

SELECT BOARD MEETING – December 1, 2010

Present: Select Board members: Dave DeHerdt, Doug Field, Norm Russell
Assistant Administrator: Marry Fitz-gibbon

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Minutes of the Open meetings held on November 10, 2010 and November 17,2010 were accepted as written.

Special Town Meeting (STM): Present – Buzz Eisenberg, Moderator

A STM has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 7th at 7:00 PM in town hall. The purpose of this meeting was to review the articles with the moderator. The Board had met previously with the Finance Committee .

Article 1 is the first of two votes that will be needed for the town to authorize the Select board to accept the provisions of MGL, Chapter 164 and take necessary and appropriate actions with regard to the possible participating in a cooperative to bring high speed internet service to the town. Note was made that a 2/3rds vote is needed for this to pass.

Article 2 - to appropriate the sum of \$30,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund to replace the roof on the administration building at the Treatment Plant.

Article 3 – to rescind a vote on Article 5 at annual town meeting and replace it with wording to include a transfer of \$61,500 from free cash. This action is necessary to correct an error in the reading of the motion made at that time.

Mr. Eisenberg had no questions about articles 1-3, but he questioned the remaining articles because they did not show where the money was coming from and what it was to be applied to. DeHerdt asked if the motion could just say “from available funds.” Mr. Eisenberg replied that the town had to know what those available funds were; thus available funds would not be sufficient. He suggested that the motion be read to include the specific item from which funds were taken and to what specific item they would be applied.

Thus, Article 4 would include the wording transfer the sum of \$11,750 from Municipal Town Clerk Salary to an account to pay the Town Clerk Salary.

Article 5 would add to transfer from the Municipal Town Clerk account the sum of \$4,000 and identify the recipient account as that of the Assistant Administrator Account.

Article 6 would add wording to transfer a sum not to exceed \$5,000 from the auditor line to pay for town hall utilities.

The Board then discussed who would present the motion for each article.

Franklin Land Trust: present: Alain Peteray

Peter Corens, Beldingville Rd wishes to place a Conservation Restriction on two parcels on land: one on part of the old Kendrick Farm, on North Bear River Road; the other on the corner of Beldingville Road

and Murray Road. He is currently in the process of purchasing the second parcel from the Burtons. As explained the Conservation Restriction does not take the properties off the tax rolls, it simply protects the land from development; it can continue to be used for farming type activities. The restriction follows the land, should ownership change.

A motion was made, to approve the proposed conservation restriction on parcels A & B, as described in the restriction documents. The motion was seconded and voted: 2 in favor, one abstention.

Historical Society: Present: Grace Lesure, also present: Nancy Garvin and Don Lesure
Grace Lesure, the museum curator, gave a brief history of the society, noting it was first founded in 1885. She said she had recently been invited to look at some items in town hall that were being considered for removal or disposal. Her concern was that this was the second time in a few years that a similar movement has occurred. She then read the attached statement in which she makes it clear that she is opposed to disposal or sale of any of the items, but would, in the interests of preserving the items suggested be willing to find a place to keep them. In the course of conversation Nancy Garvin said the wall safe that it has been suggested be removed was installed in 1891 and weighs 4,700 pounds. *Nancy raised a specific concern regarding a chest that was originally located in the Town Offices but now is located in the basement of Town Hall. A motion was made and seconded to allow the Historical Society to remove the chest from the basement of Town Hall and store same at the Historical Society. The vote was unanimous. The Board will take the remaining issues under advisement.*

Street Lighting Committee: Present – Ricki Carroll, Anne Yuryan
The committee recommends keeping some lights on for safety reasons. This would include one light at the Spruce Corner intersection, one at the top of Dug Hill (the corner at the beginning of the village area on Rt 116), one at Neighbors near the phone booth, the light at the boat ramp (next to Phil Nolan's house). There was discussion about the lighting in front of town hall. One light is pointed at the steeple, it isn't lighting the flag. Ms. Carroll talked about putting lights on timers. She was familiar with units that could be used that would cost around \$10 each. Ms. Yuryan spoke about lowering lighting so that it covers the areas that need light, rather than the branches of trees. DeHerdt suggested the report be posted on the web site and that there be further discussion following the STM on 12/7/10.

