

April 25, 201

Present is James M. Tomaszewski, James C. Lehan, Robert J. Garrity, Jack Hathaway, Town Administrator and Marian Harrington, Executive Assistant.

The meeting was held in Room 124 of Town Hall.

Jim Tomaszewski called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. He announced the meeting was video and audio taped. Jack Hathaway read the agenda contents.

Ellen Cargill explained that a new camera system is being tried out, thanks to Jack allowing them to do so.

JOINT POLE HEARING – WINSTON ROAD

At 7:00 p.m., Jim Tomaszewski opened a public hearing to install a pole on Winston Road. Present was Paul Schneider from Verizon, and abutters Bob Evans and Steve Brylinsky of Winston Road.

Paul Schneider explained that this hearing is for a pole that needs to be installed for the new development.

Steve Brylinsky told the Board that in a conversation with workers, NStar/Verizon did not know where the Town right-of-way was. The marker near the new pole has been shoved around. Bob McGhee told him that once the development is done, it has to be re-surveyed. Steve is concerned that the pole could end up on his property, because no one really seems to know where the markers go. He is concerned about future problems. Paul said they depend on the Town to show them where the markers are. He wonders if Mr. McGhee can show him where it goes. Jack said that we will have Bob do this. We install poles often.

Steve said that the Town has a water easement from the street going under his driveway toward Turner St. There is a pole on his lawn right now, and wanted to know if it could be moved. He said he was told no, but get conduit and put it underground. Mr. Brylinsky doesn't believe he can get from his house to the pole because they told him he cannot go to the new pole. He feels now he's locked out if he wants to go underground and get rid of the pole on his lawn while all this work is being done to the road.

Jim L. said the new pole doesn't change this issue either way. Steve said no, it doesn't. But they told him he can't tap off the new pole, so that's not an alternative, so he's dead in the water. He thought since a new pole is going in, why would he miss that opportunity.

Jim L. said that the issue before us tonight is the relocation of the pole. Nothing else should be brought up in this hearing. It doesn't have any bearing for or against that issue as far as the easement is concerned. Steve said no, but it doesn't support an underground conduit. Jim said if the pole weren't there, you wouldn't have that option. Steve agreed.

Rob asked if there is a technical reason that it can't go underground from Pole 6. Paul said the new pole is going to have risers and pipes from the new development for NSTAR, Cable and Verizon. Paul said they may be able to go through the easement. Jim still feels the location of the pole is a separate issue.

Jim T. asked Paul why he had to stay in that location. Paul said because of the pipes. Jim suggested he look at his options, and perhaps go through the water easement. Steve said he will explore with the DPW.

Jim Lehan moved to allow Verizon/NSTAR to relocate their pole to the location so noted on their petition. Rob is modifying the motion subject to further surveying and marking by the Town for the exact location. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**.

SELECTMEN GOALS

Jack will put the Board's goals together for the meeting on August 2nd.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Action Items

Rob Garrity moved to approve the request of the Council on Aging to serve beer at their "Men Only Clam Boil" on August 26th at the Senior Center, one (1) beer limit per person. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**.

The Board will wait until August 16th to appoint a member to the EDC, as that will be after the Planning Board meets and they can vote first.

Jim Lehan moved to appoint Michael Findlen as the Associate Planning Board member, term to expire June 30, 2012. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**. (This is a joint appt. with the Planning Board who already appointed him at their meeting on July 14th).

Discussion Items

Jack said he heard that prison mitigation monies were reinstated. \$500,000 were put into the budget that need to be distributed among all towns with prisons. We are hoping for \$100,000. This is based on allocation and beds. Could be lower. This is just a guess. We will know more in December.

Jim L. said that's good news, but 3 years ago it was there, too, but when it came time to give it to us, it was gone. Let's not spend it until January.

Snow and Ice Account – Jack said we recently received \$64,000 from FEMA that we were able to put back into the account. Now it is down to \$161,000. This is a figure we have to resolve before setting the tax rate. We need to work at this in the fall town meeting.

Jack said good news is local receipts are better than we anticipated. We are about \$190,000 higher than we expected. We should have enough to cover snow and ice. We need to have the fall town meeting after certification.

Solar projects. Jack doesn't have an update on the newer projects. Bob Bullock is meeting with engineers and DPW engineers tomorrow morning, and we have done some work with the soils which has to be resolved.

Bottle Bill – Resolution

Jack read the Resolution. Rob said we were asked by a member of the Planning Board and Rob had brought this up earlier in the year. Jack said that Rob spoke with Bob McGhee about the impact to

the facility, and he did not feel it was a great impact at all. Jim Lehan moved to adopt the Resolution. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Energy Committee –

Rob said they are talking about pursuing funding – grants for like trash compactor, pursuing fuel – heating system here will get maybe 5 years, and then we will have to do something major. They discussed community outreach. The Committee has two openings coming up, and they would like to go to 9 members. They have 4 people interested. They have a lot to work on - building efficiency for the towns, vehicle policy, building operations, community outreach grants.

Jim Lehan moved to expand the Energy Committee to 9 members. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**.

EDC – Jim L. said we have had a better part of 9 months of working with the EDC members. He feels we should not pursue this any further, and we should direct our energies in other directions. He said there are too many regulatory considerations that are unknown to us and not the right direction for us to be heading.

The Board unanimously agreed they do not want EDC to focus on the wastewater treatment, but redirect their energies to the B1 district north of the roundabout on Rt. 115.

