

Approved April 29, 2014

The Board of Selectmen held a meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 beginning at 7:00PM in the Main Meeting Room of the Town Hall. The following members were Present.

Mark Gallivan, Chairman
Michael Berry, Vice Chairman
Nancy Mackenzie, Clerk
Christopher Timson
Clifton Snuffer

Mr. Gallivan called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Richard DeSorgher, Medfield Selectman,
Discussion on regionalization

Mr. DeSorgher explained the Town of Medfield is faced with the same budget issues that Walpole has. They are trying to find ways to preserve the quality of life without driving people out of town with increase in taxes. He is visiting seven towns in total. Hope to be able to share informational service and equipment sharing.

One community may do something better than another one, perhaps making permits go quicker, collected un-paid dog fees. The idea is to look at bylaws and look at ways of doing things and sharing that. Sharing services, such as; control, weights and measures etc. Perhaps a few towns could get together. Equipment is their equipment we could share. Perhaps we cant' see if anything would be possible. Suggesting appoint one member to this committee, that would be up to the board, meet on a regular basis and come up with ideas. Nothing would be binding.

To see if we can get all the towns, social setting to meet one another, discuss ideas with other selectmen. Bring in our state reps and senators. We have great historic home we have restored that would be a great meeting place. Get all the selectmen together. He would like to have the first meeting by the summer. The Medfield Selectmen have voted positive. Have met with Millis, and will be meeting with Dover Sherborn and Norfolk. Would you be willing to consider this idea and appoint someone.

The Board members felt it was a great idea. Trying to save money for our contingents. We in Walpole, have a number of state reps. If we could get them all together it creates a pull. We have great bargaining power.

Mr. Snuffer applauds the idea, I thought when we had the forum, we had a lot of things taking place. It created an atmosphere of discussing issues. One thought, how do you approach planning? Do you have Full time or contractor? Medfield has a full time planner. Where you are the leadership, create the agenda, then give each community time before meeting.

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Mr. Berry also likes the idea. It is time consuming. To try to jump start this. As far as shaping of the agenda, that will be crucial. I support that. There is a lot of info sharing; regional basis with neighboring communities is great. I do not think there would be a shortage. The Board supports the idea and wants to wait for Mrs. Mackenzie to arrive.

Medway is looking for someone from Board. Millis is looking at someone else. It could be anyone. He would like to meet by May or June. He is meeting with Westwood in two weeks. It can be hard for me to fit into their schedule.

MOTION moved by Mr. Snuffer to support Richard DeSorgher and his endeavor and have this Board choose a representative, seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 4-0-0

Conservation Commission, Appointments

Emidio DiVirgillio has been a resident of Walpole for twenty-two years. He served on the Conservation Commission from 2003-2008 stepped down and in September I came back on Board. He has been an RTM for 10 years. Concerned about the environment and likes to be involved in the community.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to appoint Emidio DiVirgillio as a Regular member to the Conservation Commission, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 4-0-0

Al Goetz has been a member for a long time, one thing I do, I am the agent for the town of Norwood, between the two towns, I have learned a lot. Make sure I attend conferences at DEP and Mass Association of Conservation Agent, so I keep current with the Regulations. My past experience, helped with the present regulation when I served on the Boston Harbor Regulations. We achieved something never done before, we got the Patriot Place to take the river out where it was buried. I feel I have had an impact on this town and surrounding area.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to re appoint Al Goetz as a regular member of the Conservation Commission, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 4-0-0

Linda O'Brien

Has lived in town for 40 years. Unfortunately I have to withdraw my name and can not give the time, it is very important and I do not want to leave you with out a person.

Article #8

Attorney Tom Brady representing Donnell Murphy regarding his petition to the general court for an additional beer and wine and all alcoholic license for a specific location. It will support economic development. It will support the surrounding businesses as well. Good for the town and tax base.

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Mr. Snuffer read the letter from the Pkg store owners into the record. Donnell Murphy is not looking for a package store license at this time. If a tenant came along and wanted one, he would try for one. I am not looking for that. I have been approached but not able to put a deal together without a license for restaurant use, which would be a good anchor for that plaza. I am not asking anything I am not entitled to. I understand the package stores position. I wish I could ask for no other Real Estate and apartments in town.

