 139 Main Street, Rowley, MA  
7:00 p.m.

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

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES:** Bernard Cullen; Larry White – FINCOM; Edward Dello Iacono, Sr., Atlantic Auto Solutions

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman Perry called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Perry announced that the meeting is being video and audio recorded and televised live by Rowley Community Media.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. Review Road Opening Permit from National Grid for the following:
  - to open 169 Wethersfield Street to install new gas service
  - to open 57 Summer Street to relay service

Chairman Perry said, "Road Opening Permits were signed off on by the staff for the locations listed above."

2. Accept donation of labor from J. Cotter Electric Service, Inc. for the replacement of a thermostat at Town Hall

Chairman Perry read the following:

*Jim Cotter of J. Cotter Electric Service, Inc. graciously donated labor for the replacement of a thermostat at Town Hall.*

*Please vote to accept this donation. Does the Board wish to send Mr. Cotter a thank-you note?*

Dave Petersen made a motion to accept this donation and to send Jim Cotter a thank-you letter, Bob Snow second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Cliff Pierce - ABSENT

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### 1. Update on the Pine Grove School project

Chairman Perry read the following:

*The Pine Grove School Building Committee met last week. The Committee approved W.T. Rich Company, Inc.'s recommendation for the purchase of the following:*

- *Roof Top Units – Trumbell Campbell - \$690,500*
- *Boiler – Emerson Swan - \$50,700*
- *Main Electric Switch – LeVangie Electric - \$32,487*

*The total recommendation amount is lower than W.T. Rich's Company's estimated budget.*

*Estimated Budget = \$825,609*

*Recommended Amount = \$773,687*

*Savings = \$51,922 lower than the estimate.*

*At the November 6, 2017 Board of Selectmen meeting, the Selectman approved a Not To Exceed amount of \$862,532.80 for these three Early Procurement Items.*

*In other news, the Community Public Meeting was held last Thursday, November 16. The project architects from Dore & Whittier gave an update on the project.*

Perry said he is glad to hear that the numbers are lower than the estimates.

### **7:05 – 7:10 p.m. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no Public Comments.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### 2. Update on the Fire Station and Police Station Addition project

Chairman Perry read the following:

*The General Bids were opened this past Thursday afternoon. We received six bids. (Attached is the bid list.) The apparent low bidder is Castagna Construction Corporation in Newburyport. The bid is \$7,977,000. The three lowest bidders came under the construction estimate.*

*The OPM will need to review the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance files of the low three bidders and make a recommendation for contract award. Tentative dates for the Board of Selectmen to approve the contract award are December 4 or December 11.*

**7:15 p.m. APPOINTMENT** Edward Dello Iacono, Sr. to discuss transfer of Class II Dealer's License from Gino's Collision Center, Inc. at 274 Newburyport Turnpike to Atlantic Auto Solutions at 274 Newburyport Turnpike

Chairman Perry read the following:

*Gino Tzortzis d/b/a Gino's Collision Center currently has a Class II Dealer's license at 274 Newburyport Turnpike for an 8 car limit (current license attached). Gino has sent the attached letter requesting that this license be split as follows:*

- *License for 7 cars to be issued to Edward Dello Iacono, Sr. d/b/a Atlantic Auto Solutions*
- *License for 1 car be issued to Gino Tzortzis d/b/a Gino's Collision Center*

*The application submitted by Mr. Dello Iacono has an 8 car limit listed, not a 7 car limit. The Board should clarify this with Mr. Dello Iacono. The required \$25,000 bond in accordance with Mass. General Laws Chapter 140 Section 58 for Mr. Dello Iacono is still pending.*

- *Does the Board wish to issue these two licenses, but hold Mr. Dello Iacono's license until the required bond is provided?*
- *Does the Board wish to waive the \$200 fee for Mr. Dello Iacono since the license will expire in about a month and a half on January 1st?*

Petersen asked if this location is in front of Gino's. Mr. Dello Iacono said it is the end of the parking lot, abutting 264 Newburyport Turnpike. Perry said Gino requested that this license be split 7 cars to Dello Iacono and 1 car to remain for him, but Dello Iacono's application says 8 cars. Dello Iacono said seven cars is fine and he initialed the change on the application.

