

The Board of Selectmen met in the Walpole Room in the Public Library on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 beginning at 7:00pm. Mr. Timson was absent. The following members were present.

Mark Gallivan, Chairman  
Nancy Mackenzie, Clerk  
Clifton Snuffer  
James Stanton

Also present:  
James Johnson, Interim Town Administrator  
Cindy Berube, Executive Assistant  
Richard Stillman, Police Chief  
Timothy Bailey, Fire Chief  
Courtney Riley, COA Director  
John Carmichael, Deputy Police Chief  
Robin Chapell, Health Director

Mr. Gallivan called the meeting to order at 7:17 pm. This is a workshop meeting.

Mr. Snuffer talked about Government in general. He is of the opinion that Municipal Government has three enemies, all have an impact. The Federal Government, this year they past 134 laws, 17,000 regulations all which have an effect on the town. They have no responsibility on tracking. The second enemy is the State, they have unfunded mandates. Spending 100 million dollars a day. Charlie Baker stuck with 700 million dollars he said he would and allowed Chapter 90 to escalate. The third enemy is County Government. We are surrendering to their OPEB responsibilities. They did not make money on their investments.

#### Spring Town Meeting Articles

Mr. Johnson spoke to the Board regarding the proposed articles for the Spring Town Meeting. There will be four articles for facilities. One is for a police station, one is for a Council on Aging facility, one is for Fire design and one article combines all three. Bond Counsel is fine with everything.

We are waiting on the Civil Service article, Kevin Feeley will be involved. The Board discussed whether the process to remove from civil service was difficult. Chief prefers to do it the way the language is written. Turner Pond Dam, Roger Turner would like to gift the land to the town as Conservation Land. Ilana is checking to see if we can do the work and then get the land. We would not have to go town meeting. We still have a spot on the warrant reserved.

The water tower borrowing. Capital is going to put it off another year. Asked if there any other articles the Board wants on the Warrant.

He is going to change the way Fin com meets. Do it one Budget section at a time. Tried to put together where this budget is. Facility project reserve is up from the Fall. Bumped up litigation reserve and he does not want to spend this money because it is one time money. Mr. Snuffer questioned when you analyze the school projected deficit, we are holding the line at 66/34 and you think about one time money, the general override is 3 million per year. There was a \$600,000 sustainability fund. You would be in a deficit if you are using one time money.

Mr. Johnson explained with the 66/34 split, they are at about 2.2% increase. Superintendent Lynch said he would need more than that. Mr. Snuffer, what I care about the finance com attitude. One thing I am doing with personnel is this 20 hour employees receiving full benefits. Under school you only have to be 800 hours. If you can't have those conversations, you are at a deficit to start.

It was suggested to have a school budget talk first. Talked about the number of kids in school that do not speak English that teachers need to be hired. Mr. Snuffer reminded the members that the previous Town Administrator was being forced to defend \$5 increase in budget, but the schools do not have their budget looked at. Mr. Snuffer is upset with the process of how the school budget is approved at T. Mtg. If you go beyond 66/34 every department head will have difficulty.

Mr. Johnson reported that local receipts came in at 8.1 million, we projected He is being conservative and does not want to overestimate. He will have the number in mid-February. The buying of new cars has leveled off.

Revenue and Expenditures- we did free up some money with insurance numbers. We are looking good with that. The S&W indirect came in we will keep the same formula.

Capital- It was noted that the overall budget is about 91million and there is about \$490,000 in vehicles. Mr. Snuffer noted that we have two sewer and water members on Capital and ask if that is proper. You are looking at them adjudicating their own requests.

Health insurance will know the numbers for WSHG next week. He has been communicating with them. Mr. Gallivan felt it is very important we made that switch, otherwise it would be over one million dollar hit.

Personal- only one department is asking for a part time clerk. This person would be 14-18 hours a week. There was a savings when Jack left. Taking money from other spots. Landis has asked for two additional hours a week. The Stormwater regulations will come down.

Mrs. Mackenzie would like to know with respect to the Building Department what he thinks his dream team would be. What is the utilization of his staff? The

Conservation Agent is at 26 hours and she would be increased to 28. Mr. Snuffer supports the two hour increase.

8:19pm Buildings on South Street

There was discussion regarding the override not passing for the new facilities. In the plan from the fall there was ten million within the budget which could give the town a police station. There are four articles on the Spring Town Meeting Warrant which will deal with the facilities. The cost of a new senior center is approximately four million dollars. There could be grant money available. Mr. Johnson is hoping the Friends of the Council on Aging would come back to life and help fundraise.

Courtney explained the Friends, have had long discussions with the current board and they are willing to move forward. They will jump in full force. Mr. Snuffer suggested the need to put the antennas up. In his opinion, the number one is a police station, the number two is Fire, the COA, DPW comes in later. Tim is looking at a tough building. I was approached by many people that have been talking up the combined facility on the very property Jack Conroy talked about. Can you coexist? Chief Stillman feels a combined facility would be great, the problem is the location. It was noted if we wanted to do a combined, not in a position to do that at STM.

The residents do not want an override. Members felt it is important to do something. Then go to the next step. Have Town Meeting decide. Chief Bailey you need a definitive plan. One thing during presentation, where are the plans, if you do not come back with definitive plans for the Fire Dept. If you wait and put our plans off until 2021 and 2022. You have heard about schools, if you come up with definitive plans for the next phase with the money you have I think you are better off. I think there needs to be discussion on the design of the station. Some members worry about paying for designs that are sitting on the shelf.

Mr. Stanton believes there is no appetite for any override what so ever. Ms. Riley believes many no's were from the seniors. They did not want the override. The 21 million dollars was too high. If we do not get a senior center we will have 6,000 seniors. This is so much more than for them then just playing games. There are a lot of Senior Centers that build half to start.

The easy vote is the police stand alone within the budget; plans for the Fire will create some argument. Needs to be a separate article. Senior center will have to wait. Ms. Riley pointed out we are going up the schools in Five years.

If the town were to do a combined facility it would a 25-30 year bond. The cost would be approximately 21 million.

Chief Bailey are we going to stay in the order of importance as we know in five years the School Committee is looking for an 81 million override. Nancy would like the numbers for 25-30 years. Mr. Gallivan does not know if we can stay in the order. If we drag our feet too long the schools will just go.

The Board talked about the articles for the facilities on the Spring Town Meeting Warrant.

Article 1-Police design and construction

Article 2-Fire design

Article 3- COA design

There was a discussion as to whether there a savings to do both Fire and Police design at the same time. Mr. Gallivan would recommend the Police and COA design because they are on the same site would be a savings.

Mr. Johnson updated the Board covenant not to sue. Working with Fuss and O'Neil. We will not own the buildings until May.

The census of the Board is to have three articles for the warrant.

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to adjourn at 9:24pm, seconded by Mr. Snuffer, VOTED 4-0-0