Mr. Berry concern is sending this article to the legislators, what it would do for the future development. Before you started to initiate this, did you speak with Economic officer and or Town Administrator. He had approached Ms. Mercandetti and there were no licenses available. Mr. Berry noted the Boston Globe ran an article about license. I do not think this addresses all our needs. Having worked at the state house and the legislation for Patriot Place, what they did, they sought additional licenses but also got some for the town. We have development and the need for more licenses. He would like to unite our efforts. Then if we go to the legislation, we would not have an additional license. It could take year or more. Make it hard to have a successful home rule petition. He would like to see if you would work with us.

Mr. Murphy felt you have to look at this as an economic tool. I agree with you. Having a hard time attracting people, is because we do not have a license. That drove me to do it. That RT1 is open to that type of thing. As far as helping, I will do whatever you want me to do. I do not think I can expand my article at this time. I could not take the time, I had to go on my own, I want the license to stay with the property to help it survive. No one is interested if there is no license. If you had a big company that wants to come in they would look for a license. Mr. Berry noted in the private sector you have to be ready to go. We also need to be ready for future development. So when we have someone come in, we can try to address your issue immediately. I do not know what avenues are available to us. Mark McAuliff of the Raven's Nest is here and is looking for some help. The town of Foxboro was proactive.

Mr. Snuffer agreed he has the right to put in the petition. This Board has not quickly conducted a meeting to talk about these licenses. Relative to your request, we always get the opportunities to meet the individuals. My objection to this, is under our own polices; take a look at the individual and the type of business, in order to make a decision to issue the license. There would be a financial benefit to you to have the license. This would provide you thru this process, and undo advantage for someone else looking for it. I do not want to personally do this without first meeting them.

Mr. Boynton explained the process has been followed. The licenses if granted would be to the Town of Walpole, they would be for the location. The Board has talked about the RT1 corridor. Licenses directed to a specific location more successful It

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is a citizen petition it can not be changed, it can not be increased. It is a function of T. Mtg to support or not.

Mr. Timson wanted to know if there would be time to put together a proposal from the Town for additional licenses. Mr. Murphy, so you feel the state legislators would not give out anymore licenses.

Mr. Boynton does not believe they can just ask for more blanket license, you need to ask with a plan in mind. What does that do in the context of immediacy? It does put you in greater jeopardy. If you withdrew article. Mr. Snuffer noted that if town meeting did not agree, the difficulty of you coming back becomes enhanced.

Mr. Timson noted if we are asking you to cooperate with us. I would suggest is to hold off on a vote and try to get a few ducks in line to get a better position to say what we can do. We could say we have checked this out and this is what we are willing to do. Put that together quickly. You may not get a favorable action from this Board. You sparked this longer range discussion. Talk to our state delegation, to see what danger we do face. Mr. Boynton will reach out to Town Counsel and to the legislative delegation

Mr. Gallivan suggested we see if we can submit a request from the Town. We have some homework we need to do. Mike had asked if there is anytime left. The book is going out to the residents late this week. I do not know the normal channels of notifying folks. Fin Com would be rolling in the night of their public hearing seeing an article. It does create timing issues for us. We are going to figure out if we can ask for additional licenses for the town.

8:20pm School Budget

Lincoln Lynch and Nancy Gallivan appeared before the Board to talk about the School budget. They paid attention to financially and academically responsible. There is a 2.8% increase in our budget next year. Our personal budget has grown less than 3%. In the big picture that was the most substantial way. The cost we were asking for were comparable to other towns. After the override, the per pupil expenditure, we are the 11th highest, and we are thrilled with that. We are trying to be competitive. Our internal goals, try to compete to get in the top third of these towns. First quarter of the state academically. That is what we are trying to do.

This year new mandates, we are challenged to choice them the best. Sustainability is something we have as a goal. We have new curriculum, new testing, within the override budget, we put \$600,000 sustainability money, used for some but not all of the things listed here. In order to meet the standards coming down the pike. Some feel that money is just available, competing for a number of needs. If we have it we will not have to come back looking for more money. The software we are using to test students throughout the year. About focusing on learning not teaching. Sustainable money has a number of needs. One of the areas we need to be alert is

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the SPED increases. That money is there and appreciated and necessary. We bought several vans this past year. That has saved the town a lot of money.

The last thing I would say, we have a pride in our system, getting harder to be competitive. That is why we advocate as hard as we do. We are looking for a 2.8% increase.

