

June 2, 2014

Present was Scott Bugbee, James C. Lehan, Jeff Palumbo, Jack Hathaway, Town Administrator and Marian Harrington, Executive Assistant.

The meeting was held in Room 124, Town Hall. Scott Bugbee 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.

ROBERT MCGHEE – DPW REVIEW

Present also is Thomas Benedetti, Supt. of Highway/Grounds.

Bob reviewed the water restriction insert that he would like to put in the water bills. He explained that they would like to control water use – especially irrigation. He said it is hard to enforce, so they would like to put rules and regulations. They would pass this out when they see abuse of watering.

Jim mentioned the bylaw that says no irrigation use. But we don't do anything about it. Why do we have a bylaw that we don't enforce? People who do it know that we have the bylaw, and do it anyway. Shouldn't we regulate it and make sure it's hooked up correctly and monitored as we know it's going to be done anyway.

Bob said it's hard to enforce when it's so widespread. Bob said we have to be careful about this. He said people take pride in their lawns. Bob said he did a water assessment plan and paid money to research it, and he said they need to do something. This is an enormous amount of water that is being used for this.

Jim said he thinks people will ignore his letter unless it has teeth. Scott said the bylaw has fines. Jim said that is discriminatory unless you do everyone. The list of users will tell us who use irrigation systems. Bob said they are always around town and it will be raining out, and systems are going. It's a blatant waste of water. Of course, they are on timers.

The Board agreed with the letter. But there is a broader issue of how to address this.

The Board discussed reports and studies and different scenarios of the water issues. Bob said that we do have intermunicipal agreements with other towns, but if they have a problem, they will take care of their people and shut us off. We need to look at alternatives.

Jack said the number one priority for the Water Department is to find more wells.

Street Excavation Policy. Bob said he found the policy hard to understand, and assumed it was difficult for construction people, too. He reviewed proposed changes with the Board. Bob's April 14th memo (attached) explains the changes.

Jim Lehan moved to approve the recommended fee structure. Scott Bugbee seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Chapter 90

Bob gave a list of the proposed Chapter 90 projects. It shows some of the open projects. Some of these are supplemental to larger projects. He explained reasons why he is doing things.

Bob said there is a new Winter Rapid Road Recovery Program. The Governor has given pothole repair funds. Bob said Norfolk got \$58,867. He used some of the money for Park Street. He will also be doing parts of Main and Lake Streets. Tucker Road will be done as well.

Jim asked the priority on the list of roads. Bob said we asked the people. Bob said he would like to touch on all streets. He said if you do the main roads that connect to main roads, then everyone feels they are getting something. He mentioned that Fruit Street has a binder and you can't leave it forever. It has to have a permanent coat. The Board would like sidewalks on King Street for kids to walk on getting to school.

On his list, he will do a finish job on King Street, Maple and Union. On Fruit Street, he will do a binder. Tucker and Campbell is a binder, which is an application coat.

Bob said Campbell from Seekonk to the bridge is very bad. Almost as bad as Park Street was. Needs a good bandaid. Jack said King, Union and Tucker would be his choice. Bob said he's on the same page.

Jim questioned if fewer streets should be done, but done fully. In the long run, it will cost more if they have to keep having work done. Should we look at this differently.

Bob said that Shire Park's access road is repair it now, or don't do it. He said there is enough in the bond to do the road. Every lot is sold. Bob said some people say wait until everything is built because they'll tear up the road that Bob just put down. But Bob said do it. They may not build for 6 more years, and we will have lost the road. It is not up to the Board, it is just to give Bob direction. This would be a Planning Board issue.