Dave Petersen made a motion to issue both licenses, hold Dello Iacono's license until we get the required bond, and to waive the \$200 fee, Bob Snow second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Cliff Pierce - ABSENT

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1. Discuss FY 19 Triton Budget Drivers memo

Chairman Perry read the following:

*Attached is a copy of the Triton Budget Drivers memo. According to the memo, certain parts of the Triton budget will be increasing by significant amounts for an overall anticipated increase of \$2,200,000.*

*The Finance Committee discussed the memo at their meeting last week. The Finance Committee is concerned about the potential increase of more than \$2 million dollars.*

*FY18 Increase = \$423,230*

*FY 17 Increase = \$484,998*

*Does the Board have any comments on the Budget Drivers memo? Does the Board wish to send a letter to the Triton School Committee?*

Perry said the memo from Triton details special education increases of \$500,000, health insurance increases of \$640,000, Essex Regional Retirement increases of \$100,000, Cost of Living and Step increases of \$960,000. Petersen said this puts us behind the eight ball. He said the raises must be bargained and in place, and are probably part of a three year contract. He said we can probably expect cost of living and step increases of about \$1,000,000 each year for the next three years. He said there is no control over the special education costs, and they have indicated that health insurance premiums are increasing by 15%. He said for the past two years, the Town has increased its contribution to Triton by almost \$500,000 each year, and to do this, a lot of money has been used from free cash. He said this memo does not include any increases from educational changes, and he said the increase to Rowley could be \$1,000,000 this year. Perry said the increase could be at least \$1,000,000. Petersen said this is putting the Town on the road to bankruptcy since our allowed 2.5% plus new growth is nowhere near \$1,000,000. He said the Town will have to cut back local budgets. He said we should send a letter to Triton saying we are not happy with this, and the school is breaking our back. He said with the 2.5% COLAs and the step increases of probably 2%, the teachers are getting 4.5% raises, while the Town employees have gotten 2.25% increases. He said Triton didn't take into account giving lower raises, the money has to come from somewhere, and there will be no great increases in state aid. He said these increases are being paid on the backs of the Rowley taxpayers. He said this year may

be a \$1,000,000 increase on top of the \$1,000,000 increase Rowley has seen over the past two years. He said it is going to be very difficult to put the Town budget together.

Perry said he was asked at the District Communications Meeting to comment on the memo and he said he would hold his comment for a later time. He said he is hoping to send Triton a letter after tonight's meeting. He said he is recommending that the Triton budget be turned down at Town Meeting. He said we can go for a level funded budget, and put any increase as an override and recommend that people vote it down.

Petersen said if the override doesn't pass, the Triton budget will need to be funded anyways, and we will need to have another Town Meeting within 60 days. Perry said Triton could resubmit the same budget, then it will be a 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget. Petersen said for the third budget submittal, the State would determine the budget, and the State won't be sympathetic to the Town. He said all we can do is go to the Triton meetings and express our displeasure. He said he recommends that we offer the 50% of the increase in revenue plus new growth to cover the first 8 to 10 months of the 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget. He said everyone needs to understand what the process is if the Triton budget is voted down. He said if we lose, we will ultimately need to cut the Town's budget. Perry said Triton has invited State Auditor Suzanne Bump to come to their meetings in January. He said Bump has written a paper about the State's formula for reimbursing schools, but he doesn't see that helping the budget for FY19.

Snow said we have to look at the sticker shock to the taxpayers with the School project and the Police and Fire Station projects coming online. He said the taxpayers will be speechless when they see their bills. Larry White said if the Selectmen don't send a letter, it will look like Rowley is rolling over like it does each year. He said the worst case scenario is a 2% to 3% pay decrease to the Town, which they don't understand. He said the Finance Committee is ready to not recommend the Triton budget. He said something has to give, and we cannot do nothing. Snow said a revolt will be coming once the sticker shock hits.

