

March 25, 2015

Present was Scott Bugbee, James Lehan, Jeffrey 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 p.m. Jack Hathaway read the agenda contents.

### **BUDGET DISCUSSION WITH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Present was Advisory Committee members Dave Benton, Arlie Sterling, Rick Stillman, Art Frontczak, Lisa Keating, and Jonathan Hurwitz.

Jack gave out handouts of Free Cash, and reviewed it with everyone present. He also reviewed the FY'16 Budget.

Jack said that there is still a \$549,000 deficit of which he will have to close. He will have to make some cuts within the budget.

Dave asked if this is a level service budget or some requests. Jack said he tried to do level service, but is still investigating it.

Jack reviewed the warrant with the Board. He explained three articles that he received from King Philip. Also Town Counsel has reviewed the warrant, and recommends that we remove the tax title article as it is not needed.

Jim Lehan moved to open the warrant and add last three articles and remove the tax title. Jeff Palumbo seconded and it was **so voted**.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

#### **Action Items**

Jim Lehan moved to appoint James Gursha to the Conservation Commission, term to expire June 30, 2018. Jeff Palumbo seconded and it was **so voted**.

Jim Lehan moved to allow Norfolk Lions to place a banner on Town Hill from May 9<sup>th</sup> through May 23<sup>rd</sup> to advertise the Field of Flags. Jeff Palumbo seconded and it was **so voted**.

Jeff Palumbo moved to allow the Norfolk Federated Church to use the Gazebo on Town Hill for their Easter sunrise service on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Jim Lehan recused himself as he is a member of this church. Scott Bugbee seconded and it was **so voted**.

Jim Lehan moved to allow the Garden Club to use the Town Hill and Gazebo for the annual perennial plant and bake sale on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jeff Palumbo seconded and it was **so voted**.

Jeff Palumbo moved to allow the Norfolk Grange to hold their annual Clean and Green Campaign on Saturday, April 25, 2015. Jim Lehan seconded and it was **so voted**.

Jim Lehan moved to modify the inter-Municipal Agreement for the Regional Communications Center to June 30, 2040. Jeff Palumbo seconded and it was **so voted**.

Jim Lehan moved to amend the Mailbox Policy to include that requests within a fiscal year for mailbox damage must be submitted by May 1 to be considered. Jeff Palumbo seconded and it was **so voted**.

### **REQUEST FOR NON-BINDING REFERENDUM BALLOT QUESTION ON COMMON CORE**

Scott Bugbee told the audience to keep in mind that we are here tonight only to decide whether or not to put this question on the ballot. We are not here to debate the pros and cons of Common Core or PARCC.

Ingrid Allardi, Superintendent of Norfolk Schools, and Susan Gilson, Principal and Asst. Supt. at KP Middle School. Ingrid explained how she feels this Common Core works at the elementary level. Susan explained it at the Middle/High School level.

Ingrid feels the Common Core is good for the children. She gave the Board a copy of Mass Frameworks and Common Core to see where the two cross paths.

Common Core is a program used. PARCC is a tool used to measure it.

Patrick Tuohey , Applewood Road. He said that PARCC and Common Core are private and not open to any changes. There was no public debate for these standards before they were implemented in 2010. Both Ingrid and Susan disagree and said Massachusetts does not have to retain Common Core. They both said Massachusetts uses the Mass Frameworks.

Individuals spoke either for or against the Common Core and stated their concerns or feelings. Kim Eldred, Michael Antosca, Applewood Road, Tracy Munroe, and Jennifer Dyer, Quail Run Road all spoke against the Common Core, and asked it be placed on the ballot.

Jim and Scott both stated that they aren't sure that the ballot is the forum to use to get this discussion out there. It is already on the warrant and there will be discussion at town meeting. Patrick said that the ballot question is for the State.

Kelly Costa 17 Willow Place said people don't know there is an option. Jim said he agrees, but feels that the ballot isn't the way to do it. You are asking three people to speak for 600 residents.

Ingrid said that they send out surveys and is interested in helping. They have 1000 students and have heard from 100 parents. It doesn't represent everyone and they have tried different forums to reach the parents. They want the best for the kids, and are at a loss on how to reach all the parents. Curriculum night they only reach 100 parents. Susan said they publicize through Connect-ed and other forums.

Lori Tuohey asked if you told the parents that this is a pilot program. Susan said yes, they have informed parents with a letter every year. Dept of Ed does not consider this a pilot program. Last year it was a pilot. Ingrid said they have sent letters as well.

Jeff said that in a general way, this hasn't been shared with everyone in a proactive way.

The Board agreed that this is a yea/nay question. It won't be a discussion. They said that this group needs to find a forum where this can be discussed further. And you need to notify all parents so that they can attend.

Patrick will arrange a meeting at one of the schools to discuss this.

At 9:27 p.m., Jeff Palumbo 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 March 25, 2015.

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Jeffrey Palumbo, Clerk