

SELECT BOARD MEETING - February 24, 2011

Present: Select board members - Dave DeHerdt, Doug Field, Norm Russell
Assistant Administrator – Mary Fitz-Gibbon

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Minutes: A motion was made, seconded, and voted to accept the minutes of February 17, 2011, as written.

Appointments:

Paul Monohon stopped by to express his appreciation for all that the Select Board has done this year. He said he knew that they didn't take the job for ego, or blue lights, or \$70.00 a week. They did it because it needed to be done. It has been a difficult year, he knew and he appreciated their work. The Board, in turn, thanked Paul for what he's doing [on active duty].

The Resignation of Bonnie Coleman from the Library Board of Trustees was accepted with regret and appreciation. Ms. Coleman had been serving as treasurer. Mr. DeHerdt read her letter in to the record.

Appointment: Carolyn Murray has stepped forward and was appointed to the unexpired treasurer position.

New Old Business:

Police Department: The Board signed a letter advising the Town Treasurer that Patrick Droney has been hired as full-time Police Chief at a salary of \$54,000, plus benefits, effective March 1, 2011. He will accrue vacation as per the employee policy. A letter from the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Commission granting permanent exemption to Chief Droney has been received. He does have to take an orientation course which is being mailed to him. Within 270 days he must take the orientation test which is currently on-line.

Mr. Droney will be sworn in on Monday, February 28th. DeHerdt reported that due to a personal obligation, Chief Droney will actually begin work in town on March 2nd

Highway Department: The Board had three bank notes each in the amount of \$48,334 for the new highway truck. Each of the notes with People's United Bank is at 2.5%, one for each of the three years that the truck will be financed. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to sign the notes totaling \$145,000 for the new highway truck. The Board also signed a certificate indicating that they were authorized by Town Meeting vote to do so. Field said the truck is ready for delivery.

Green Community: Russell reported that he had found three persons interested in serving on a committee to make the Town more energy efficient. He proposed that Mary Quigley, Jennifer Williams, and Brian Clark be appointed to a Green Community Action Committee. The charge, he said, would be to shepherd the Town through the process of qualifying as a Green Community. Once that status has been reached the Town would qualify for a grant that could help defray the cost of making energy efficient upgrades at Town Hall. Appointment will be on next week's agenda.

Block Grant: He has also been in contact with Donna Cote at the Franklin County Regional Housing and Community Development Agency regarding possible inclusion in a community block grant to provide financial assistance in bringing the Town Hall up to current accessibility standards. He has learned that there is \$78,000 available for this purpose. DeHerdt said that there were letters detailing areas of concern that would be useful in this matter. He will provide copies to Russell.

Budget meetings:

Present: Finance Committee- Carl Satterfield, Lynn Taylor, Janet Rogers, and Ted Murray

Absent – Tom Carter

Library Budget: Present- Marcine Eisenberg and Carolyn Murray

Ms. Eisenberg presented a request to the Town for financial support in the amount of \$31,200.00 which represents an increase from last year's allotment of \$29,700.00. There was a lengthy discussion of the library finances, hampered by some confusion of how to accurately account for state aid money. One thing that was established was the order in which available library funds are expended. The Town appropriation is used first, then state aid, with other library funds and investments reserved for last. For the Trustees the difficulty is 'guestimating' what the state aid portion will be. It is expected to be less than previous years.

There was conversation about how the trusts are managed. Ms. Rogers was interested in knowing whether the goal was just growth or income and growth. The principal to grow from \$10,000 in 1914 to \$300,000 in 2010 was of interest. She asked how frequently the Trustees met with the account managers and suggested that this should happen at least annually.

Russell had a question about the lift in the library. Ms. Eisenberg said to remove and replace it would cost \$28,000. The lift installed in 1991 has never functioned properly. A gentleman in the room said there had been many problems with that type of lifts. The company that made it went out of business.

Council of Aging: Present- Wayne Wickland representing local group

The local council had no budget in 2010. It's budget request for 2011 is for \$500.00. (\$250.00 for the van and \$250.00 for other expenses).

Wayne Wickland spoke on behalf of both the local COA and the Consortium (Shelburne Senior Center). He apologized for not having all of the facts with him, as he did not expect to be the presenter. Mr. Wickland spoke of a number of problems within the Consortium, partly a step in the process of changing the focus of the Consortium from being centered in Shelburne to having centers in each of the four member towns. It's an intricate process as somehow services need to be provided in the different locations, using the staff that is currently centralized. There is the issue of the use of the Masonic building, with expectation that the Consortium be responsible for maintaining the building, as well as the portion of the agreement that makes the staff employees of Shelburne. The town's share of the Consortium budget is \$338.00 greater than last year, due in part to an increase in pay for Shelburne employees (and thus the Consortium staff).

Other Reports:

Computer and Printer: Field initiated a conversation about setting up the computer downstairs so that it can be used with a printer. The computer was purchased through Emergency Management last year.

