

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2018**

PRESENT: Willard J. Boulter, Jr. (Chairman), Lewis W. Stone (Clerk), Daniel Trabucco (Selectman), Edwin J. Thorne (Town Administrator), Michael Buckley (Town Accountant), Erin Obey (School Superintendent), Mary Beth Brust (Assistant Superintendent), Richard Wall (Police Chief), Michael Tropeano, Virginia Wandell, Suzanne Scroggins, Sabrina Chilcott (Assistant to the Town Administrator), and others.

NOT PRESENT: Matthew J. Furlong (Vice-Chairman), Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Selectman)

At 7:00 pm Mr. Boulter opened the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Stone announced that annual Town Meeting will be held on May 8, 2018 and the annual Town Election is May 12, 2018. The warrant for the annual meeting is now open. Mr. Stone announced that he will not be a candidate for re-election in May, and he thanked the residents of Pembroke for the honor and privilege of serving them during the course of the last nine years.

7:00 MICHAEL COGBURN: PEMBROKE TITANS AGAINST DRUGS UPDATE

Pembroke Titans Against Drugs chairman Michael Cogburn was present before the Board with an update on PTAD's recent activities. Mr. Cogburn stated that it is recognized that the dangers of opioid use is a nationwide issue, and he works with a diligent group of volunteers to raise funding for education and awareness programs in schools, as well as for recognition of individual youths who are excelling in the community and encourage living healthy lives. PTAD meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Pembroke Public Library. Mr. Cogburn encouraged anyone with questions or ideas to please reach out them at pembroketad@gmail.com. Chief Wall and Superintendent Obey thanked PTAD for their hard work to give Pembroke's youth choices and for filling a gap in educational needs.

At 7:15 pm, Mr. Boulter advised that this meeting is being made available to the public through a live video and audio broadcast on Comcast Government Access Channel 15 and is also being recorded for airing on the channel at future dates. Comments made in open session will be recorded.

ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JANET FAHEY FROM THE HERRING FISHERIES COMMISSION

Mr. Stone moved to accept the resignation of Janet Fahey from the Herring Fisheries Commission effective immediately; Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. Mr. Boulter stated that Ms. Fahey intended to resign from the Water Wheel Committee as well. Mr. Stone amended his motion to insert "and the Water Wheel Committee" before "effective". Mr. Trabucco seconded the amended motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENT OF ZBA ALTERNATE CHRISTINE GRIFFIN TO FULL MEMBER

Mr. Stone moved to appoint Christine Griffin as a full member of the Zoning Board effective immediately at the recommendation of the ZBA; Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL FAY, 3 VICTORIA LANE TO ZBA ALTERNATE VACANCY

Mr. Stone moved to appoint Michael Fay of 3 Victoria Lane as an alternate member of the Zoning Board effective immediately at the recommendation of the ZBA; Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2018

Mr. Stone moved to accept the minutes of January 8, 2018 as written; Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was 2/0/1 with Mr. Boulter abstaining.

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At 7:20 pm, Linda Peterson, Stephen Curley, John Brown, James McCollum, Elizabeth Monks, Stephen Walsh and Donna Badger entered the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Record of Approved Bills January 16, 2018

Mr. Boulter reported that on January 16, 2018 he personally reviewed 4 accounts payable warrants totaling \$430,724.42 and 1 payroll warrant totaling \$213,489.04 as prepared by the Town Accountant, and authorized the itemized expenditures for payment. Mr. Stone moved to accept the record of approved bills from January 16, 2018; Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Review of Agendas and Minutes Posted to the Website

Mr. Stone updated the Board on his most recent research into the agendas and minutes that are posted by town boards to the Town of Pembroke website; Mr. Stone stated that the results were similar to last year's results. Mr. Stone advised that the Board sent a letter to all boards, committees and commissions at that time reminding them of the bylaw and he recommended that the letter be sent again. Mr. Boulter recommended follow up in two weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Trabucco updated the Board on the Capital Funding Study Committee activities; they have been meeting every Wednesday evening at have voted to submit an article to establish a Capital Fund and a Committee to oversee it. Mr. Trabucco stated that the group will present to the Board of Selectmen at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Thorne stated that he and selectman Trabucco were in attendance at the Massachusetts Municipal Association meeting over the weekend; he advised that the Governor's proposal on local aid could result in an increase of \$40,000-\$60,000 to Pembroke. Mr. Thorne stated that there were several workshops on renewable energy and labor law updates.