Lincoln Lynch I appreciate being invited. One reason we work for the town. Requesting a 2.8% increase. The main budget drivers is collective bargaining, it includes three instructional assistance which we were forced to employee. Talked about 23 steps and decreases the increases. 1.5% increase cost of living. Career change lanes is at 4%.

Increasing student ridership, had to add 2 new buses. We were able to rework the time of the opening of schools.

SPED increase \$151,000 we are currently over. The law requires these services. Why does the local government have to foot this bill. We hear circuit breaker is 70% we are looking at about 11%. Homeless children we have to pay for it. If a student in Walpole moves to a location away from Walpole, we have to pay to transport. There are restrictive laws that impact our budget. Last year transportation was \$39,000 the year before it was about \$13,000.

We are required to beef up our infrastructure. We were part of a pilot test this spring. We had to get our infrastructure up and running to participate in these. Beef up our wireless.

Educator evaluation, Common Core. We have over 100 students where English is the second language. The difference with Finance Committee and what we are requesting is \$86,000.

Capital improvements, talked about the needs. Four areas of Revenue. Taxation, state grants, federal grants. Level funded those as it is hard to predict. Reviewed the areas of revenue for the school. The total price tag is \$44,273, 794. The town's municipal budget carries the health insurance for school employees. The town pays for some of our staff but not teachers in the retirement. They are always trying to find ways to save money.

Mr. Gallivan thinks they have done a great job on sustainability on the steps. Amazing how many non English speaking students there are in Walpole. Disappointed with the Federal and state government with funding.

Mr. Timson is having difficulty the common core parc. How much of the budget is dedicated to those. Mr. Lynch felt it is hard to put an amount on that. There are two different issues. Difficult to quantify that, although our math program was 12 years old, needed to be revised, I know common core gave us urgency. Perhaps it has

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been thrust upon us too quickly. The SPED are far more reaching than common core. I can spend over \$300,000 on one child.

Mr. Timson noted that he is not an educator and he does not see that math has changed in years. I am opposed to Common Core and Parc and having a problem supporting parts of the budget that go towards that. I do not see the need for Chrome books. I don't see it moving things forward. I think we should have just updated MCAS. I would like to see Walpole to opt out of it. Mr. Lynch explained there is no opting out. We would lose 8 million in aid. Maybe it is worth having a local discussion. Mr. Timson pointed out there is a tremendous expense to Common Core, I do not like it, I know there are a lot of communities discussing this issue.

Mr. Timson discussed the coalition efforts with students. We hear more and more about the alcohol and drug issues. What is going on from your perspective? Mr. Lynch explained we have the liaison officers, deputy chief Carmichael. Our health classes we embed some type of alcohol awareness. We have discussion with heroin. Evening in the fall regarding this issue. We had an update from the Chief.

Mr. Snuffer noted a couple of months ago Lynch and Kenney, met with me to talk about Common Core. I believe Common Core are not impacting on budget issues. But on the philosophy. I have done my homework, Community session in order to discuss the ins and outs on the subject. The opting out should be held at the state level. What I don't want to see is taking the classrooms and turning them into social engineering sites. I am very concerned about it. What I do budget wise, I go back to see how you managed your funds. The Schools share was 2.7 million two years ago, you may have touched this in two budget cycles. I want to suggest to you that in addition to that override, you also received \$360,000 from free cash, and the School Committee chairman promised that would be paid back if the override past, I do not believe that was done. No one has brought up OPEB. I take that this was taken and given to the Schools. Our Auditors, financial planners, all people that guide us applaud us for funding that. If waiting to the fall is such a guarantee, I would have preferred to see your budget wait for that. How having these moneys from the different groups, increased your available for sustainability. How has the moneys from taxpayers helped you sustain. I appear to see this budget as being on the broke side.

Mr. Lynch understands that money was paid back from the prison mitigation money. Mrs. Gallivan agreed there was a pay back. As far as OPEB, my responsibility is to bring an expense budget. That is a long term liability. We have existing obligations in the School District. To say we are responsible for the OPEB. When did that become non discretionary and school.

Mr. Snuffer explained by referendum at T. Meeting and auditors. That it be funded.

