

A Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Town Hall. Mr. Snuffer was absent, the following members were present

Christopher Timson, Chairman  
Al DeNapoli, Vice Chairman  
David Sullivan, Clerk  
Nancy Mackenzie

Also present  
Michael Boynton, Town Administrator

Mr. Timson called the meeting to order.

Made a statement relative to trash, there has been a lot of feedback since the Board voted on April 20, 2010. He wanted to make it clear the Board did not impose trash fees. We discussed limiting the amount of trash residents put out and promote more recycling. We decided to put out two trash bags or one barrel equaling 60 gallons. I know we can attain that goal. No Trash fees, the only item where there is a potential fee is with large items. We have heard a lot from people, we are still studying the matter.

Selectmen Snuffer is not here as his wife past away. Our thoughts are with him and his family and the Board and staff extend their deepest sympathy.

### **Summer St. Pole Relocation**

The town is in the process of working on Summer St. The pole is being moved back fifteen feet, and the Board needs to approve a relocation. In order to expedite this Mr. Boynton is asking the Board to support the moving of this pole. The pole is on the Lorusso side and will not have affect on any agreement that was made regarding the movement of the pole across the street.

MOTION moved by Mr. DeNapoli to approve the request by the DPW to move the pole on Summer Street, and to authorize the utilities to make the movement. Seconded by Mr. Sullivan, VOTED 4-0-0

### **Spring Town Meeting Articles**

Article #5: We have a few budgets that are short. We need to do some transfers from Health Insurance to school Department, \$25,000 to unemployment expenses, \$48,329 from employee benefits line. This was from the motions.

### **Town Administrator's Update**

Reserve Fund Transfer- The Town incurred significant expenses during the flooding event. The highway incurred expenses, the costs involved were \$7,953 in overtime \$14,083 in supplies. They had to purchase barricades. The Finance Committee is completing the budget process Thursday and Mr. Boynton would like to present this to them. They are filing with MEMA for recoverable costs.

MOTION moved by Mr. DeNapoli to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer to Highway salaries and expenses and over time expenses totaling \$22,036.72, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 4-0-0

Open Meeting Law- Attached letters to the other communities and legislators.

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to endorse and send the letters relative to the open meeting law, seconded by Mr. DeNapoli, VOTED 4-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. DeNapoli to recommend Favorable Action on article 5, \$174,000 from Overlay surplus and \$48,329 from FY10 Employee Benefits Expenses, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 4-0-0

Budgets: **Article 6**

Mr. Boynton went over the budget amounts with for each department.

The following budgets were held by Board members for review:

Selectmen Budget

Planning Board

Ponds Com

Animal Control

School Department

Solid Waste and Recycling

Veterans Services

Library

Unemployment

The Norfolk County Aggie School is new to the budget.

The total proposed budget is \$65,184,795.00.

Board of Selectmen Budget- our expenses from 2009 to 2010 a few thousand dollars. Mr. Boynton explained the expenses are down \$100 for the next fiscal year and savings in salaries. The Board's various memberships have increased in cost.

Planning Board- Mr. Timson knows they have been meeting with neighboring towns regarding regionalization of town planning. Is this budget controlled by Planning Board? Mr. Boynton reminded the Board they have no agreement in place to go forward on July 1 with regionalization., If something like this happened, that can be done at a follow-up town meeting. The change would be required through town meeting. Mrs. Mackenzie suggested he should reach out to the Board about regionalization.

Ponds Com- Back in 2007 there was \$8,000 that was for cleaning and growth of the ponds. We have not funded for a few years. Mr. Boynton does not feel \$8,000 in a budget is going to anything. The ponds need to be drained dredged. He would like to have something in there but you are talking \$100,000 dollars to accomplish anything. All you're road runoff gets into the drainage system. The next phase is going to be treating stormwater. But where does it stop. Mrs. Mackenzie feels the Town is so far behind. Mr. Boynton suggested the subject be discussed with Ponds Committee and Landis. It is a long term issue.

Animal Control- John is retiring July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Mackenzie questioned why are we future funding it? If he does not have a plan in place by May 18<sup>th</sup> he needs to fill it. John would consider extending his time.

School Budget- Mr. Timson is getting emails and calls regarding school budget, we made some attempts to add funds, by reducing amount of trash pickup the schools come forward with a proposal at town meeting for local meals tax.

