

February 4, 2014

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

The meeting was held in Room 124, Town Hall. Rob Garrity 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.

WATER RATE HEARING

Rob Garrity moved to open the public hearing. Scott Bugbee seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Jim read the water rate hearing notice.

Bob McGhee, DPW Director present. Rob said that the public comment period was open and we received several comments.

Bob recommends that the Board votes to approve no increases to the FY'15 water rates and fees. He told the Board that they have had a positive balance every year since rates were increased in FY'11. He did say that the Water Division will be proposing some Capital Projects for FY'15 and/or FY'16, and at that time, a new study will be done to determine if rates and fees should be increased in FY'16.

Next year will have several projects foreseen, and will discuss raising rates then.

Bob said that statistics show that we would want to increase the rates next year by \$1.83.

The Board had many questions and agreed that this should be discussed when considering next year's rates.

Jim Lehan moved to have no increase to the FY'15 water rates and fees. Scott Bugbee seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Jack addressed the comments from residents. It is a fact of our system. We would have to get into a difficult system to figure out each residents household. There were comments regarding the billing system, and the water leaks, which is resolved.

Rob questioned the water taste. Chlorine taste is a condition of DEP. We can't fight it. There is nothing else in the water system that will change it.

Solid Waste Fee

Jim Lehan moved to approve a one (1) ton minimum tonnage fee for all rental containers in FY'15. Scott Bugbee seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Snow Equipment Rate

Jim Lehan moved to approve a rate of \$125 per hour for a Front End Loader with a 4+ Cuds bucket equipped with a 14' – 16' push plow for FY'14. Scott Bugbee seconded, and it was **so voted**.

At 7:29 p.m., Scott Bugbee moved to close the hearing. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**.

POLICE BUDGET

Charles Stone, Jr., Police Chief was present to discuss the police budget, animal inspector, animal control and dispatch budgets.

Chief Stone gave the Board handouts explaining each budget.

The Board questioned the cruisers and discussed how many of the older cars are still in circulation and how they are used. They also discussed the newer vehicles, and how many more the Chief will need. The Chief will go into further detail with the Advisory Committee.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Jack said he would like to work on budgets more at our next meeting. The Board will add an extra half hour on the end of their meeting on February 13th for the first draft of the budget.

Jack reported that they are doing contract negotiations with the Clerical Union. He said they will meet with Scott, and then with the Union.

Jack gave the Board a RECC update. They have been working with the 911 folks regarding potential change in venue to Industrial Drive in Wrentham.

Jack said they did the first round of Town Planner interviews. He and Scott Bugbee were part of them.

At 7:59 p.m., Rob Garrity 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 February 4, 2014.

James C. Lehan, Clerk