7:45 (7:30) JOINT POLE HEARING: NATIONAL GRID (MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC) AND VERIZON CENTER STREET: REQUEST TO INSTALL 3 POLES & ANCHORS AT POLE 138,140,141

National Grid engineer was present to speak to the joint application with Verizon to install three poles, down guys, and anchors with 5 ft. lead across from Poles 138, 140, 141; the Center Street. Poles and anchors will be located on town property on the east side of Center Street. Poles will be labeled 138-84, 140-84, & 141-84. Mr. Boulter advised that the Petition, Order, Request Form and Petition Sketch are in order and attached; notification of Hearing to abutters, DPW and Building Department is also present. Mr. Boulter asked if there was anyone present to speak in support or opposition to the application; there was not. Mr. Stone moved to grant approval to National Grid and Verizon on their petition to install three poles, down guys, and anchors with 5 ft. lead across from Poles 138, 140, 141 Center Street. Poles and anchors will be located on town property on the east side of Center Street. Poles will be labeled 138-84, 140-84, & 141-84 in accordance with work order and plan# 24674503. Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

7:30 (7:45) JOINT POLE HEARING: NATIONAL GRID (MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC) AND VERIZON, SCHOOL STREET: REQUEST TO INSTALL POLE & ANCHOR AT POLE 14

National Grid engineer was present to speak to the joint application with Verizon to install pole, down guy, and anchor with 4 ft. lead across from Pole 14 School Street. Pole and anchor will be located on town property on the north side of School Street. Pole will be labeled 14-84. Mr. Boulter advised that the Petition, Order, Request Form and Petition Sketch are in order and attached; notification of Hearing to abutters, DPW and Building Department is also present. Mr. Boulter asked if there was anyone present to speak in support or opposition to the application; there was not. Mr. Stone moved to grant approval to National Grid and Verizon on their petition to install pole, down guy, and anchor with 4 ft. lead across from Pole 14 School Street. Pole and anchor will be located on town property on the north side of School Street. Pole will be labeled 14-84 in accordance with work order and plan# 24674503. Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

FY19 Budget

Mr. Thorne worked with the Town Accountant present a financially leveled budget. Accountant Mike Buckley stated that \$1.9million in new revenue has been identified. Contributing to this figure is the 2½% increase in the tax levy, \$400,000 in new growth, a 3.5% increase in state aid proposed by the Governor, a 1% increase in Chapter 70, a 2% increase in local receipts and an increase in Free Cash use from \$300,000 to \$500,000. Mr. Buckley advised that the town has significant bills to pay first; pension costs are increasing \$116,000, debt service fluctuates and anticipated is a 10% increase to health insurance of \$800,000. Mr. Buckley advised that they have resented a balanced budget which reflects a \$190,000 increase to general government and a \$646,000 increase to the school's budget. Mr. Buckley clarified that this is balanced fiscally, not in services, as no department will be able to deliver the same services with funding at this level. Discussion ensued; Mr. Stone stated that the same financing level of this budget does not resolve the questions or answer the needs of the department that have come to express a need before the Board, specifically the Police Department, Fire Department and Department of Public Works. Mr. Stone requested that the Town Administrator and Town Accountant expand budget discussions to develop a budget that supports the town and its current needs. School Committee representative Michael Tropeano addressed the Board and stated that levelly financed budget does not meet the School Department's shortfall; however, they cannot make a determination of how much additional funding is required at this time as they are still working on the budget process. Superintendent Erin Obey stated that the collective bargaining increases alone total \$900,000 so they already cannot balance the school side of the budget with a \$640,000 allocation. Discussion ensued on anticipated net metering credits and their offset to the electricity costs for FY19. Mr. Trabucco stated that it is time to make a decision on the town goes forward, either to tread water and reduce services or increase funding. Mr. Trabucco asked the School Committee and Advisory Committee whether they concurred with that assessment. Mr. Tropeano stated that they are not ready to make that determination. Advisory member Stephen Curley stated that they haven't reviewed the financially leveled budget yet so they could not make that determination. Mr. Curley cautioned increasing the amount of Free Cash used in the new revenue figure and stated that he feels that Free Cash needs to be reserved for fall to fund the snow and ice deficit. Discussion ensued on how snow and ice is budgeted. Mr. Stone asked if the town had debt due to be retired; Mr. Buckley stated that the town won't retire the next debt amount until five years from now. Discussion ensued on the Milton Rule and the regular review of the Capital Plan to preserve and maintain the town's assets.

At 8:20 pm, Mr. Boulter read the upcoming issues from the agenda.

At 8:20 pm, Mr. Trabucco moved to adjourn; Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

MATERIALS & EXHIBITS

Email, J. Fahey RE: Resignation (BOS/TA Office)

Emails, M. Dowling RE: ZBA Appointments Griffin and Fay (BOS/TA Office)

Email, Application from M. Fay RE: ZBA Vacancy (BOS/TA Office)

Draft Minutes of January 8, 2018 (BOS/TA Office)

Record of Approved Bills from January 16, 2018 (BOS/TA Office)

Report, L. Stone RE Agendas and Minutes on Website (BOS/TA Office)

Applications/Plans/Notifications RE Joint Pole Plan 24674503 Center St, School St (BOS/TA Office)

Draft FY19 Budget