Bob said Columbia Gas Company would like a letter from us stating our intention of moving our police station up there. They told him even if the projection is 2016, it will help them.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Action Items

Jim Lehan moved to open the warrant for the Special Fall Town Meeting to be held on November 18, 2014. Articles for the warrant will be due September 4, 2014. Jeff Palumbo seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Jack told the Board he received a letter from Atty. Cannon who represents Jane and Paul's. They subdivided the lot at the corner of Fruit and Cleveland which is 2.5 acres. It is Chapter 61A, and they would like the Board to exercise their right of first refusal. Jim Lehan moved to pass on the consideration associated with the 2.5 acres at the corner of Fruit and Cleveland Streets. Jeff Palumbo seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Jack informed the Board that he had a resident request that the Board send a letter to the Assistant AG regarding a town meeting vote. Jack said his opinion is that the resident should do it, not the Selectmen. Scott agreed saying he doesn't want to overstep the recommendation of the voters, or second guess what they were doing. Jeff agreed as well. Jim said the Board should not consider agreeing to this request. Zoning articles are confusing, even to those who work with them. Jim feels we can learn from years of experience and thought the Moderator did a great job.

Discussion Items

The Board did a Recap of the working meeting we had last week.

Jim said at the working session, we digested from town meeting; what we learned from it, and how we can do better.

Jim said there are two big projects. One is the Southwood Hospital property. He has a P&S with the Archdiocese; a two year P&S with benchmarks. He will talk to us about whether there are any zoning changes he would have mutually agreed with us. He has until February to back out. We do have a Zoning Bylaw Study Committee (ZBSC). Summer is hard enough to get people to attend meetings, and the ZBSC had trouble getting attendance at the meetings. We cannot change the composition of the ZBSC until town meeting. He considered appointing another committee – folks who can help us think through these issues, and will attend the meetings and make the commitment to participate, especially through the summer. Ray will chair this committee. ZBSC will be another topic for another time to make that committee work.

Scott said also a huge project that needs to be considered is Buckley and Mann, although it doesn't have a time crunch to it. Jim said Southwood has to be done by Sept. 4th. Jack has put out a notice on Facebook for interested residents to contact us.

A Roundtable will be Monday, June 9th. This will be committees and residents. It is not the usual roundtable that we have with developers. That will be next.

Bob Nicodemus told the Board that over the last 5 years, there is a lot of resources available. He has data research on the Southwood property and what it's capabilities could be. He only has the hard copy of it. It shows the contamination, etc. He wanted the Board to know that we have this database available. He thinks we should start with this before we get too far. He said that this report has existed in 2010. The state paid for it. He said that it tells what the property is now, and what it could become. It shows infrastructure. This was done for the Kraft project for the bio-med.

Bob said with Ray on board, you should look at history. He has that information. He wasn't sure everyone knew that he willingly will be any resource we would like. He has data resource availability that Ray and others should be aware of. He is willing to participate and he has been doing this over the last 8 years. He has actually been doing it since 1992, and so the town has a history. He is willing to participate as a resource. He wasn't sure anyone knew the data exists.

Board of Selectmen Liaisons

The Board of Selectmen selected the Boards and Committees that they will be liaisons for this year. The list is attached to the minutes.

Jack gave a brief update on the public safety building. Discussions will happen next week.

Jim said he met with Walter Byron. Walter suggested that each Board send their minutes to all Boards as a way of everyone being informed of what each Board is doing. Scott said he would discuss this at our next meeting.

Jim discussed a town engineer. All boards are using consultants, but a town engineer would be a good use of money rather than paying all the consultants. An employee would be a good choice because we would have control. Jeff said there was a lot of redundancy in the past, but some of the benefits of a town engineer still exist.

Jim congratulated Jack and his Finance department. Standard & Poors gave us a double rating from a double A- to a double A+. Jack said it goes further to other employees than just Finance.

Jim said King Philip sent us a letter last week giving us a \$100,000 assessment less than we expected. There were a variety of reasons why, so it was a surprise to us.

At 9:00 p.m., Jim Lehan moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Palumbo seconded, and it was **so voted**.

This is a true and accurate report of the Selectmen's Meeting of June 2, 2014.

Jeffrey Palumbo, Clerk