

72 il 25, 2011

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

Jim Tomaszewski opened the meeting at 7 p.m. and announced that the meeting would be audio and video taped. Jack Hathaway read the agenda contents. This meeting was held in Room 124, Town Hall.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Present was Bob Nicodemus, Mark Nelson, and Anne Marie Battistone, future member.

Bob Nicodemus said they put a draft agenda together for a joint meeting with Planning and Selectmen for early September. Jim T. and Rob agree that this is a good idea. Rob said in light of Stop and Shop selling their non-store lots. Jim L. agreed the meeting is a good idea, but cannot do September. He also wants to work the agenda and make a few changes.

The Board suggested mid-October for the meeting. They need to collectively work toward an agenda. They discussed town center development. Part of the discussion in October should be to discuss the waste water for the center and not take it off the table.

Rob suggested one Selectman, one Planning Board member and one EDC member get together to talk through an agenda. It is tentative for 8/24.

They will discuss research on the bridge and funding opportunities. Rob mentioned the DIF program.

Bob Nicodemus mentioned the stormwater utility. Should he contact Bob McGhee. He needs to know how to facilitate this program.

Rob Garrity moved to appoint Anne Marie Battistone to the Economic Development Committee. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**.

### **CHIEF BUSHNELL, FIRE DEPT. STAFFING UPDATE**

Chief Cole Bushnell was present.

He discussed staffing needs for his department. He told the Board Career needs 3 full sets of gear.

Cole discussed the retirement of Richard Clancy. Finishing up with Norfolk County and should have a determination soon. He said that he will need approximately \$40,000 to buy out sick time and benefits.

He has an ongoing staffing issue, and cannot even begin to entertain a full time position. Look at the idea of bringing 3 new call firefighters on board. Cost of training, protective clothing, and budget. He said they have reached the point of clear and present danger to need call firefighters. Cole said he needs a vote from the Board to continue looking at a plan to bring on some call staff to assist in our ability to fight fires. Training. \$16,000 for protective clothing. It would be about \$10,000 per man – figuring 5 calls a month.

Jim L. commented on the unfunded sick time buybacks and said they are significant. This year we have had two. This results in the retirement. Jim said we should start funding it, whether in increments or whatever. We should try to anticipate it 5 years before it occurs. This is for fire, police and schools.

Jim L. urged the Board to vote for the equipment. Cole said they are striving to get younger and what can they offer to keep the staff here. We are getting 3-5 years from them. They become a marketable commodity. We train them, send them to the academy, etc. and give them gear and the firefighters leave here solid men. Career folks need 2 sets of clothing, and call need one.

Jack discussed regionalization. They are trying to get grants and hope to have this live by FY13. We are working on dispatch right now. We will then look at the police and fire departments.

They can mix and match gear to get the training going. Ask them to become an EMT and do something for them later on. Cole talked about a pathway to at least get going.

Jim T. is fully supportive, but needs to know how to fund it. Jack said they are going through year end now, but still has snow and ice to worry about. He has \$162,000 to find. There are Advisory Board funds, but Jack would like it protected until the spring, because you don't know what will happen. Another remote possibility would be the prison mitigation money. Jim L. felt it could be a capital need.

Rob supports \$8,900 out of Advisory Board funds, but the \$53,000 would come out of Stabilization. Jim L. said phase this to some degree. He doesn't want to delay it by shifting from fiscal year. He is talking contracts with bargaining unit. Training would be \$6000. Source from regular budget.

Jim Lehan moved to allow the Fire Chief to get protective gear for \$8,980. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Jack suggested the guys buy their own gear, and give them a higher rate for two years. Cole said equipment is \$2500, and felt it was too much money for them to pay out.

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Bob McGhee, DPW Director and Al Phinney present.

Bob told the Board he hired Paul Yonkers and he is instead of a Superintendent. They gave back over \$30,000 in salaries. They gave back \$89,000 in expenses, and in indirect costs gave back \$31,000, and \$30,000 in retained earnings. He finished the year very well.

Al reported that in Leak Detection for calendar year 2010 – 68 each, repaired 67 and one leak not done. In calendar year 2011 – they will do leak detection and flushing before summer. They got a grant for over \$18,000 for leak detection. They will start leak detection in July and put off flushing until the fall. They have a final report, but have questions and want to look at it before they pass it around. The company found 3 leaks, but they know there is more. They have a few more. Bob said he doesn't know if he trusts this report and who did the leak detection. He wants another firm to come in behind it and see what they report. The water loss is down from 55% to 22%. Al said there are 5 leaks they have fixed, and 5 they are working on now. They have seen a decline in water loss.

Jim T. said that he is amazed at the leak decline. Good news. Al doesn't think a lot of people are stealing water.

Jim L. would like a regulation for irrigation systems. If we have them, we need to make sure they are right. Al said they monitor them.

Al said with respect to the meter program, he is going to change out the meters and have the town on all the same meters.

Rob Garrity moved to open the comment period for Water Rates and Solid Waste FY 13 rates. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**.

#### Paving Update

Bob said the Governor passed Chapter 90 funding and the rest of projects we proposed were approved.

What he did complete with Chapter 90 was the streets off of Fruit St. in Noon Hill. He did over 1.3 miles of pavement. He needs to come back to the Board for an additional \$50,000 in Ch.90 funds because the escalation really killed them.

He would like to move forward on other projects already approved. Jack asked if we need more for the other projects, and Bob said probably not. He will prepare an addendum for the Board to sign once all the bills are in.

In Mirror Lake – Spruce Road. Pine Road – dirt road and put a binder course on there. He found it is accepted and is going to do it.

Jim T. asked about Myrtle/Miller. Nothing changed. There was an agreement the trees would be cut down 2 weeks ago, and they aren't. Every opportunity was given, and nothing has been done. Bob will send a letter. Jim L. has called, but no return calls.

Bob discussed the employment status – highway and grounds superintendent. Not a lot of luck with the water superintendent.

He discussed the gas company and their route. They should start in a few weeks and be finished by October. They have door hangars. Bob will email the contact for the gas company to the board.

Bob said Shire Industrial Park went into receivership. Bob said there is a \$500,000 bond with Walpole Cooperative Bank. We will be trying to finish the road and we will be taking over this property.

Ferne Ridge – Bob said there is a history of water in that area. He would like to bring in a manhole so that the resident can tap into the drainage system and not have water in their basement.

Bob said at the Pond St. Rec Facility, he changed the entrance to try to provide more parking spaces.

He will look at the Verizon cell tower with Jack.

Jack and Bob gave a quick update on solar.

Highland Lake – the issues are with Town Counsel. Jack will let CPC know.

Jack said that with the HR Position – he reviewed candidates and anyone who wants to participate in the process is welcome to do so. They will be Open Meeting Interviews.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Jack discussed various changes to the health insurance.

Jim T. will talk to Jack regarding the library.

Jack will talk to Town Counsel regarding the term of office for the Moderator. Town Clerk can't participate in an election if she's on the ballot.

Jack discussed the Charles River Pollution Control - the assessment starting FY13 1,481 to peak at 10,017.

Jack reported that Buckley & Mann started removing buildings today.

### **Action Items**

Jim Lehan moved to approve closing a portion of Lake Street on October 8, 2011 from noon to midnight for a wedding, at the request of Edward McCormick. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Rob Garrity moved to appoint Tom Currier to the Energy Committee, term to expire 2013; and Andy Bakinowski, Beth Jackson, and Tom Grant, term to expire 2014. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**.

At 10:10 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 August 16, 2011.

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Robert J. Garrity, Clerk