Jim L. gave an update on Gumps. They have a committee that came up with 10 or 12 recommendations which fit the property. #1 was moving Kid's Place. They meet again in August and bring some synergy around the recommendations. Jim L. said there is still room on the committee for interested citizens.

Municipal Housing Trust (MHT) – Everyone signed the contracts tonight. Most of the work on the five homes was done by John Weddleton. Jim explained what would be done with the property. MHT bought the Gumps home. Acquiring two lots for \$300,000, but weren't sure if it was habitable or not. They will build five homes at no cost to the town or MHT. They will sell the property and recover all expenses. One home built at Mirror Lake, and then an additional two homes on Gumps. We will, in the end, purchase Gumps Farm for about \$600,000.

Jack gave a budget update and where we are right now.

Update on new hires: DPW has several positions – Highway and Grounds Supt., DPW Division Truck Driver and Water Superintendent. They are interviewing.

Jack has a part time human resource director which has been advertised internally. Rob wanted it broader and advertised on MMA website. The Board discussed expanding and changing the position. They are hesitant to change the job description. Jim L. said he would want to keep it to an HR only because that was what we asked at town meeting.

Rob said he has always thought of it as someone to help Jack work at the to-do list, because Jack needs to look at the bigger picture. He needs someone to help him knock down the lists. Rob said we could hire a jr. level management person.

Jim L. said the job description needs to be broader but the position as present and approved as an HR position. There is a lot of work that can be done with 7 or 8 unions now. We can't arbitrarily

change it to an assistant Town Administrator. He said he was disappointed that we haven't filled it July 1. Rob said that it wasn't even posted until after July 1. Rob doesn't feel we should spend \$40,000 and 5 hrs. per day on HR. Jack doesn't spend 5 hrs. a day on HR. We talked to the Advisory Board about it being a catch-all position.

Jim L. said it should be HR with a broader definition. It is Jack's hire. Jim T. said it should be someone aggressive who doesn't wait to be told what to do. Jim L. said let's nail it down tonight and give Jack direction and let him hire someone. Jim T. said we should ask where do you see yourself in 2 or 3 years.

Rob wants a sentence in there that says "as well as municipal administrative tasks as directed by the TA. He told Jack to advertise in the Beacon and get a really good high powered person to help you out.

Jack expressed a desire to hire someone who has been working with the Town, and has indicated an interest. He wouldn't be disappointed if he got the job.

Jack asked the Board to review and approve the Fire Chief's contract. He explained the changes which was in Sec. 21, part E – he would like to be with the town until age 67. We need to request legislative relief.

Jim L. was okay with this. Rob wasn't. He did not want to tie the hands of a future board in 8 years. Jim saw his point, but said a future board should not appoint someone or continue a contract, if they didn't want the person in the job.

Jim T. said there are no guarantees. Jack said the Chief really wants to stay until 67. If we don't agree to it, he may be disappointed.

Rob is not comfortable with this in the contract. He would not mind having a gentleman's agreement outside of the contract. He said we are trying to put in something that is saying 8 years from now we want you to be our Chief.

Jim L. doesn't see anything in there binding a future board. Nothing in there forces a future board to do anything. To give Cole a comfort level to tell him that we are willing to talk about this, helps him work out his retirement.

Jack said we can strike it and sign the contract. We can always talk about this with town counsel, and conversations with Cole and if you are comfortable with it, we can put it back in or do an Memorandum of Understanding or whatever. Jim T. agrees it doesn't bind us going forward, and feels we should sign this. We should resolve this within 30 days.

Jim L. agreed that this needs to have a time frame around it. Rob said Jack is meeting with town counsel Thursday and if they agree, then he is fine with signing it. Jim T. said that if town counsel agrees this is perfectly legal, they will sign it. The Board will sign the contract with that clause stricken. Jim L. said they should sign the contract with a clause that says "subject to legal approval".

The Board agreed the date for fall town meeting will be December 6th, if the school is available that evening.

Jack asked the Board if they wanted to increase the cost of old town hall parking permits. It is

currently \$75/year. Jim Lehan moved to retain fees at \$75 annually. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**. Jack said he would like to limit the applications from one household to give everyone an opportunity to park there. The Board agreed one permit per household.

NEW BUSINESS

Jack told the Board there are issues with compressor on ladder truck. It's a 991 truck. It will be \$8,000 to repair and 10 weeks. Paul Vito is trying to find cheaper alternatives as we don't have this budgeted.

Jack said another firefighter is retiring and there will be a significant benefit buyout. Cole will have a presentation. There is more pressure on us like \$35,000. FF Russo resigned and we will need to put a new person through the academy and also clothing, training, etc. expense. We also need to increase our call staff.

Jack said we will be moving the Town Clerk's office upstairs by September 1st.

Jim Lehan moved to nominate Patrick Tuohey to the Conservation Commission. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Rob Garrity moved all minutes as written. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**. Minutes approved were February 7, 2011; February 28, 2011 – regular and executive session; March 14, 2011; April 4, 2011 – regular and executive session; April 25, 2011 – regular and executive session; May 3, 2011; May 10, 2011; May 23, 2011; and June 6, 2011 – regular and executive session.

At 9:26 p.m., being no further business, Jim Lehan moved to adjourn the meeting. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**.

This is a true and accurate report of the Selectmen's meeting of July 19, 2011.

Robert J. Garrity, Clerk