

SELECT BOARD MINUTES February 3, 2010

Present: Ted Murray, Tom Ulrich and Dave DeHerdt

Meeting called to order 7:00p.m.

Warrants

Warrant #14 was signed the weekend of January 2, 2010 authorizing payment. (Vendor - \$73,712.94 and Payroll - \$18,314.34). Warrant #15 was signed the weekend of January 16, 2010 authorizing payment. (Vendor - \$51,728.93 and Payroll - \$17,736.15). Warrant #16 was signed the weekend of January 30, 2010 authorizing payment. (Vendor - \$411,887.16 and Payroll - \$19,306.45). Warrant #17 was signed the weekend of February 13, 2010 authorizing payment. (Vendor - \$147,728.10) and Payroll - \$16,845.43).

Minutes

Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the open meeting minutes of January 27, 2010. Vote was unanimous. Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the executive session minutes of January 27, 2010. Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the executive session minutes of February 2, 2010. Vote was unanimous.

Liaison Reports

Police Department – Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the resignation of Officer Michael Curtis from the Ashfield Police Department. Vote was unanimous.

Emergency Manager – Discussion occurred regarding the need for town personnel to take various incident command courses. Doug will provide more the Board more information as to which employees need to have which courses.

Discussion occurred regarding the Hazards Mitigation Grant. The parameters are a 25% match and it is for a structure that will protect the residents in the event of an emergency.

Discussion occurred regarding the desire of the State Police to include in their data base emergency contact information that was collected by MEMA. Doug will check if the State Police will use this information on a restricted basis.

Town Hall – There have been sporadic problems with the town hall furnace. Ted will meet with Sandri to discuss the bills and other issues. The furnace continues to need to be reset. Someone had opened a window in the oil room and the tank had frozen. Ted expressed his concerns that this building is creaking to sustain any kind of operation. This is not a comfortable and inviting place to come or work. Ted suggested organizing a committee to deal with these issues in conjunction with the handicapped accessibility issues.

Discussion occurred regarding the town hall work load while Maryellen recovers from her medical condition. Ted has had communication with the staff about what happens at the Select Board meetings. It is important for them to know issues and actions the Board is taking so they can understand, support, and implement those actions. It is also important for the Board to stand behind the staff as they carry out their responsibilities. Ted will review the job descriptions as a starting point to see how work currently is being allocated among the staff.

Old Business

Virginia Wiswell passed her CORI check. Maryellen will be asked to work with Virginia to ensure that the computers are secure and virus-free.

Discussion occurred regarding the use of sealed bids for selling tax title properties and the costs savings of this procedure vs. the use of auction. Motion was made, and seconded, that the three parcels that the assistant treasurer has in her possession be sold thru sealed bids. Vote was unanimous.

Discussion occurred regarding the proposed 3% raise for pensions. Maryellen is researching this issue.

Discussion occurred regarding the MMAC meeting which will nominate a representative for the negotiating committee. Discussion occurred regarding the impact of the proposed reduction to the school budget and its potential impact on Ashfield's assessment.

Discussion occurred regarding the draft of the warrant for the special town meeting. Ted discussed the work that went in to finding savings in the current budget to pay for proposed expenses on the warrant. Tom proposed restoring elected officials salaries. He felt it was a bad precedent that will make it harder to find people to run in the future. Ted announced that Park Commission rescinded their previous vote of removing \$13,000 from the Park Restoration Account. Ted and Dave felt it was important that given the work that has been done to keep the warrant articles and funding as they currently stand. It is important that people have the opportunity to discuss the issue at town hall.

Discussion occurred regarding the FY11 budget schedule. The Board agreed to shift the budget hearings to Thursday in March to allow the finance committee to hear the discussion regarding the budget.

Maryellen will work on a draft email policy for further review by the Board.

Discussion occurred regarding the ADA study. Tom will get in touch with Maryellen to work further on this issue.

Discussion occurred regarding the FRCOG interest in finding out what the town's priorities are for regional, shared services.

New Business

Motion was made, and seconded, to establish a town forensics computer donation account. Vote was a majority. (Ted, yes; Dave, yes; Tom, abstain) Motion was made, and seconded, that Dave on behalf of the select board execute the contract with the Lorenzi Group for a forensic sweep of the town hall computer. Vote was a majority. (Ted, yes; Dave, yes; Tom, abstain)

The Board signed a contract with the Lorenzi Group to do a forensics computer sweep of the town hall computer.

Discussion occurred regarding the Waste Water Treatment Contract for replacing the heating system. The Board agreed that Ted should sign the contract on behalf of the select board.

Motion was made, and seconded, to go into executive session per MGL Chapter 39, S. 23B to consider the discipline of a public officer and to consider the initial screening of candidates for employment. The Board will not reconvene in open session. Roll call vote: Ted, yes; Tom, yes; Dave, yes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Town Administrator