

Present was Robert J. Garrity, James M. Tomaszewski, James C. Lehan, and Jack Hathaway, Town Administrator. Marian Harrington was not in attendance.

The meeting was held in Room 124, Town Hall.

Rob Garrity called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. He announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded. Jack Hathaway read the agenda contents.

MICHAEL SULLIVAN, MMA ESSAY SECOND PLACE WINNER

Rob Garrity introduced Michael Sullivan of Freedom Trail. Michael was a sixth grade student at the Freeman-Centennial School and was a second place winner in the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Sixth Grade Essay Contest, and he had received a \$250 savings bond. Michael read his essay, and there was a photo shoot with the Selectmen, Michael and Jack Hathaway. Jim Lehan commented that it was very special that we have had two winners in 3 years (Norfolk had a first place winner 3 years ago) considering over 150 towns enter.

COLEMAN BUSHNELL, FIRE CHIEF

Chief Bushnell told the Board that effective 6 p.m. this evening, he has curtailed staffing the overnight shift, 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. He wanted to recognize the Board of Selectmen, especially Jack for all the support navigating these tough fiscal times. He reached a breach with 1/3 of career staff being out injured or sick, but hit a point where he can no longer cover the night shift. He was doing one night a week, to save \$450, but after what transpired this week, this is no longer an option. Chief Bushnell said that he spent over \$4,000 last week in coverage for unprecedented calls. He can no longer honor the level of acceptable risk.

Chief Bushnell said they will go with two people at night. The problem is that once they go on a call, Norfolk will be uncovered. There will be no decision makers, and 911 calls for emergencies will be handled by dispatchers following protocol. He said there will be delays in response in bringing in the recall people, compounded by the number of people out. The Chief said they learned today that Pat Rockett has accepted a position with the Wrentham Fire Department, so he will be gone. We have been covering with mutual aid from Wrentham and Franklin.

They talked about the impacts of the staffing, and the budgets due to this issue. The Chief gave the Board a handout prepared by Captain Petrushik. There is no money for sick coverage, and they are trying to keep recalls down in order to help the budget.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Action Items

Jim Lehan moved to appoint Edward Donahue to the Insurance Advisory Committee. Jim Tomaszewski seconded, and it was **so voted**.

New Business

Jack announced that we lost a member of our Norfolk family this week. Walter "Sonny" Kelly, foreman of the Transfer Station who retired last December, passed away. Everyone knew Sonny and he was well liked.

Rob announced that Joyce Terrio's mother passed away this week. Joyce is a former member of the Selectmen, and is currently chair of the Conservation Commission.

In other business, Jack reported that with respect to the school building project, they are focused on site preparation. Field offices are in place for the project manager and contractor. They met with the Gas Company today. It would be \$278,000 if no one else commits. It would be around \$135K if everyone commits. The Housing Authority is interested, and the Town Hall and Library may be interested as well.

Jack said that the DPW transition went well. Bob McGhee is fully empowered now. Butch Vito retired in December and is at the Cape.

Jack said there is one proposal back for the Photovoltaic project. It looks favorable. North of \$250K in savings on the project. Rob praised Bob Bullock and said he can't say enough about all he has done. If the February town meeting votes this, we have \$50,000 worth of site work to do.

The annual MMA meeting was attended by Jim Lehan and Jack Hathaway. They went to separate meetings. Jack said the Governor, in his budget, announced cutting 7% of lottery aid, which means \$56,000 to Norfolk. He will leave education aid alone. Jack said that the Ways & Means said this budget doesn't mean much at this point; it will change. Chapter 90 funds are increased by 20%. There is no news on prison mitigations funds.

Jim Lehan said the Ways & Means Chairman said don't count on anything coming from the Governor's budget. He doesn't think the Ch. 90 money will be there. They are a long way from resolving this, and he doesn't think the two offices see eye to eye.

WATER RATE HEARING (Continued)

At 7:45 p.m., Rob Garrity re-opened the Water Rate hearing that was continued from our January 10, 2011 meeting. Jim Lehan read the hearing notice.

Present was Bob McGhee, Interim DPW Director, and Doug Gardner, consultant from Pioneer Consulting Group, Inc.

Rob said that this is a culmination of a lot of work.

Bob McGhee said on August 23rd we voted to open public comments to the DPW. Comments closed on December 20. Bob said he received a few, and they were very helpful. The Board of Selectmen had a water rate workshop on November 22nd, and residents were informed through the water bills.

Bob McGhee gave the Board the water rates and his recommendations. Rob read the water rates now, and proposed for FY'12.

Rob Garrity moved to set the water rates for FY'12 as follows:

\$5.39 per 1,000 gallons – 0 - 15,000 gallons
\$6.83 per 1,000 gallons – 15,000 – 35,000 gallons
\$8.87 per 1,000 gallons – 35,001 – 50,000 gallons
\$12.52 per 1,000 gallons – Over 50,000 gallons

Jim Lehan seconded, and Jim Tomaszewski wanted discussion. He asked Bob to explain the need

for larger rates.

Bob said they are running the department underfunded. There is one water foreman. No staff. For water and distribution, we depend heavily on consultants. Bob said for vehicles, salaries, DEP requirements; add them up and you need to have the budget. The budget is the rate. It's the cost of doing business.