Financing the Highway truck : In a memo from the treasurer the Board was asked whether financing of the new highway truck, that was approved at annual town meeting as a debt exclusion, be paid in one year or two. Information on costs to borrow were included. DeHerdt said there had been a breakdown sheet available at annual town meeting that detailed how the town intended to pay for the truck. Action of this matter was postponed until the handout can be found.

Delinquent Dog Licensing: The Assistant Administrator is searching SB minutes to learn when the penalty was voted. Fitz-Gibbon said there had been a change in the bylaws to give the authority of imposing penalties to the Select Board. Town Clerk has a dog license form that she would like to post on the web site.

Recovered emails: More than 1,800 emails have been recovered and read by Field and Russell. The Board has tried to sort them. Many may be duplicates. Field suggested that in response to requests, all of them be released. Russell, however, said this couldn't be done as minors are named in some. He thought this would open the town up to law suits. The suggestion was that anything involving town counsel and minors be kept out. The next step is to pass them on to Town Clerk. Information that can

be released would be on CD at a cost of \$2.00/ CD. It will not be possible to provide specific emails; persons requesting copies will get a CD with

Liquor License Renewals: Motions were made, seconded, and voted to approve renewal of On-Premise Licenses for Mark Graves, June Heideman, Suzanne Connell d/b/a Edge Hill Golf Club; and Lydian Enterprises, Inc d/b/a The Lakehouse; Off-Premises (package store) for Lakeside Ventures d/b/a Neighbors and Elmers Store, LLC. Certificates of inspection signed by the Fire Chief and the Building Inspector accompany these forms, as well.

Used Car – Class II Renewals: Motions were made, seconded, and voted to approve the renewal of licenses for: Rimback Auto, Fred Graves d/b/a Graves Garage, Todd Gerry d/b/a Gerry's Auto Sales, Paul Bacon d/b/a Bacon's Equipment, Roberts Brothers.

Special Event: A Winter Solstice event, to be held on the Town Common, is being planned by Laura Savino. The event is scheduled for December 21st and will include a bonfire on an elevated fire pit.

Holiday Schedule for 2011: The Board approved the proposed holiday schedule for town workers. New Years Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving and the day after, Christmas Day.

Select board meeting for the balance of 2010: The board will meet following STM on 12/07/10, again on 12/15/10; the next meeting will be on January 5th, 2011.

Liaison Reports

Town Office – The staff is working on a way to increase the hours open to the public. The new computer is working fine. Russell commented that the staff has a strong sense of doing things the right way. He also reported that the Town Clerk not only responded to the recommendations of the auditors, but has implemented them.

Highway - The chassis for the new truck is in. Still under consideration is opening the transfer station for a time during the week. Ricki Carroll said there needs to be a conversation about the handling of money at the dump.

Mail

A letter of resignation has been received from Mary Fitz-Gibbon for her position as Sewer Commissioner. A motion was made, seconded, and voted to accept the resignation. The Board can appoint someone to serve until the next annual election.

Thank yous were expressed to Tom and Cynthia Cranston for the lovely wreath that graces town Hall, also to Pat and Will Thayer for the tree that stands below the wreath, and to Del and Matt Haskins for decorating the tree.

School Committee: Present – Emily Robertson

Ms. Robertson said the intent of the School Committee was to present a budget that showed an overall 1% decrease from the current one. Once again a reduction in state revenues is anticipated. The possibility of establishing a stabilization fund is not dead. She expects the towns will be asked to weigh in on that issue again. As it is there is an unfunded liability facing the district for post retirement benefits, such as medical insurance. The Stabilization Fund could be a place to hold those funds. A 'green grant' to repair/replace windows and roofs has been sought. Roughly \$100,000 of it is intended

for replacing windows at Sanderson. There was discussion of cost per pupil. Ms. Robertson will be available to meet with the Board again on January 19th.

The board had other items to attend to, but as the hour was late it chose to adjourn and move them to a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Phelps