Norfolk Board of Selectmen's Open Session Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2018

Present: Scott Bugbee, James Lehan, Jeff Palumbo, Jack Hathaway, Town Administrator, Susan Jacobson, Executive Assistant

Scott Bugbee called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. The meeting was held in Room 124, Town Hall. Scott announced this meeting is being both video and audio taped. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jack read the agenda.

Report of the Warrants

A motion was made by Jim Lehan to approve the warrants of 3/27/2018 – 21PS18 - $743,348.18 and 4/17/2018 - $218,929.86. It was seconded by Jeff Palumbo, and so voted. All were in favor.

KP Teacher Negotiations Update
Jim Lehan updated the Board on the KP Teacher's Union contract. He stated that the Teacher's contract has been finalized and it is a three year contract.

Lion's Club #2069 Movie
Jim Lehan stated Bill Hawkins, President of the Lions came into BOS meeting about a month ago and stated that the Lions will actively be supporting organizations that are committed to combating the opioid crisis. They had a fund raiser in March. The Board then viewed a Lion's club video regarding the crisis.

DPW Road Condition/Construction Review

Bob McGhee, DPW Director was present to review roads and construction. First he provided a water update.

He stated have a well site on Holbrook Street in which we are at the end of the permitting. They are waiting for comments from DEP. There were some hurdles (comments from groups involved with the property). The comments were not favorable. Bob stated that the DEP has been very supportive of this and understands the Town's needs. Once we hear back from DEP, he believes we will go forward at Town Meeting and request those funds and then purchase and fund the land.

Jeff asked what the State approval time table would be. Bob expects the decision to come during next few months.

Bob provided an open project list. Chapter 90 funding of $390,000 and they have ballpark of $109,000 uncommitted equaling approximately $400,000 Chapter 90. The next page is what they are looking at going forward. The repair strategy is a wish list and they cannot afford these. The streets listed are the most heavily travelled streets. Bob explained how he recommends doing a portion of a project. Once the project is complete, they would pave the rest of it. Some streets will be spot done and that will keep that road in good operating condition until they can get to them. This year was a particularly difficult year for potholes. There are some sections of streets that are down to the gravel. There is $422,000 of construction if funding is available could be done.

Bob spoke about many different areas in Town with streets that require patch work.

Bob spoke about three locations for traffic lights blinking yellow and red lights that hang over the intersections. Jeff wondered if the light could be changed to a solid red light. Jeff wants to look at whether it would support the infrastructure of a full stop light. Scott asked if a full stop light required State approval. Jack said it does.

Jack said Rich McCarthy was working on a Complete Street Grant to look at the safety of some of our roads.

Jack will get an update from Rich and get back to the BOS. Jeff asked if there were grants available. He said after we get the Complete Streets data we can look to grants and outside funding.

Operating budget funds are also available.

Tim Barley from River Road was present. Unfortunately, River Road is not on the list. He showed the Board some photo's that he took on the way tonight. He showed River Road by #40 and it showed large holes which are getting wider and deeper daily. He feels this is a safety hazard because people are swerving and with pedestrians running, walking dogs and cars swerving to avoid the pot holes. He is concerned with the safety of people and the costs of tires and vehicle repairs. He said we are now patching patches and these continuously come apart. He requested that River Road be considered for repairs but that patching it really does no good. Traffic has increased in the past couple of years.

Bob agrees that it needs to be done and he will put an application in. It would not be a full road redone but there are ways to improve it.

Jim said he would prefer to prioritize resident's needs over cut through streets. Scott said the resident's approach is a good one, but we will not be able to make all the residents happy.

Bob would like to look into the possibility of using a method that the Wrentham Department of Public Works used.

Ralph Greggs from Shady Way was present. He discussed the amount of money he has put into repairing his car in the past few years. He would prefer to use that money to fix the roads rather than repair his vehicle. He asked if there is a way we can think big about all of these necessary projects and how to fund them. Various funding methods were discussed.

