

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2008
MCAULIFFE MEETING ROOM

Present: Bonnie Phaneuf, Chairman; Bill Boland, Salvatore Giorlandino and Jean Kitchen, Town Administrator.

Mrs. Phaneuf opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Discussion on Section 18 – Retirees Health Insurance. Ken Lombardi explained Section 18 and its impact on member retirees and costs. Nothing will change until July 1, 2009. Mr. Boland said that there has been a lot of questions and a lot of conflicting information. He expressed concern that some may have to switch doctors and was told that the Town’s consultant’s are speaking with members to make sure that their doctors are on the plans offered. Mr. Boland is not thrilled about the reduction in cost to the Town falling on the backs of retirees and would like to fully vet this to make sure it is good. He would also like to guarantee that retiree costs would not increase for several years. Mr. Giorlandino echoed Mr. Boland’s comments and is concerned that they adopt a plan that sounds good but ends up costing more with less benefits. He asked which other towns have adopted Section 18 – Wakefield, Sudbury & Westborough, to name a few. Mr. Boland would like to reach out to the towns that have it and see if they have had any problems since implementation. The Board was told that members with some pre-existing conditions and end-stage renal disease cannot get these plans. Mrs. Phaneuf would like a letter from Tufts Health Plan recognizing the doctors at Southborough Medical, and would like the definition of renal disease and any pre-existing conditions by the Board’s next regular meeting on March 4, 2008.

Evaluations.

- Michael Osattin, Communications Officer. The Board voted unanimously to approve a 2% merit increase to a salary of \$17.46/hr, effective February 24, 2008.
- Beth Rosenblum, Conservation Administrator. Mr. Giorlandino disclosed that John Leeds, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, is Treasurer of his campaign committee and that his wife is on the commission. The Board voted unanimously to approve a 2% merit increase to a salary of \$21.54/hr, effective March 3, 2008.

Update – Community Preservation Committee re: warrant articles. The Commission discussed articles 21 through 28 of the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Mr. Giorlandino felt that the administrative costs should be explained.

Cable Committee re: Verizon PEG access. Paul Ferguson, of the Cable Commission, explained that Verizon has had difficulty negotiating with Charter and has proposed a plan that does not involve interconnecting with Charter. The only drawback to the plan is that build-out will take longer. The Board suggested a couple of changes to the acceptance letter. It was asked if equipment should be placed at the Fire Station and the Board suggested that Fire Chief Mauro be consulted on that.

Discussion of Zoning Articles for Special Town Meeting. Vera Kalias discussed the zoning articles with the Board. The Board voted unanimously to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and add Special Town Meeting zoning articles 1 thru 5, sponsored by the Planning Board, before article 32.

Position on Warrant Articles. [Based on Draft 4] The Board voted unanimously to support Annual Town Meeting articles: 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 39, 41 and 44.

The following Annual Town Meeting articles were held for further discussion: 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 42 and 43.

The Board voted 2-0 (Mr. Boland abstained) to support Annual Town Meeting article 15.

The Board voted unanimously in support of Special Town Meeting articles: 1 and 9. The Board felt that articles 3, 6, 7, 8 and 10 should be moved to the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Article 2 of the Special Town Meeting warrant was held for further discussion. Articles 4 and 5 were removed from the Special Town Meeting warrant as they are on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

Other Business

1. The Board voted unanimously to support the ZBA request to have access to the MHP Chapter 40B Technical Assistance Program, as may be needed.
2. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Safe Grant application at the request of the Fire Department.
3. The Personnel Board, at the request of the Board of Selectmen, will consider changing the percentage of the Health Insurance to 75/25 for non-union employees, and suggests doing it over a three year period.
4. Approval of expenditure of Harvard funds by the Police and Fire Departments was held for a future meeting.
5. The Board voted unanimously to award the bid to Capital Carpet for removal of the carpet in the Police dispatch area and replacement with VCT tile, in the amount of \$2,383.

Consent Agenda

The Board voted unanimously to:

1. Approve the minutes of the January 22, 2008 meeting, as amended, and the January 29, 2008 meeting, as amended.
2. Accept PILOT of \$5,000 from Fay School.
3. Accept donations totaling \$100 for Youth & Family Services.
4. Accept the resignation of Louis Bartolini from the Conservation Commission.

The Charter Commission requested to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Karen Galligan, DPW Superintendent, discussed the Main Street reconstruction project.

WARRANTS

170	\$278,620.33	2/22/08	TOWN PAYABLES
171	\$9,167.98	2/22/08	CAFETERIA PAYABLES
172	\$453,151.81	2/22/08	SCHOOL PAYROLL
173	\$119,110.41	2/20/08	TOWN/FIRE PAYROLL
TOTAL	\$860,050.53		

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary H. Lowell
Recording Secretary