

June 6, 2017

Present was Scott Bugbee, James Lehan, Jeff Palumbo, Jack Hathaway, Town Administrator, and Susan Jacobson. Marian Harrington, Executive Assistant was not in attendance.

The meeting was held in Room 124, Town Hall. Scott Bugbee opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Scott announced that the meeting was audio and video taped. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **TOWN CLERK CHANGES**

Carol Greene, Town Clerk came before the Board to request the Selectmen consider making the Town Clerk an appointed position instead of an elected position. The State is requiring Town Clerks to take on additional responsibilities. Carol believes that having an experienced Clerk vs. an unexperienced Clerk would be beneficial to the Town.

Jack said he strongly supports this idea and that he would do everything in his power to appoint Carol to the Town Clerk position. It is a key position with specific experience required to do the job.

Carol said that as an elected official, she is able to take as much time off as they would like and that as an elected Clerk she reports only to the citizens. Jack's recommendation would be to get this appointed but it must go to Town Meeting and then go to ballot. He would like to have this on the Warrant this Fall.

Jack said he would not hold a Fall Town Meeting just for this purpose. Jim said he agrees with Jack's support and that in the past they tried to get this change made and the citizens did not vote favorably. Jim said we are lucky to have Carol, and Jeff Palumbo agreed with Jim's comments. Jim feels that Carol will need to speak to why this is not about politics.

Carol said she would like to educate the voters and provide information that explains the job. It is much more than licensing dogs. She would like to do a mailing. Jim said many more communities are moving toward appointed position. Carol believes that no job should be autonomous.

Jeff said the residents don't always know her name, but it's because things are going smoothly and without bad news people don't recognize what our Town Clerk's name is. Jeff wanted to know what options are available with an appointed position. Jack said the position would be subject to the same reviews as the other town employees. Jack said we could set it up however they are comfortable. It can be defined anyway the Board would like. Jeff said he would like to follow best practice and follow other towns. Carol said that until she was in this position and did a full cycle of duties, she really did

not understand the entire role of a Town Clerk. She was not completely comfortable until after three full years on the job.

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

### **Report of Warrants**

Scott reported that the warrants were true and accurate: 5/23/17 - #47V17 for \$2,197,518.19; and 5/30/17 - #48VSA17 for \$4,160.00; 5/30/17 - 48V17 for \$349,216.65; 5/30/17 - 48VS17 for \$50,360.53; and 5/30/17 - 24P17/PS17 for \$738,120.96.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **Old Town Hall**

Jack said that he and Jim had a follow up conversation with Bob Bullock about Old Town Hall. Bob said once you tear it down, you have two years and must rebuild. If the Town is going to do something then they should have the permit in hand before they begin tearing down. If the building is sold, then the new owner would take the liability.

A second drawing would leave us with the old Town Hall parking lot and the DPW garage. This would allow someone to rehab or tear down and build. According to Bob, he believes they could build a parking lot and septic system. They would have to go through the Conservation Commission who would be required to allow them to build a new septic system.

Jim said the dilemma is that the building is in disrepair. Jeff asked about using CPC fund to rehab the building. Jim said that they passed on this. He said that if we sold it for \$300 - \$400,000 then we could take that money and build the Recreation building on Pond Street. Scott wants to ensure that the proceeds go directly to the building at Pond Street for recreation use. Jack said we could write the article so it read that the funding would go to the building of a Recreation building on Pond Street.

Jim feels like this is the best business decision even though this is a change from his prior thinking. Jim said after speaking to Bob Bullock today he believes this is the best answer.

Jeff said with some of the concerns is there any other uses for the building? Jeff mentioned Pre -K. Jim said that Recreation really needs a building. Scott agreed.

#### **Public Safety Building Update**

The Committee met this afternoon, and they have a signed contract with the contractor. Two attorneys must sign it and then it will be complete. June 27<sup>th</sup> is the next scheduled Public Safety Building Committee meeting, and the contractor will be attending that meeting. Jack said that Chief Bushnell and the entire Fire Department

has been working towards making this a great Fire Station that will serve the community well. Jack said they have two proposed plans and both plans are very creative plans.

### **Economic Development - MAPC**

Jack said that Jeff and Scott attended the MAPC meeting last week. Jack received a summary from Josh Eichen and they will continue to move forward with the plan. One of the goals was to get some local business people involved.

### **Other:**

Jack said that they have extended an offer to Mr. John Curran to be the new Assessor. He is currently the Assistant Assessor in the Town of Wrentham. Scott Bragdon, Todd Lindmark and Jack all interviewed him and believe he is a strong candidate. He has some ideas on the Data Collector position and decided to wait until he arrives to fill that position.

Zip Trip is coming to Norfolk on August 4, 2017. Jack has never seen a Zip Trip but is looking forward to them coming to Town. They are going to set up on Town Hill. They cut back throughout their normal morning broadcasts.

Jack asked what they wanted to do with the Zoning Bylaw Committee now they have the Zoning Working Committee. This comes up because the group of folks that brought forward a change to the noise zoning bylaw. The Planning Board referred them to the Zoning Bylaw Study Committee.

Jim said it was a great committee and they always had a good group of people. They will keep the Zoning Working Committee and not revive the Zoning Bylaw Committee. Jeff wanted to notify the group and let them know that we would like them to continue on the Committee.

Ray Goff will be finished the end of next week.

Jack brought up two signs for the Community Gardens. The top language is what Cyndi Andrade had proposed. Jack tweaked it a bit based on a sign that he saw. The Board agreed with Jack's changes and selected the bottom sign.

Jack said that he had a request from a new resident regarding parking. He wanted the Selectmen to put in an additional parking lot and have it be a first come first serve lot. Jim said that there is ample parking between all three lots. Jim asked if his position was that he could not find a spot. The MBTA lot is \$4.00 per day and the resident suggested the old kids place. The Board did not agree with that request and there is no other area available. Jim said Kids Place is next to a home.

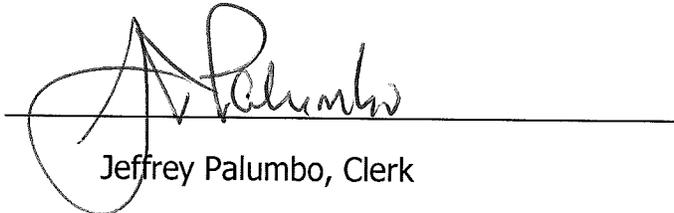
Jim discussed the King Philip budget issue. He said that the number is 3.24% after both town meetings. It goes to the middle vote. Wrentham has to come up with \$120,000 to meet the vote. According to Jim, Wrentham spent all of their free cash and they had to make cuts at the elementary school level. Jack said we have gotten hit hard in the past.

KP is in the process of hiring a new business manager and Jim is on the interview committee. Jim said that today they had three candidates. Jim said one of the candidates had a very unusual background that would be well suited for our district.

Jeff said that Bob has started to do some surveying on North Street. Jeff wondered how that was going; were folks happier? Jack said he has not heard of any protests. There were concerns at Town Meeting. Jack said that they did have a conceptual plan drawn for a roundabout at the Needham/North Street intersection. This is something they are looking into and would like to dig deeper into whether this is a good resolution. The group agreed that is a dangerous intersection.

At 8:20 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 6, 2017.



Jeffrey Palumbo, Clerk