

SELECT BOARD MINUTES February 25, 2010

Present: Ted Murray (TM), Chair, David DeHerdt (DD)

Meeting called to order at 7:09 pm.

Minutes

Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the executive session minutes of February 23, 2010 as submitted. Vote was unanimous.

Committee Appointments

The charges were read for the Town Hall Building Committee and the Police Chief Search Committee. It was agreed that the charges may need to be modified after the first meeting of the committees.

Motion was made, and seconded, to appoint Ron Coler, Doug Cranson, Maryellen Cranston, Michael Fitzgerald, Nancy Garvin, Stuart Harris, Grace Lesure, Sandy Lilly, Mary Quigley and Ted Murray to the Town Hall Building Committee and to implement the charge. Vote was unanimous.

Motion was made, and seconded, to appoint Alan Taylor, Bev LaBelle, Suzanne Corbett, Paul Monohon, Lenard Roberts, Lynn Dole, Paul Lacinski, Nancy Hoff, Sherry Jourdin, Doug Field, and Nina Coler to the Police Chief Search Committee. Vote was unanimous.

Liaison Reports

Fire Department – The fire department was active during the recent snow storm.

Highway Department – The highway department is almost caught up with the roads because of the recent snow storm.

Emergency Management – Everything is almost back to normal.

Ted commended emergency personnel and the highway department during the recent snow storm. While other towns declared a state of emergency, the Ashfield departments worked together as a team to make sure everything was under control. Tom Poissant told Ted that it was “just a snow storm”. Ted expressed “kudos” to the road crew and emergency personnel for their performance.

Votes/Signatures

The Board signed the revised Highland Ambulance Contract. Ted reported that town counsel, Donna MacNicol, said this contract was vastly better than what the town has had in the past.

The Board agreed that because of the issue of handicap accessibility at town hall that caucus should be moved to Sanderson Academy on March 9. With that one change, Dave agreed to sign the warrant. Ted had previously signed it.

Motion was made, and seconded, to move all meetings and elections requiring a town vote to be held at Sanderson Academy for the foreseeable future. Vote was unanimous.

Dave announced that he will be present at town hall next Wednesday from 7 pm – 8 pm to answer questions from anyone who is interested in running for select board and to tell them what he sees as being on the board's docket in the future.

Letter Presentation

Ricki Carroll presented a letter to the Board condemning the bullying of Suzanne Corbett by Ms. Nunez. The letter will be made part of the minutes.

School Budget for FY 2011

Finance Committee: Carl Satterfield, Janet Rogers, Tom Carter, Mary Link
School Committee members: Jen Williams, Karen Sullivan

The budget hearing session was called to order at 7:39 pm.

Working with the budget worksheet provided by the Town Administrator and the preliminary budget data from the MTRSD, the Select Board and Finance Committee members discussed enrollment trends, operating and capital assessments, and transportation costs with members of the School Committee. MTRSD operating expenses are projected to be \$1,818,364 and capital expenditures to be \$119,747. (Final budget assessments are to be voted by the School Committee on March 3, and the School Committee members will advise the Town Administrator and Select Board of any changes.) Technical School Expenses are estimated to be \$400,000, but in light of the possibility of more freshmen enrolling in the coming school year, it was agreed that the figure be revised upward to allow for the possibility of another 3 Freshmen enrolling. Other questions raised were: 1) Do technical school expenditures result in Chapter 70 or some other type of reimbursements to the Town and if so, how and when do the funds flow? 2) Are middle school students surveyed in any way to help identify the number of students who might be enrolling in one of the technical schools? 3) Is there anyone who monitors our vocational school expenditures?

This section of the Select Board meeting concluded at 8:20, and Jamie Godfrey, Director of the Shelburne Falls Senior Center, gave a presentation on the Center's draft strategic plan. It started at about 8:25 pm and concluded with a Q& A session.

Motion was made, and seconded, to go into executive session for the purpose of conducting contract negotiations with non-union personnel. The board will not reconvene in open meeting. Roll call vote: Dave, yes; Ted, yes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Town Administrator