

## SELECT BOARD MINUTES – April 27, 2011

**Present:** Select Board: Dave DeHerdt, Doug Field, Norm Russell  
Assistant Administrator: Mary Fitz-Gibbon

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

**Minutes:** In motions made by Field and seconded by Russell, the open meeting minutes of April 21, 2011 and April 14, 2011 were approved unanimously.

**Warrant Review:** present: Moderator – Buzz Eisenberg, Town Clerk – Nancy Dunn  
Finance Committee members: Ted Murray, Janet Rogers

DeHerdt prefaced the discussion by stating that the intent of this Board was to arrange line items so as to give department heads a little more freedom. He noted, however, that in doing so more oversight would be required of the Board. Eisenberg thought this should be stated to the voters. He also pointed out that the warrant was to provide notice of the scope, the motion controls.

Ms. Dunn reported there were enough Town Reports to provide one per household. She said they would be available at Town meeting. They are not being delivered house to house this year.

The procedure for opening of the meeting was reviewed. Boy Scouts will present the flag. Mr. Eisenberg said the rules of conduct for the meeting will be read. There will be no invocation. In its place Mr. Eisenberg had planned to invite a resident to say a few words about the importance of this meeting. He said he had spoken to Don Robinson, a former Selectman and author of a recently published book about small town government to speak, but several persons protested that due to controversy over the accuracy of the book, this would not be a good idea. A reading of the names of citizens who have passed during the year will also be read.

**Articles 1-3** The appropriate motion language was discussed and agreed upon.

**Article 4**– the WiredWest item. This is the second of two times that this article will appear before the Town. Passage of the article will allow the Town, if it chooses, to use an existing law to create a telecommunications department that can legally join a cooperative to build a high speed fiber-optic network. Dave Kulp and David Newell were present to make their pitch and to ask the Board if it would publicly support the article. After some discussion about potential costs, a motion was made by Field, seconded, and voted to support the article as a board.

The article put forth by the school committee for repairs to the roof at Mohawk continues to be unsatisfactory due to wording and unknown amounts of money the Town might be agreeing to. It was decided to remove this article from the warrant and the subsequent articles were renumbered accordingly. It was agreed, however, that the debt exclusion article related to this item already on the ballot will remain.

**Article 5** which requires that the Sewer District reimburse the Town for a mistake made in a previous year will require an explanation, but has been approved by Council for inclusion on the warrant. There was some debate about whether or not this article should appear on the annual warrant which is devoted to the FY'12 budget. Mary Fitz-Gibbon reported to the Board that this article had been presented to Town Counsel for review and she had indicated that the article was proper.

**Articles 6-9** were found acceptable and the appropriate motion language determined.

### **Article 10. – General government**

The Finance Committee (FC) was divided upon the Treasurer Assistant line item. It was the feeling of at least one FC member that the Treasurer does not need as assistant. It is expected this will be thoroughly discussed on the meeting floor. The Select Board fashioned the motion language for the article as written.

DeHerdt indicated that most articles are being funded by raising and appropriating.

**Article 12 – Public Safety** will raise and appropriate \$151,675 and transfer from “the dog fund” \$2,314. Motion language was agreed upon.

**Article 13 – Cultural/ Recreational Expenses** was questioned, as the library numbers didn’t seem correct. The article was corrected to read “raise and appropriate \$42,433 and transfer \$1,500 from the Library Revolving Fund.” Motion language was agreed upon by SB.

**Article 14 – Sanitation Services** – includes money for an additional half day of access to the Transfer Station and the purchase of bags. The Moderator will ask for a straw vote to see what weekday there is the most interest in having the transfer station open. Motion language was agreed upon by SB.

Note was made that there will be questions about the large increase in FRCOG **Health Service** which appears in **Article 15**. Last year the Town switched from Foothills to reduce cost; but the huge jump in the FRCOG assessment seems to have foiled that plan. To date no one has successfully obtained an explanation. Motion language was agreed upon by SB.

There will be some discussion of **Article 16 – Highway and Road Expenses**. This is an area where combining some line items seemed to make sense to the SB; but members of the FC, while accepting the budget numbers, would like to see the individual line items separated making transfers of funds among the line items more difficult. The items combined: maintenance, utilities, and uniforms are rolled into the General Highway item in the SB format. Motion language was agreed upon by SB.

**Articles 24 and 25** - The next area that will likely generate some discussion is the handling of **stabilization accounts**. The plan is to put a total of \$20,000 into these accounts. The question is should the amount be split: \$10,000 in Capital Stabilization and \$10,000 in Stabilization, or put it all into one account. The SB wants to split it – in anticipation of the purchase of a cruiser; the FC wants to keep it in one pot. Motion language for both articles, as written, was agreed upon by SB.

### **Liaison Reports:**

**Police:** Chief Droney reports that he thought the Taurus was fixed. But today while on his way to a meeting in Greenfield, he encountered such problems with the front end of the vehicle, that he turned around and took it back to Mark Upton. He considers it un-drivable. In the meantime the Explorer is at Franklin Tech for repairs.

**Fire:** Chief Haskins reports no news on a fire truck.

**Highway:** The crew is doing summer work – street sweeping and grading roads. It has been discovered that the shortfall reported last week is actually the procurement charge from FRCOG. It’s a bookkeeping item and can be relocated to other account(s). It’s actually a shared expense and can be split between departments that participate in the procurement process.

**Emergency Manager:** Field reported that the Emergency Evacuation Plan needs to be updated. He plans to wait until after elections to take care of this.

**Town Hall Rearrangement Plan:** Russell said the plan is complete and they're ready to proceed. Mary Quigley will oversee the project. Moving the phone system is expected to be the biggest expense. The Police will move downstairs; the Collector/Treasurer will move into one of the current station rooms.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM. Next meeting will be May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla Phelps