Perry said the letter should say that we are not going to support the Triton budget for FY19, and recommend that some of the increase be put on an override, and encourage people to vote against it. Petersen said the taxpayers have been more than generous with the overrides over the past couple of years. He said he recommends a letter and a request to be on the School Committee Meeting agenda to reiterate the Town's position between now and the end of the budget period. Snow said seven years ago we had to cut the Town budgets by 2.5%. Petersen said he worries about the anticipated \$1,000,000 increases over the next three years. Snow said property taxes may no longer be allowed as a deduction on federal tax returns. He said the millennials are not buying cars or big houses or living in the suburbs, and this is going to be a crisis in the coming years.

Bernie Cullen said he is in favor of sending a letter and said we should strongly request what the increases for the next two years are, and we should translate the increases into the average tax burden so it makes the increases significant to the School Committee and School Administration. Petersen said the impact of the Triton increases will be on Town services and not on taxes, unless there is an override. Cullen said the only solution is to cut Triton's headcount, and this needs to be communicated. Eagan said unless this was funded through an override, the money would need to come from the Town budgets, and there would be a significant cut to Town budgets. Petersen said for example there would be one police cruiser out at midnight instead of two, or two firefighters instead of three. He said the letter should not be longer than a couple pages. Snow said if the Town cuts, Triton has to cut. He said this can't be one-way and 60% of the Town's budget goes to Triton. Eagan said the 60% includes Whittier and Essex Tech. Perry said the Selectmen's next meeting is December 4<sup>th</sup>, and the next School Committee meeting is on December 6<sup>th</sup>, and we need a letter. Petersen said we need a letter to send to them first, and then read at the School Committee meeting. He said it can be read during their Public Comment, or we can request to be put on their agenda, and do this each month.

Larry White said there have been overrides for items such as the Pine Grove School renovation project, as well as for turnout gear for the firefighters and police radios. He said normally the gear and radios would be paid for out of the normal budget for the department, but the budgets have been level funded and we have had to plead with the Town for funds for the required equipment. Petersen said Triton is running the Town dry and we have been providing them with increased funds for a number of years. Cullen said the School Committee members need to push for the towns. He said we can't just say that we are frustrated with the budget, rather we need to tell them what they need to start looking at. He said with student head count dropping, we need to tell the School Committee that they need to reduce the staff headcount. Eagan said Triton did not include any commentary on possible ways to reduce costs on their memo, such as through retiree health and dental insurance. She said they offered no solution on how to reduce spending when they sent an astounding amount that the budget is expected to increase.

Larry White said Salisbury is facing similar problems and may support Rowley's stand on the budget. He said Rowley's Town Meeting is before Salisbury's Town Meeting and last year, after Rowley and Newbury approved the budget, Salisbury didn't oppose it since there was no reason to. He said their Finance Director is concerned about their budget, and they want to see what Rowley will do this year. He said we have little to lose and a lot to gain and disapproving the budget will send a message. Petersen said we should look at funding Triton's budget at level funding from last year plus the Town's 50% of the 2.5% increase plus new growth. He said we will be short of funds for the

last two or three months. He said we should put the rest of their requested increase on a override, but he doesn't think it will pass. He said our letter should copy the Salisbury and Newbury Selectmen, and we should request an audience each month with the School Committee through the budget season. Snow said we would need to cut the Town budget by 4% or 5% to fund Triton, and that would be staggering to a town like Rowley. Perry said last year people said they were supporting the renovation of Pine Grove School, but they were willing to vote against the Triton budget. He said we need to do this now.