Budget

Todd Lindmark was present and discussed two budget proposals and provided two different outcomes. Free cash would be required to balance either budget. Todd has increased estimated revenues from new growth. Last year came in at $510,000 and they estimated $625,000 for this year. That is an aggressive number.

They discussed KP and Norfolk schools assessments and that we wouldn't be able to cover shortfalls with free cash.

A discussion regarding how the KP budget process of Wrentham and Plainville affects our budget took place.

Jack said that they do not have to formally vote this budget they will present this budget to the Advisory Board on Wednesday evening.

Jim stated that over 70 percent of our revenues are going to the schools. Over $1,000,000 in new revenue is going to KP and the schools. Jack said that Todd has provided a great deal of help getting through this budget.

Jack announced that they will close snow and ice budget in the fall.

Enrollment Projections

Jack suggested having Dr. Allardi come in to speak directly to this. There is some concern that there will be some growth, but we have also lost some students over the years.

Action Item

A motion was made by Jeff Palumbo to approve an easement for the development on Medway Street that the Planning Board and Town Planner have recommended. It was seconded by Jim Lehan, and so voted. All were in favor.

Discussion Items

Warrant

Jack said the process has been going well with the Advisory Board. They discussed that there were some bylaw changes and they did push back on the delivery of the Affordable Housing and allowing them to have a cash option. They would be allowed to pay the Trust the sum that was equal to buying an affordable house. There was language that the Advisory Committee was struggling with.

Two petitioner articles were discussed: One was the article to go to five days per week. They spoke about Friday jobs and the appeal to work here because it was a four day work schedule. Jack spoke about the five-year period when the four day work week transitioned. The Advisory Board voted to IP the article.

Resident Communication Review

Jack discussed that there were concerns raised on Thursday morning by some employees regarding phone calls made to Town Hall by a Town resident. Jack stated that nothing raised would be considered as harassing but people felt like they were being watched. Jack prepared a statement for the file regarding Town resident, Peter Chipman's past complaints towards the Town and its employees. He read the statement to the Board.

Jack wanted the public to be aware of what the Town encounters. He noted that ninety-nine percent of the people we deal with are wonderful. Most of the public come to help with solutions.

Jack shared a note that Jack McFeeley left in the file. His note discussed the past actions of Mr. Chipman the same resident who continues calling Town Hall and complaining. The note stated that the resident becomes hostile when there is no immediate action. He has tried to go around the Board even after they had already negotiated a deal. This is how he acts today. Jack does not believe we should be insulted as Town employees and although he is not always right, insulting people and name calling should not happen. The Board all agreed that residents can express their dissatisfaction however, in a respectful way.

Jim said that he believes these correspondences should be part of the public record.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

A motion was made by Scott Bugbee to name Jim Lehan as Chairman of the Board. It was seconded by Jeff Palumbo, and so voted. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Jim Lehan to name Jeff Palumbo as Vice-Chairman. It was seconded by Scott Bugbee, and so voted. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Jim Lehan to name Scott Bugbee as Clerk. It was seconded by Jeff Palumbo, and so voted. All were in favor.

Scott thanked both Selectmen and Jack. He had the pleasant of serving the Town for six years and dependent on the election, hopes to serve for three more.

Jack encouraged all to attend candidate's night at KP Middle School tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Session:

At 8:15 p.m., a roll call vote was made to enter into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non–union personnel, Chief Stone and Deputy Chief Carroll. Roll call vote: Jim Lehan aye, Scott Bugby aye, Jeff Palumbo aye. The Board will not return to Open Session.

At 8:32 p.m., Jeff Palumbo made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Jim Lehan, and so voted. All were in favor.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 30, 2018 at 7:30 p.m., Room 124, Town Hall. This is an open meeting to allow residents to ask questions about the Town Meeting Warrant for the 5/8/18 Town Meeting.

This is a true and accurate report of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of April 23, 2018.

Jim Lehan, Chair