Library- Mr. Boynton explained there are three finalists they will interview. They are moving forward with this

Unemployment- we have that funded at \$250,000. Back 2009 it was \$100,000 less. Mr. Boynton explained that based on projections from the School department that number may be higher. Not convinced it will be lower it may be higher. We are down 4.5 million dollars and trying to keep everything status quo. State aid alone down 2 million. Mark Good is monitoring local receipts. Motor Vehicle excise is up and down. We do not have a lot of big building permits coming in. We do not have anyone on municipal side for layoffs, but that could change.

Mr. Timson noted we have an overall budget of \$65,000,000, why should we and the taxpayers feel good about what they are getting for this amount? Mr. Boynton explained in terms of service that is given by the departments, I am pleased, our roads are plowed, and safe, the police and fire are very professional, the library has done well with services they provide, the school department provides an excellent service. We are sensitive to the needs of communities and try to get back to residents as soon as possible. Everyone gives 110%. They are trying their best at the school level to not loose services and be creative. Talked about the great job the DPW provided during the storm. Feel we deliver our services well and high proficiency

MOTION moved by Mr. DeNapoli to recommend Favorable Action on Article 6, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 4-0-0

### **Articles 36 and 37**

Mr. Timson reviewed what the allotment would be. Approximately \$297,000. There is some belief these are 8 month numbers. This is only an estimate. Dedham is hitting

their target. The one thing DOR numbers is that they are only estimates. They try to guess on what the corporate companies are doing. It would be a full accounting process. The bad news is if you budget \$297,000 and you do not get it you have a shortfall. I do not recommend going all the way with that number.

Mr. Boynton is recommending the money for municipal go into Snow and Ice Budget.

If Article 36 passes and Article 37 does not he would not recommend amending Article 6. In the event of passing of 36 the main motion for article 6 would be this \$65, 481, 795. Suggested the Board vote a contingency motion. Town Meeting is going to take up these articles prior to the budget.

MOTION moved by Mr. DeNapoli to recommend Favorable Action on Article #6 if 36 and 37 pass or just 37 we support the number \$65,481,795, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie VOTED 3-1-0 (Mr. Sullivan Opposed)

Mr. Boynton explained we are checking on a possible change on one of the budgets for salaries.

MOTION moved by Mr. DeNapoli to recommend Favorable action on Article 36, seconded by Mr. Timson

Mrs. Mackenzie stated she is going to be consistent with her vote for Favorable Action for occupancy tax, she thinks this will only impact those out of town.

3-1-0 (Mr. Sullivan opposed)

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to make RATM on Article 37, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie ,

Discussion: Mr. DeNapoli explained that he must abstain as he is on the Mass Restaurants Association. Mrs. Mackenzie will not support the meals tax, the local restaurants give a lot back in community service, and donations, we do not have a full compliment of Liquor licenses being used in this town, I am looking out for growth in this town. It would be a 40% increase of the tax and that is unfair to the Restaurant owners, I would like to see a campaign to raise that money. That would be a burden to the restaurant owners. It is sending the wrong message. In long term planning it is not the way to go.,

Mr. Timson stated that a lot of towns are doing it. If you go out to dinner and spend \$100 it is an extra .75 cents. We should take this up with a full board present.

VOTED4-0-0

## **Article 21**

The Finance Committee has overwhelmingly voted against this. There were a number of thoughts. Mrs. Mackenzie noted there have been at least 5 years of discussion working with Historical Commission on this. The neighbors have been very pro active. Mr. Boynton explained the proposed memorial has been changed. He explained the discussion that has taken place with the neighbors. Toll has agreed to construct the lot. The town will file the permits.

The question members of Finance Committee are asking is would this lot create long term liability because it is near the stairs that we do not own. We now have a proposal for a parking lot that would be no cost and now we have nothing.

Mrs. Mackenzie noted there is also approved build out for the clock tower across the street, if that was ever developed that would help with the parking across the street. Mr. Boynton had made that point that we do not have parking in front of the tower. No parking for commercial building across from Chestnut St. I do not want to put the town into a position that does not give access to a memorial. We do not own the memorial and will not maintain it. Town Counsel does not see it as a liability.

Mr. DeNapoli suggests after Thursday nights meeting ask someone from Fin Com come to our Monday meeting to explain why they are so concerned.

### **Article 31**

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to recommend No Action on Article #31, Firefighters contract seconded by Mr. Sullivan, VOTED 4-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. DeNapoli to adjourn 9:10, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

David Sullivan, Clerk