Jack Hathaway said there will be lower management costs, because we are going from Butch to Bob. But we added another operator. We are not adding to cap reserves. Account for #% of the increase – money will stay in reserves. \$120,000 increase. Jim T. said 3% of the increase is \$50,000. Jim L. said the original request was too high, so they worked hard to cut them down to be fair. We have had no money to invest, yet we had issues last year.

Bob said he hired an operator who started today. He said the foreman has been shouldering all this himself for 3 to 4 years along with Bob's help. This will help him and the expenses as well.

It was **so voted**. The rates were unanimously adopted.

Rob Garrity moved to set the following fees for field services. These are non-changing rates (see attached sheet). Jim Tomaszewski seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Rob expressed a concern about fire services. One flat fee for people with fire sprinklers. He said he thought we were trying to get non-competitive.

Jim L. said he thought we are okay with other towns. No 10-12". Bob McGhee said that would fall under a site plan review. Jim L. said rates before were \$16,000.

Jim T. said he wouldn't want to dissuade some business from putting them in, and said he wondered what type of business would put them in?

Jack said he thought all commercial have to put them in. You have to realize some of the other towns have clustered commercial, and Norfolk doesn't.

Bob McGhee said we need to build retained earnings. If you don't have rates, you can't build reserves. People who use it, pay for it.

Jim L. said he agrees to keep these rates. 2, 3, and 4 are reasonably competitive with other towns. He wouldn't mind adjusting the upper amounts.

Rob Garrity moved to set the following fees for Application Fee, Standard Inspection Fees, and Semi-Annual Service Charges, as per the attached sheet. Jim Tomaszewski seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Bob McGhee said take the 8 and 12 right out. Jim L. said make the 6 and 8 the same number.

Jack said it's fire service. If you go too low and not putting capital money aside, you are charging residents for that business. Unfair burden of drawing people into town on the backs of water takers or taxpayers.

Jim T. said he would like to stay with 2 and 4, and drop 6 and 8. Bob said drop, or level them off at \$9,000. Jim L. said he could go either way. Bob said level. Jack said \$9,760 for the 4 bottom.

Rob Garrity moved to approve a fire service connection fee of 2 @ \$4,880; 3 @\$7,320 and 4-12 @ \$9,760. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Rob Garrity moved to approve seasonal, backflow, and field services, per the attached sheet . Jim Tomaszewski seconded, and it was **so voted**.

The Board closed the hearing.

Bob McGhee told the Board about a \$13,000 granted awarded for leak detection. We pay 25% of the cost to repair. It applies to leaks on our side. We need to show we paid 25% of \$13,000 to making repairs to ourselves.

Jim L. complimented them on how the roads have been excellent in spite of all the heavy storms this winter.

Rob mentioned street signs taking a beating. He mentioned KP Middle School. The snowbanks are so high you can't see out.

Rob asked Bob if he saw the Sun Chronicle article on mailbox policies for towns.

Jim T. feels strongly about mailboxes. He would like to see a policy where if a resident has a \$75 mailbox, he is paid that. It is the fairest way for a taxpayer.

Rob said mailboxes are in the right of way.

Jim L. said if a plow takes out a mailbox, we fix it at 100%. The issue is the wet snow, not hit by a plow.

Bob said mailboxes are plumb over the curb line. They plow to the curb line. It could be relieved by turning the mailboxes.

Jim T. said we should pay for what we damaged. A resident should be able to put up any kind of mailbox they want.

Jim L. said that with staffing and budget issues, it is very difficult to do that, unless they repair it and send us the bill.

Bob said he will do whatever they want, but it will affect the budget.

Jack said the GIS system could add mailbox hits and then we can track them.

Jim T. said they could do this for 2 hours a day in the good weather.

Rob said we should give the homeowner an x amount of money. They can get the mailbox, and we'll put it in. We could also have them put it in.

The Board tossed several options, and decided either you get \$30 and we'll put it in; or we'll give you up to \$60 and you put it in. Nothing was definite.

Bob said they used to do \$90 but they had to use a local vendor. He said he will do whatever the Board decides.

Rob asked Bob if he wanted a shot at writing the policy. Jack reminded them that this is a Board policy, not DPW.

Jim Lehan moved to reimburse mailbox damage during snowstorms at a maximum of \$60. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Bob said he doesn't have the manpower to replace mailboxes.

New Business (continued)

Jack informed residents that the Town Meeting Technology Committee has a new forum for the February 1st special town meeting.

The Advisory Board has a schedule for the annual town meeting. Their kickoff meeting is February 16th.

The Energy Committee is working on vehicle replacement policies for energy. Efficiency – non public safety vehicles and non DPW trucks.

Jack reported that Bonnie Dittrich is working to restore the 911 Memorial on Town Hill. 2011 is the 10th anniversary of September 11th and they are trying to repair the monument. He hopes residents will donate, and will put the address to donate on the webpage. It is the Norfolk Lions 911 Fund.

Jim L. said he met with three members of the Economic Development Committee. They would like to come to our next meeting and discuss where to go from here. Jim will help them with a list of open items for discussion.

Jim T. mentioned receiving an email from the NFL Players Association asking that we lobby the Pats and Bob Kraft to take the position of the players in the upcoming union dispute. All agreed that it shouldn't have come to the Selectmen and the Board will have no interest in this.

At 10 p.m., Jim Tomaszewski moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**.

This is a true and accurate report of the Selectmen's Meeting of January 24, 2011.

James C. Lehan, Clerk