

Selectmen's Meeting
Wednesday, January 7, 2014

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Present were Selectmen Richard Morgan, Robert Freeman and Franklin Riley, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes.

Natalie Hall, Treasurer, entered to inform the Board that the interest figure for the TAN note was incorrect because interest is due on the \$600,000 that was not borrowed. She will report back to the Board with an updated figure.

Chester "Ski" Kwiatkowski informed the Board that the motion made to eliminate the large user fee assessed to the Town's water and sewer bills passed at the last Commissioner's meeting. He stated that the Town buildings will now be charged the same rates as residents.

"Ski" also informed the Board that a motion was made and passed at the Planning Board meeting to have the Chairpersons of the Planning Board and ZBA act on the selection committee for the Secretary position. "Ski" invited a member of the Board to attend. Morgan stated that if the Land Use Boards are moving forward with appointing their own secretary, the Board will have no involvement in the hiring process. He further recommended that a time task analysis for the position be completed so the Board's budgets can be amended if necessary.

Additional discussion took place on the tax reporting of fringe benefits. "Ski" informed the Board of guidance he found in IRS publications on how to handle the personal use of a business vehicle. Morgan stated that if it is the intention of the Commission to move forward with reporting an amount, they must have documentation on record. The Board members advised "Ski" that he should work on the documentation for 2015 and not try to estimate for 2014.

Roger ter Kuile entered at 10:25 AM to discuss an incident that occurred at the Planning Board meeting where a threat was made toward the Chairman by a Board member. The Board advised that a review of the recording from the meeting take place and then seek a legal opinion as to whether a credible threat was made. Riley stated that documentation needs to be made of prior and future incidents. Kwiatkowski and ter Kuile were dismissed.

Hall returned with an updated payoff figure for the TAN note in the amount of \$1,226,111.56.

Morgan questioned residency requirements for elected officials and what actually defines residency. He asked that White contact the Secretary of State's Office for guidance.

White informed the Board that the Budget Committee voted on an amended figure for the Water & Sewer Department and questioned if they would like to revisit the budget for Monday. The Board confirmed.

Morgan discussed a reduction in the Government Buildings budget in the amount of \$25,000 to account for the elimination of the large user fee that was removed by the Water & Sewer Commission.

The Transfer Station budget was reviewed and discussed. Using figures for a Transfer Station Operator position, an agreement was made to reduce the overall budget by \$60,000.

Discussion took place on activating a full-time Laborer position from the existing part-time position. White presented the figures needed for wages and benefits. Morgan suggested increasing the wage line by \$40,000 for a net overall increase of \$15,000 once the water and sewer fees is reduced by \$25,000.

The \$10,000 warrant article sought by the Recreation Department was discussed. White stated that most of the expenditures have been made toward maintenance of the recreation facilities and suggested those expenses be built into the operating budget. No plan for 2015 capital projects has been presented at this time. It was agreed that a line for equipment and facility maintenance be added to the Recreation Department budget in the amount of \$2,000.

Discussion took place on the draft warrant articles. White expressed concern with listing two warrant articles for ambulance service as the raising and appropriating of both amounts would adversely affect the tax rate. Morgan suggested that White reach out to DRA Monitor for advice on the regional ambulance service agreement.

Brad Harriman, Public Works Director, entered to review his warrant articles. Morgan reviewed the plan to amend the Transfer Station and Government Building budgets.

Hall returned to inform the Board that the payoff included an additional \$2,600 for unused line fees. Morgan made a motion to pay the additional amount due to payoff the TAN note. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Morgan questioned the impact if the road maintenance article was reduced from \$350,000 to \$300,000. Harriman answered that the reduction in 2014 already pushed some projects back. Harriman discussed the need for crack repair to be done to Chickville and Moultonville Road in 2015.

Discussion took place on the Highway Garage addition. Plans for the addition were reviewed. Riley commented that the quote contains storage room but does not facilitate a mechanic's bay. Harriman will work on obtaining a quote to include the mechanic's bay. This will help determine whether additional money will be added to the building capital reserve for construction in 2016 rather than a warrant article for 2015.

White reminded the Board that all warrant articles and budgets should be voted on by 1/26/2015 to be finalized for Public Hearing on 2/4/2015.

Discussion took place on two dogs being held at Lakes Region Humane Society and the expenses related to their shelter and veterinary costs. This led into discussion on the Shelter Contract Agreement with Lakes Region Humane Society. Morgan questioned whether a property could be lienied for shelter and vet costs in the event a pet owner is unable or unwilling to pay the fees for their pet. Morgan requested that White check with Attorney Sager.

Being no further input, Morgan made a motion to adjourn. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Richard H. Morgan, Chairman

Robert C. Freeman

Franklin R. Riley

To be approved 1/21/2015