Dave Petersen made a motion to:

- Have the Town Administrator prepare a two-page letter stating that the Board of Selectmen is unable to support a preliminary budget increase of \$2,200,000, citing the reduction in students;
- The Town is willing to increase its contribution to the Triton budget by approximately \$200,000, which is 50% of the 2.5% increase in taxes plus new growth;
- Point out that dropping enrollments equals less Chapter 70 aid;
- Copy Salisbury, Newbury, School Committee; the Superintendent; Senator Tarr; Representative Hill and Governor Baker on the letter;
- Request an appointment on their December 6<sup>th</sup> agenda;
- Authorize Chairman Perry to sign this letter

Bob Snow second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Cliff Pierce - ABSENT

## **MINUTES**

- October 30, 2017

Bob Snow made a motion to approve the October 30, 2017 minutes, Dave Petersen second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Cliff Pierce - ABSENT

- November 6, 2017

Bob Snow made a motion to approve the November 6, 2017 minutes, Dave Petersen second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Cliff Pierce - ABSENT

- November 13, 2017

Bob Snow made a motion to approve the November 13, 2017 minutes, Dave Petersen second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Cliff Pierce - ABSENT

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Friends of the Rowley Public Library 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Basket Raffle – The Friends are seeking donations of gift baskets of a retail value of at least \$50 and raffle tickets will be sold at the Library starting on November 18. The drawing will be held at 1:00 p.m. on December 16, 2017
- Toys for Tots Drop off box located at Town Hall
- Information on the Pine Grove School project is available on the Town's website at [www.townofrowley.net](http://www.townofrowley.net).
- The Town has the following vacancies:
  - a. **Open Space Committee** – one seat;
  - b. **Fence Viewer** – three positions;
  - c. **Wood, Lumber & Bark Inspector**;
  - d. **Zoning Board of Appeals Associate** – three seats;
  - e. **Parks and Recreation Committee** – one seat;
  - f. **Deputy Shellfish Constables** – two positions.For more information on these positions, please contact the Selectmen's Office at 948-2372.
- The Rowley Food Pantry is in need of donations. Donations can be left at the Rowley Public Library. The Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and on Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Perry called for a motion to adjourn. Bob Snow so moved, Dave Petersen second, all in favor - (4-0). Cliff Pierce - ABSENT

Open meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Lydon  
Assistant Town Administrator

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Meeting memo regarding General Business #1: Review Road Opening Permit from National Grid for the following:
  - to open 169 Wethersfield Street to install new gas service
  - to open 57 Summer Street to relay service
2. Road Opening Permit for 169 Wethersfield Street
3. Road Opening Permit for 57 Summer Street
4. Meeting memo regarding General Business #2: Accept donation of labor from J. Cotter Electric Service, Inc. for the replacement of a thermostat at Town Hall
5. Invoice from J. Cotter Electric Service, Inc. for thermostat in Accounting Office
6. Meeting memo regarding Old Business #1: Update on the Pine Grove School project



7. Letter from W.T. Rich regarding Letter of Recommendation for Early Release Package #1 Award, including attached copies of all proposals received and manufacturer's cut sheets
8. Signed Request to Award No. 1
9. Meeting memo regarding Old Business #2: Update on the Fire Station and Police Station Addition project
10. Bid results for general bids for Fire Station and Police Station Addition project
11. Meeting memo regarding 7:15 p.m. Appointment: Edward Dello Iacono, Sr. to discuss transfer of Class II Dealer's License from Gino's Collision Center, Inc. at 274 Newburyport Turnpike to Atlantic Auto Solutions at 274 Newburyport Turnpike
12. Class II Dealer's License issued to Gino's Collision Center, Inc. at 274 Newburyport Turnpike
13. Letter from Gino Tzortzis regarding splitting of license at 274 Newburyport Turnpike
14. Application package for a Class II Dealer's License submitted by Edward Dello Iacono, Sr. d/b/a Atlantic Auto Solutions at 274 Newburyport Turnpike
15. Meeting memo regarding New Business #1: Discuss FY 19 Triton Budget Drivers memo
16. Triton Budget Drivers memo
17. Draft minutes of October 30, 2017
18. Draft minutes of November 6, 2017
19. Draft minutes of November 13, 2017