

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
APRIL 2, 2019**

PRESENT: Matthew J. Furlong (Chairman), Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Vice-Chairman), Willard J. Boulter, Jr. (Clerk), John G. Brown, Jr. (Selectman), Daniel W. Trabucco (Selectman), Edwin J. Thorne (Interim Town Manager), Michael Buckley (Town Accountant), Stephen Curley, Jessica Rushing, Arthur Egerton, Sabrina Chilcott (Assistant to the Town Manager), and others.

At 7:30 pm, Mr. Furlong opened the meeting and 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.

CONSIDER A VOTE: SELECTMEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS, ARTICLES 16 AND 36

Mr. Thorne advised that these two articles were tabled at the last meeting; he advised that he is recommending unfavorable action on article 16 due to lack of funding and favorable action on article 36. Mr. Boyle moved the town manager's recommendation; Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

CONSIDER A VOTE: SELECTMEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON ANNUAL WARRANT ARTICLES 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 AND 7

Town Accountant Michael Buckley was present to review the financial articles contained within #2-#7. Mr. Buckley advised that article 2 proposes a 2% COLA for non-union employees, and Mr. Thorne recommended favorable action. Mr. Boyle moved the town manager's recommendation; Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Buckley advised that article three contains the operating budget as previously discussed, article 4 is the water enterprise operating budget, and article 5 is the solid waste operating budget. Mr. Buckley called the board's attention to the new capital budget article #6 and advised that the funding of the town's savings accounts has been moved up to the annual warrant from the fall as previously discussed. Discussion ensued pertaining to the operating budget balancing process, and Mr. Thorne advised that amounts reflected in the budget exclude \$1.4 million in mandatory expenditures. Mr. Buckley advised that the assessments (i.e. charter school assessment) are outside the article for the operating budget as it is not required, the items are not optional nor can a vote affect them. Mr. Thorne stated that their process includes budgeting for the future collective bargaining agreements with the two unions whose contracts expire within the year and there is a contingency for those whose do not. Mr. Boyle moved favorable action on article 3; Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Thorne advised that he recommends favorable action be taken on the water enterprise budget; Mr. Boyle moved the Town Manager's recommendation. Mr. Brown seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Thorne advised that he recommends favorable action be taken on the solid waste enterprise budget; Mr. Boyle moved the Town Manager's recommendation. Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Buckley advised that article 6 represents hard work by the Treasurer Collector to generate \$850,000 in land sales to fund the initial round of capital represented in the plan. Mr. Brown inquired as to how items move through the plan, and Mr. Buckley stated that generally, items not funded in year one advance to the top of the list for funding in year two barring exceptions. Mr. Trabucco moved favorable action on article 6, Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Buckley spoke in depth on the saving accounts proposed for funding in article 7; he advised that there is over \$800,000 in the OPEB fund with an anticipated future obligation approaching \$75 million. Mr. Buckley advised that he recommends funding the Separation Pay Benefits at \$100,000 as liability for future retirees is \$2 million with a \$200,000 current balance. Mr. Buckley stated that the Special Injury Leave fund has allowed the town to become self-insured two years ago to provide for potential police and firefighter injury and he is recommending \$25,000 be added to the fund. He advised that the town began self-insuring worker's compensation one year ago, has a fund balance of \$200,000 and he is recommending that \$25,000 be added. Mr. Buckley stated he is recommending that the balance unspent in article six be transferred to the Capital Stabilization fund and that the uncommitted amounts left in water surplus be transferred to the Water Stabilization fund. Mr. Buckley concluded by stating that historically the town puts \$25,000 annually into the Stabilization Fund, which has a current balance of approximately 2% of the budget. Mr. Trabucco

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recommended favorable action on article 7, Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

CONSIDER A VOTE: SELECTMEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON SPECIAL WITHIN ANNUAL ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 4

Mr. Furlong read the summary of all four articles included in the document. Mr. Buckley addressed the transfers contained in article one. Discussion ensued on the overspending occurring weekly by the Police Department with Mr. Buckley stating that 11 appropriations in the budget are in deficit with 4 more approaching a deficit position as 24 of the last 30 weeks saw the overtime payroll expenditures were over target. Mr. Trabucco moved favorable action on article one; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was 4/1 with Mr. Brown opposed. Mr. Trabucco moved favorable action on article 2, Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Trabucco advised that article 3 is a good faith representation for pending collective bargaining agreements should they settle 30 days prior to town meeting. Mr. Trabucco moved favorable action and Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Buckley advised that article four is to repair the pipes that have failed at the police station in the amount of \$38,000. Mr. Trabucco moved favorable action; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Brown advised that he is working to get a Welcome to Pembroke sign posted on Route 3 at exit 12.

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2019

Mr. Boulter moved to approve the minutes of March 26th as written; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

South Shore Manager's Meeting

Mr. Thorne advised that Pembroke is hosting the South Shore Manager's meeting this Thursday and discussion will surround union contracts.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Trabucco advised that the Town requested that Old Colony Planning Council review the timing on the traffic signals in the center; he updated the Board stating that the data has been collected and analysis has begun with more information to follow.

At 8:15 pm, Mr. Furlong read the upcoming issues from the agenda. At 8:20 pm, Mr. Boyle moved to enter executive session under M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21 (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares: DPW Union Grievance. Mr. Furlong so declared, and Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. By roll call: Mr. Boulter – yes, Mr. Boyle – yes, Mr. Brown – yes, Mr. Trabucco – yes, Mr. Furlong – yes.

MATERIALS & EXHIBITS

Draft ATM warrant articles (BOS/TM Office)

Draft Minutes of March 26, 2019 (BOS/TM Office)