Mr. Gallivan explained the Board is going to take up the issue of OPEB, one issue is the general transition of the state. We as a town must move in that direction. The

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state and all the agencies, have huge obligations, I think it is important to help fund OPEB. We are in the early group. Mrs. Gallivan noted it is not our place to suggest what portion of the revenue, I look at the extra money going to the Norfolk Aggie. I am not sure if they are under the same level of scrutiny is.

Articles 18 and 19

There is no change to article 18 from previous years.

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to recommend Favorable Action on Article 18, seconded by Mr. Timson , VOTED 4-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to recommend Favorable Action on Article 19, seconded by Mr. Timson , VOTED 4-0-0

Articles 7,8 and 15

Rick Mattson these are typical articles every year. 7&8 no increases. They are level funded, capital items in the water budget. Two catastrophic failures in those pipes. Those two will be funded by water retained earnings. There is 1.9millions in the budget.

The other capital improvement, the rehab of the Duffy water storage tank. Minor request and that is the update for the control system and analyzer equipment update.

Washington Well number 6 is contaminated. It is coming from the Metal Bellows site. That would run up to 1.5 million if the town would treat for that.

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to recommend Favorable Action on Articles 7 and 8, seconded by Mr. Timson , VOTED 4-0-0

Article #15

There are a lot of issues with this site. If they were to construct a tank it should go where the existing tank is located. If it were to be moved you would lose the buffer, the S&W is not taking action on this request, Table it, and get wit the police chief, roger regarding the antennas.

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to refer Article #15 back to the Committee, seconded by Mr. Timson VOTED 4-0-0

Article #20

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Gave the Board amended language, it is still an issue about unemployment. The amount of money being compensated to the individual. Mr. Timson appreciates this being put together it is a great program.

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to recommend Favorable Action on Article 20, seconded by Mr. Timson , VOTED 4-0-0

Capital Budget

William Abbott reviewed the recommendations of Capital budget committee and the Finance Committee. There is no plan at this time for a substitute motion on the articles. The Bird Middle School security came out to \$580 a door the Committee recommended zero. They voted to support the purchase of a vehicle but the Finance Committee did not support. The vehicle is 26 years old. The Recreation is asking for a colored copier which will help defray some of the costs for brochures.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to recommend Favorable Action on Article 11, seconded by Mr. Snuffer , VOTED 4-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to recommend Favorable Action on Article 12, seconded by Mr. Berry , VOTED 4-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to recommend Favorable Action on Article 13 from free cash, seconded by Mr. Berry , VOTED 4-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to recommend Favorable Action on Article 14 from borrowing, seconded by Mr. Berry , VOTED 4-0-0

Article #2

The non union municipal employees will receive a split 1% 1% for salary increases which come out to about 1.5% for the fiscal year. This impacts ninety town employees. This does not affect the union employees or school employees. There are no other changes.

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to recommend Favorable Action on Article 2, seconded by Mr. Timson , VOTED 3-1-0 (Mr. Snuffer Opposed)

Article #3

We have no unpaid bills

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to recommend No Action on Article 3, seconded by Mr. Timson , VOTED 4-0-0

Article #4

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Mr. Boynton is very confident we have seen the last of snow. I am certain that \$115,000 will work from overlay.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to recommend Favorable Action on Article 4, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 4-0-0

Article #6

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to recommend Favorable Action on Article 6 seconded by Mr. Berry VOTED 3-1-0 (Mr. Snuffer opposed)

Article #5

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to make recommendation at T. Mtg, seconded by Mr. Snuffer, VOTED 4-0-0

Article #9

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to recommend No Action on Article 9, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 4-0-0

Article 10

FinCom has made a recommendation at town meeting and any new revenue in the FTM would go to OPEB.

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to recommend no action on Article 10, seconded by Mr. Timson VOTED 3-1-0 (Mr. Snuffer opposed)

Article 16

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to recommend no action on article 16, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 4-0-0

Article 17

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to recommend Favorable Action on Article 17, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 4-0-0

Articles 21-25

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson for recommendation at Town Meeting on Articles 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25, seconded by Mr. Berry VOTED 4-0-0

Article 26

Are we harmed if the current petition is past and we want to file additional in the Fall? Is our ability enhanced by putting them all together. Can we get a home rule petition thru, quickly? Do the new licenses have to be site specific or town wide.

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Hold off on Article #26 until the next meeting.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to adjourn at 10:30pm seconded by Mr. Berry,
VOTED 4-0-0