

Select Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday February 21, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
High School Meeting Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow

Present: Chair Marie Angelides, Tom Lachiusa, William Low and Mark Gold

Absent: Richard Foster

Also Present: Town Manager Stephen Crane, CFO Paul Pasterczyk, Debbie House, Mario Mazza, Dan McCarthy, David Miller, Rob Kapner and Richard Liasse

Interviewees: Mary Beth Morris, Louise Croll and Andrea Chasen

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Marie Angelides.

Announcements:

1. Citizen Petitions for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant are due in the Select Board's office by noon on Tuesday, February 28, 2017.
2. There will be a lane closure on Interstate 91 south for a water main repair on 2/22 and 2/23. The right southbound lane will be closed from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The lane closure will begin just north of the Bark Haul Road overpass and continue south to the Connecticut State line.
3. All members of Town boards and committees need to complete the Conflict of Interest training. Contact the Town Clerk's office for details.

Resident Comments: none

Quarterly Board/Committee Interviews:

- Marybeth Morris, 44 Essex Court – Ms. Morris has been a resident for 19 years and is applying for a position on the Building Committee. She was a member of the Town Manager's DPW Committee and the DPW Task Force. Ms. Morris has 30 years of engineering experience and is recently retired from Tighe & Bond.
- Louise Croll, 43 Crest Avenue – Ms. Croll has been a resident for 28 years and is applying for a position on the Building Committee. She was a member of the School Committee from 1996-2002 and was a member of the subcommittee for the Long Range Planning Committee. Ms. Croll is an attorney and works with elders.
- Andrea Chasen, 236 Crestview Circle – Ms. Chasen has been a resident since 1988 and is applying for a position on the Conservation Commission. She is a semi-retired lawyer, reservist for FEMA, master gardener, a member of the School District Learning Committee and is a member of the Energy Taskforce. Ms. Chasen is interested in conservation and would like to see more awareness of conservation.

Select Board Comments: none

Energy Taskforce Report:

Rob Kapner and David Miller are members of the Energy Taskforce and attended the meeting. The Energy Taskforce is made up of School Committee members, a Select Board member and residents.

Mr. Gold was notified of a thermal imaging program by Senator Rosenberg's office. Mr. Gold would like Ms. Angelides and/or Mr. Kapner to get in touch with them and utilize this program to identify energy resource areas (public buildings, residents' homes...). Ms. Angelides was looking for a Select Board vote to accept the 16 recommendations (on the town side) made by the Energy Taskforce. The School Committee would have to vote on the school recommendations. Mr. Lachiusa asked if thoughts had been given to window coverage to minimize heat loss. Mr. Gold believes that dual fuel boilers would offer long term flexibility. Regarding the street light audit, the recommendation is to keep pushing Boston and to reach out to the Attorney General's office. Mr. Gold added that the legislators should help us on this. The Energy Taskforce recommendations were

referred to the Town Manager to review and report back to the Select Board in mid-March. Mr. Gold would like more discussion on dual fuel capabilities.

Town Managers Report:

1. Town/School Boilers - The current boiler issues in the schools and town buildings are tied to a specific generation of a specific company and not due to a lack of maintenance. The leaking boilers are Burnham Boilers from the mid-90s.
2. Converse Street TIP Project – The project will start in March at the Laurel Street end of Converse Street. Drainage structures will be done first then sidewalks, electrical conduit, and traffic signal construction. The construction work should be completed in the fall and the final mill and overlay will occur in the spring of 2018. The Town will use the Civic Ready system to notify and update residents along Converse Street.

Ms. Angelides would like to see the amount appropriated and the amount actually spent listed on (DPW) project completion reports.

