October 7, 2015

Present was James Lehan, Jeffrey Palumbo, 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. Jim announced that the meeting was video and audio taped. Jack read the agenda contents.

Employee Insurance Advisory Committee
Several members of the Employee Insurance Advisory Committee were present to discuss the town's insurance.

Bob Shannon and Diedre Ferrara said they have been meeting and thought it was time to start a dialog and share some concerns with the Board. Diedre said that they didn't want to present this without a lot of thought, because they realize this will impact the budget. She said that the departments have trouble hiring or keeping employees because our insurance is low. Some towns offer 75%, and we are on the low side at 63%.

Jeff said in terms of the benchmarking, it is 75% or 63%. He said he would like the differences such as co-pays and other benefits these other towns may or may not have. Diedre said some towns weren't real forthcoming with information, and some towns offer more than one plan. Scott said he has much information from towns and other plans that he will share with the committees.

Jim urged them to continue meeting and we will begin budget discussions in February, and we will need this information included.

Jack put it in perspective by showing the biggest departments, and health insurance is the fourth largest department. If we take say 10% to get to 73%, it has to come from somewhere, so you have to realize it impacts a position, or a department.

It was agreed that this committee should keep this going, and keep the dialog going.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT
Action Items
Scott Bugbee moved to approve NCL's Annual Jingle Bell Run on Saturday, December 5th beginning at 11 a.m. at the H. Olive Day School. Race course is usual. Jeff Palumbo seconded, and it was **so voted**.

The Board had a discussion regarding exercising our right of first refusal under MGL Chapter 61A, or vote to match a bona fide offer to purchase the property at

86 Boardman Street, Norfolk. The Board decided to review this further, and vote at our next meeting.

Jack told the Board that Tom DiPlacido requested we name the street in the Winding Hollow subdivision off of Holbrook Street, *Billy Nichols Way***.** He had spoken with the family who approved it. The Board was back and forth, but in the end decided to approve Nichols Way, as we haven't used a first name in any other street name.

Jeff Palumbo moved to name the street in the Winding Hollow subdivision off of Holbrook Street, *Nichols Way.* Scott Bugbee seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Jeff Palumbo moved to allow the Friends of the Norfolk Library to serve beer and wine at a retirement party at the Norfolk Public Library on Saturday, November 21, 2015 from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. Scott Bugbee seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Jack told the Board that the review of the draft Southwood Development Agreement does not need to be considered this evening. It was not discussed.

Scott Bugbee moved to accept a gift to the Town from the Friends of the Council on Aging of a bus. Jeff Palumbo seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Town Administrator Update

Jack said regarding the prison status, we should ask for a meeting with the Secretary after we sign all the paperwork. He said we did receive the grant for the ambulance, so they are going to buy us the ambulance.

With respect to water, Bob is exploring sites. The one by the prison is not successful – too much ledge. He will come in and give us an update. Jack said we did lose our water superintendent – he went to Stoughton.

Jack said that there is nothing new on the Buckley & Mann property that is being developed by Tom DiPlacido. Tom has the property under Agreement.

Metacomet Regional Communications Center. They put plans forward for dispatch center. The Board approved the first and second floor plans. Dispatch will be up on the second floor. They are taking out some of the tasks that dispatch covers today and make dispatch just dispatch. They also won't be dealing with people off the street.

Jack said with the Freeman-Kennedy School, they will schedule a close out meeting and try to get money back from MSBA. We should get a 6 digit number. Jack said a commitment was made to the taxpayers to reduce taxes or whatever.

Jack said with the Police and Fire, the Public Safety Committee met and looked at first round of drawings. They hope to get drawings and feedback soon and have another meeting.

Highland Lake Dam is off the table.

Jack said our new Town Counsel, David DeLuca, will be at town hall on October 22nd for office hours.

Jack told the Board that we have open positions for Director of Finance, Asst. Town Accountant in the near future, and Water Superintendent.

Jim said he wants the contracts staggered and not all at the same time.

Discussion Items
The Board reviewed the Fall Town Meeting Warrant

Jack told the Board that a resident of Everett Street was concerned about the stop signs, and wanted to discuss removing them. The board felt this should be discussed with the Police Chief and DPW Director.

At 8:40 p.m., Scott Bugbee 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 October 7, 2015.

_____

Scott Bugbee, Clerk