

72 e 8, 2005

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

The meeting was held in Room 124, Town Hall. Jim Lehan opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., and announced that the meeting will be audio and video taped. Jack Hathaway read the agenda contents.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Present was Bob Nicodemus and Walter Byron.

Bob reviewed the database, and explained the map of the strategic plan for the Town of Norfolk. They received a questionnaire and information from William Reyelt of MADHCD. Bob was uncomfortable with some of the questions. He reviewed them with the Board.

Jim and Rob felt we should do this, and put public or private. We don't have to divulge personal information. The more we can help them, the better. They will help him with the answers, and they will provide us with what they send the State.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Scott Bugbee moved approval of solid waste materials fees for FY'14 as recommended by the DPW Director. Rob Garrity seconded. It was noted there is no change in decals and bag sticker fees. It was **so voted**.

### **CHIEF BUSHNELL – CALL BACK UPDATE**

Chief Bushnell was present. He explained that the Call Back is working. He said they could not afford to do the three hour call back, and the Union said this is a project that provided better protection for the department and for the community and agreed with it.

Chief Bushnell said they have three months experience, and feel it's working. Jim questioned the cost amount. Jim said we have to watch the budget, and this project is saving lives, which is a good thing, but we still have to watch the budget. Chief Bushnell said he is comfortable at \$60K. He doesn't see anything demographically different. He is looking at the development at Rivers Edge, and said the shift there with age, could be a factor.

Jim asked are you going to be okay with equipment, ambulance, etc. What are we looking at? The Chief said they are able to use the expertise and level of maintenance who are them giving 100% for time, we only pay for parts. Long range they will need to replace hoses, bottles. They are trying to replace protective clothing every 3 years which is a great cycle to be in. They are in good shape, and seem good. The central radios were taken care of last year, and the hand held radios have been replaced. Jack said that one vehicle that we need to keep on radar is the Chief's vehicle because it's 7 years old. The ladder truck has been taken care of by Paul Vito, so is looking good for now.

Jim said you put in \$70K for call back. Can we take out \$10K? Cole said yes, if you want to.

Jack said we will keep a handle on the call backs as it is a separate line item. They will report to

Jack and keep an eye on it.

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

### **Town Meeting Warrant Discussion**

Jack reviewed the Warrant with the Board. It is pretty much done.

The Board discussed what to do with the Old Town Hall property. They need a specific recommendation.

### **Budget Discussion**

Jack said he gave the Board budget books. He said he is \$286,583 short, taking out the \$10,000 from the Fire Dept.

Jim and Jack met with KP administrators, as well as Wrentham and Plainville Town Administrators. Jack said he said if he plugs in a 6%, which is ½ of our new revenue, he can make the budget work with the \$200+ deficit we just heard. Jack said we are stretching each year the estimates on revenues and it is getting tighter and tighter. That is where our situation is. Without reaching into our reserves, we can probably maintain the 6%.

Wrentham cannot do 6%. They are probably more in the 3-4% range. Plainville is behind us. Right now, assuming KP at a level funded budget, and a \$166K change in assessment without Police/Fire, they are the least able to meet this KP deficit.

Jim said it was a good conversation with KP. KP is in significant financial difficulty. Some of it to their own doing, but it doesn't matter how they got there. They want a 14% increase to level fund their budget. We need to fix this. They have created a \$750,000 hole before they have even started. Our 6% is \$394,370. Their cuts include all extracurricular activities, which include sports and band. They would like us up to the 14% level, but they think they can survive at the 10% level. They will still have to make cuts, but not as devastating as 6%. Jim said in 15 years of looking at KP's budget, he has never seen it this bad ever. This is the worst.

Jim would like to propose that as we are first out of the gate on this because we have town meeting first. We are a K-12 system. He doesn't want to see these cuts made at KP. Students will leave in droves. Dr. Zielinski said her priority is to keep teachers in front of students. Jim said he would like to try to push the envelope and get to 10%. This would have the elementary at 4.3% and he fully supports that. This is putting back services that they lost. But if we can work together to come up with the additional \$250,000, it might give some leverage to the other two towns to join us.

Scott doesn't want to jump ahead, but what happens in the following year? If nothing changes, we will have hurt ourselves as well as KP and we will be drawing from our reserves. We could end up in trouble. This Board should sit down with KP and they have to fix some of the issues and make concessions. They have huge issues with their health insurance. Rob asked why aren't the three towns working to do this together? Jim said they have 4% step increases in their contracts, and that's unheard of. It's not COLA, it is step. A lot of the extras are all paid for by the school, but also about 30% of the costs are paid for by parents. Extracurricular events all have user fees attached.

Jim would propose to approach schools and try to get a little bit back, withdrawal from reserves and get other towns to go 10%. We can't delay it, because KP needs to work with other towns and work on this.

Jack said if we are taking money out that is one-time money, it will be very hard to make up the money as we don't have the revenues. If we use that much one-time revenues now, we need to have an override next year or make very serious cuts next year.

Jim said he has gone over KP's budget and there is a lot they can change.

Jim said if no one comes along and sides with us, then we fix it in the fall.

Rob questioned the budget. Jack said he would be about \$303K short.

The Board reviewed the budgets for the different departments. It was suggested that an option could be to wait until fall town meeting. We will have our free cash certified then.

Rob is in favor with a lot of caveats, such as more cooperation in finding ways to cut their budget; joint services, etc. Will we hang 10% on our own? We have to show some leadership in the district; and get to other towns. Jack suggested a memo to other towns, and Jim wants to go to their meetings. We should sit down with the elementary system and see if they will partner with us. The Board is in favor of presenting this to the Advisory Committee.

Jim Lehan said that if in the fall the revenues are back, we try for the Planner.

Rob Garrity moved to support assisting King Philip with their budget problem at 10%. Scott Bugbee seconded, and it was **so voted**.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Scott Bugbee moved to accept the minutes of March 12, 2013, regular and executive session. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**.

At 8:45 p.m., being no further business, Rob Garrity moved to adjourn the meeting. Scott Bugbee seconded and it was **so voted**.

This is a true and accurate report of the Selectmen's Meeting of April 9, 2013.

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Scott Bugbee, Clerk