Old Business:

1. Approve Minutes – *Mr. Gold made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from February 6, 2017 as presented. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0. Mr. Low made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from January 23, 2017 as amended. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0.*
2. Review Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles – There are currently 36 draft warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 9, 2017. Some articles are not completed yet and need figures and/or explanations. Some articles are not written yet and have placeholders. Mr. Gold questioned the capital expenditures article and the use of \$105,000 of free cash. He would like to stay within the budget established. The Shady Knoll storm drain improvement project has been pushed back to FY19 per Mario Mazza and therefore can be removed from the current capital projects list; there will now be zero taken from free cash for capital projects. Mr. Pasterczyk will revise the capital article. Mr. Gold expressed his concern regarding the multi fund approach to vehicles and equipment and noted that we need to make sure the equipment and vehicles that are paid for out of the enterprise funds are used for water and sewer projects.

Other articles reviewed and/or discussed included:

- an article to re-accept MGL for the OPEB trust fund and retiree health insurance. The law was revised due to the Municipal Modernization Act and has to be re-accepted to have a true trust fund in place. There will have to be a separate committee in charge of investment of the fund.
- an article to accept an inter-municipal agreement (Hampden, East Longmeadow and Longmeadow) for a PVTA paratransit pilot program. This requires a town meeting vote.
- an article to accept a MGL that will allow for a veteran donation checkbox on the tax bills. Donations will go to local veterans to provide emergency food, transportation and heat and oil expenses only.
- an article to provide supplemental funding to the FY17 legal expense budget and the Veterans Benefits budget. 75% of any veterans' benefits will eventually be reimbursed by the state.
- an article to designate the mitigation payments from MGM as special revenue funds to only be used in the way outlined in the arbitration agreement. This is required by the DOR. Mr. Gold would like to add "funds *may only* be expended" to the wording of the article.
- an article to accept MGL regarding the disposition of outstanding checks issued by the town. Acceptance of this will outline the specific steps to be taken before the town can claim the funds.
- an article to amend the general bylaw regarding the suspension, denying, revoking, non-renewal or issuance of licenses and permits for payment delinquencies. The Municipal Modernization Act leaves the timeline for payment delinquencies (taxes, assessments, betterments...) before issuing permits and licenses up to the towns.

New Business:

1. Quarterly Investment Report – Mr. Pasterczyk reviewed the Quarterly Investment Report with the Select Board. As per the investment policy: The Town held no long term investments that exceeded the five year limit, individual bank balances were under the five million dollar balance provision, all banks received the highest safety rating of green from Veribanc and all accounts are fully insured and secured. Two new general fund CD's were opened with funds from CD's that matured. A BAN came due in November and another BAN was renewed with Eastern Bank. There were pay downs on a BAN paid in November totaling \$519,100 and there were additions to an existing BAN for water and sewer work. Two banks were competing for the daily deposit account; Peoples Bank will be receiving the daily deposits at a rate of .76%.

The Scantic Valley rates are still unknown; there will be a meeting on March 1st.

A favorable budget number was received from the School Department.

2. Two Night Town Meeting – Due to the large number of warrant articles and the number of projects, spreading the Annual Town Meeting over two nights was discussed. Mr. Gold does not see the great benefit of a second night. Mr. Lachiusa believes it would be fairer to the towns people to split up the meeting and set certain articles for a certain night. Ms. Angelides feels it is worth a try to do two nights. Mr. Gold noted that we can't please all groups and he is concerned about losing a quorum. Mr. Gold remarked that the shortfall is that people are not fully educated on projects when they come to Town Meeting. The Moderator will be setting up informational forums.

Mr. Lachiusa made a motion to hold a two night Town Meeting one being on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 and the next being Wednesday, May 10, 2017 both at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Low seconded the motion.

There will be childcare available for a cost at Greenwood Center for the two nights for all ages. Mr. Low noted that the option is open to stay with one night but we need to plan now for two nights.

The vote was 3-1 with Mr. Gold opposed.

Subcommittee Reports:

The Energy Taskforce will come back to the Select Board with a street light plan.

Mr. Gold made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:35 p.m. and to enter into executive session for the purpose of negotiations not to reconvene to open session. Mr. Low seconded the motion.

Roll call: Ms. Angelides – yes, Mr. Lachiusa – yes, Mr. Low – yes, Mr. Gold – yes. Mr. Foster was absent

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie House