

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
APRIL 10, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Lewis W. Stone (Chairman), Willard J. Boulter, Jr. (Vice-Chairman), Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Clerk), Daniel Trabucco (Selectman), Matthew J. Furlong (Selectman), Edwin J. Thorne (Town Administrator), Peter Brown (Pembroke Chamber of Commerce), Erin Obey (Superintendent of Schools), Michael Tropeano (School Committee), Patrick Chilcott (School Committee), Virginia Wandell (School Committee), Suzanne Scroggins (School Committee), Amy Kwessel (Town Council), Casey Driscoll (Principal Clerk), and others.

At 7:00 pm, Mr. Stone 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.

**PETER BROWN OF TINY AND SONS AUTO GLASS**

Mr. Brown went before the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce's local businesses to address the public in this forum. Mr. Brown stated that he is the President of Tiny and Sons Auto Glass, located at 575 Washington Street, across from Dairy Twist. Mr. Brown stated that the business was founded by his father, Tiny Brown, in 1978 and has grown to a business of 14 employees. Mr. Brown stated that he has represented the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce since 1990. The Chamber currently has 86 businesses and is looking for new members. Mr. Brown stated that the Chamber meets on the second Tuesday of every month from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Mr. Stone thanked Mr. Brown and stated that his father, Tiny Brown, was a great citizen of Pembroke and would be honored with a ceremony at the intersection of Route 53 and Route 14. Mr. Thorne stated that the ceremony was tentatively scheduled for May 23 but a time had not yet been decided.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Spring Household Hazardous Waste Day has been scheduled for April 15 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The list of acceptable and unacceptable items is located on the town website at: [www.pembroke-ma.gov](http://www.pembroke-ma.gov).

**CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTINE GRIFFIN TO PEMBROKE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Mr. Boyle moved to appoint Christine Griffin of 53 Ingham Way, to the Pembroke Zoning Board of Appeals; Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**VOTE TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF APRIL 3, 2017**

Mr. Boyle moved to approve the minutes of April 3, 2017 as presented, Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**VOTE TO REOPEN ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT FOR REMOVAL OF ARTICLE 21/ INSERTION OF NEW ARTICLE 21**

Mr. Boulter moved to reopen Annual Town Meeting Warrant; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Stone explained that the original language in Article 21 proposed a change to the Pembroke Zoning By-laws which would have required a Public Hearing to be held by the Planning Board prior to Town Meeting. It was determined by the Planning Board at their meeting on April 3, 2017 to postpone that Public Hearing until June 12, which is after Town Meeting. Therefore, language has been updated in Article 21 to propose a change to the Pembroke General By-laws. Mr. Thorne stated that a change to the Pembroke General By-laws would not require a Public Hearing by the Planning Board. Discussion ensued. Mr. Boulter moved to remove Article 21 from the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and insert the new Article 21 as written; Mr. Furlong seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ERIN OBEY: DISCUSSION OF ARTICLE 2, FY2018 BUDGET**

## MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Erin Obey was present before the Board to address the current state of the School's budget. Ms. Obey stated the school budget had increased by about \$890,000. Ms. Obey explained that collective bargaining agreements, SPED tuitions, transportation, and the addition of a preschool class are the major factors leading to the budget increase. Ms. Obey stated that the school committee was currently working with Mr. Thorne and Town Accountant, Michael Buckley to close the gap on the school's budget and they were currently solving for about \$130,000. Mr. Thorne added that the gap was reduced from \$160,000 to \$130,000 today. Ms. Obey stated the House of Representatives announced an increase in Chapter 70 revenue had brought them \$30,000 closer to their budget. Patrick Chilcott explained that the increases Ms. Obey discussed are not optional items. Mr. Trabucco asked if the figures from the House of Representatives were finalized. Mr. Tropeano stated that the school committee was confident the estimate from the House would be accurate. Mr. Tropeano stated that the school committee was constantly researching ways to cut down the expense of these necessary increases on the Town. He stated that the school committee met with Representative Cutler to discuss local aid resolution figures. He stated the circuit breaker tax credit they can apply for will give a break on SPED tuitions but you can't claim the transportation costs, which is typically the majority of the expense. Discussion ensued. Ms. Obey explained that the maintenance of effort budget was everything you are paying for today moved forward at next year's cost. Mr. Tropeano stated the budget presentation would be available on the school website. Mr. Trabucco asked if the school committee had a plan for how they were going to close the gap of \$130,000. Ms. Obey stated that within a \$32 million dollar budget there would be a place to chip away at \$130,000 and she would work closely with the Mr. Thorne and Town Accountant, Michael Buckley to close the gap. Mr. Boulter asked the school committee if the turf field needed to be replaced this year or if it could wait. Mr. Tropeano stated that the turf field at the high school was installed when the high school was renovated. Mr. Tropeano stated that they have done everything they can maintenance wise to ensure they have gotten the most use out of the field. The school committee has estimated that the project will cost approximately \$890,000. The school has already allocated through user fees \$200,000 which leaves \$690,000 to be financed. Mr. Tropeano stated the town could finance \$690,000 over 10 years, the field would have a life span of about 15 years, leaving the town 3-5 years of no payments to generate funding for the next field replacement project. Discussion ensued. Mr. Tropeano stated the project would need to be scheduled during a time that is least inconvenient to all of the teams that play there. Mr. Boulter stated it would be helpful to know the information regarding the track and field so they would be knowledgeable enough to answer questions from residents as they come in. Mr. Chilcott stated there were divots in the field and divots in the track and it was becoming an injury risk to the athletes that use the field. Ms. Wandell stated the school committee did not want the town to be responsible if something happened to an athlete because of the poor condition of the track and field. Mr. Furlong stated that he was a frequent user of the track and agreed that the condition of the track and field needed to be improved. Mr. Furlong asked how long the school committee anticipated the project would take. Mr. Tropeano stated the school committee anticipated the project taking approximately 2 months to complete. Mr. Tropeano stated it would ideal to get the bids for the project before Town Meeting so they could award the bid right after Town Meeting. Mr. Tropeano stressed the importance of construction being completed by August 9<sup>th</sup> so football and band camps could start practicing on time. Mr. Boyle asked what would happen if Article 2 didn't pass at Town Meeting. Mr. Chilcott stated that Town's athletic offering and ability could be in jeopardy. If it is determined the track and field are unsafe they would need to use another districts facilities for home games and events, thus incurring the costs for transportation, officials and trainers. Discussion ensued. Mr. Stone stated that the funding of the current budget is very tight and stressed the importance of the cost estimate of this project being accurate. Mr. Chilcott stated that the school committee is made up of professionals who are experienced in balancing tight budgets in their own professions and have given a great deal of effort to ensure that the figures presented tonight are an accurate representation of what to expect when the bids come in. He stated that the project will be self-funded and will not take out of what is already budgeted for the town. Mr. Boulter stated his appreciation to the school committee for doing their due diligence before coming before Board. Mr. Tropeano stated the school committee does their best to recognize what is right for the students and the tax payers. Mr. Stone thanked the school committee for their presentation and requested they come before the Board on April 24 for a joint meeting with Moderator Dodge and Advisory Committee. Mr. Boyle moved to recommend favorable action on article 2, special within the annual; Mr. Furlong

## **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. The school committee exited the meeting at 8:05 PM.

### **REVIEW REMAINING ANNUAL WARRANT ARTICLES 2 THROUGH 7, 12 AND 21, VOTE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Stone stated that the Board would discuss and review the remaining articles to vote recommendations for town meeting. Mr. Thorne presented article 12 and stated that the recommendation from the Town Accountant and Town Administrator was to recommend that town meeting take no action. Mr. Boyle moved the Town Administrator's recommendation; Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Thorne presented article 2 stated that it was a pay plan for the non-union workers employees recommending a 2% increase. Mr. Boyle made a motion to vote favorable action; Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Thorne presented article 3 stating it was the town budget. Mr. Boyle moved to vote favorable action; Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Thorne presented article 4 stating it was the water budget. Mr. Boyle made a motion to vote favorable action; Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved. Mr. Thorne presented article 5 stating it was the solid waste budget and his recommendation was town meeting vote favorable action. Mr. Thorne also stated that due to the increasing popularity of the recycling center the town should look into extending the hours the recycling center is open. Discussion ensued. Mr. Boulter moved to vote favorable action; Mr. Furlong seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Thorne presented article 6 stating it was the funds for the collective bargaining agreements. Mr. Thorne stated the town had come to agreements with DPW, Clerical, Police and Fire unions and the recommendation from the Town Accountant and Town Administrator was town meeting vote favorable action. Mr. Boulter moved to vote favorable action; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Thorne presented article 7 to the board stated that it would allow the town to place a sum of money in a stabilization fund. Mr. Thorne stated that due to the tightness in the budget already the Town Administrator's recommendation is to take no action. Mr. Boulter moved to take no action; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Trabucco moved to close the annual town meeting warrant; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

### **CONSIDER BOS POSITION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON "SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT"**

Mr. Stone stated the Board had been presented with information regarding the Safe Communities Act in their packets. MR. Stone stated that the Governor of Massachusetts had not yet committed to this act and neither had the speaker of the House or the speaker of the Senate. Mr. Stone then stated his recommendation would be to wait one or two weeks to see if the speakers of the House and Senate make a statement. Mr. Boulter stated that he is not in favor of the Sade Communities Act as he feels it is not in the best interest of the Town. Mr. Trabucco stated he was against the Safe Communities Act as he felt it would make Massachusetts less safe. Mr. Trabucco stated that this discussion was larger than this Board but that the Board members should reach out their representatives to let them know their opinions. Mt. Boulter moved to table the discussion for two weeks. Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Boulter stated that he was contacted by resident that a Veteran's Parking sign had been erected at the Pembroke Police Station.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Thorne stated there was nothing to discuss at this week's meeting.

### **ASK THE SELECTMEN**

Mr. Trabucco stated that it had been brought to his attention that a Veteran's memorial stone had been knocked over in the center cemetery. Mr. Trabucco stated it did not appear to be an act of vandalism.

Mr. Stone stated that he was contacted by Mr. Mahoney who is looking for the Board of Selectmen to support the Plymouth County Commissioners on the upcoming vote to increase the pay for commissioners.

### **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

Mr. Stone informed the Board that Plymouth County Commissioners are asking to increase their pay from \$7,500 to \$28,000. Mr. Stone stated that prior to economic conditions the commissioners were making \$28,000 and upon the state's direction the pay was reduced from \$28,000 to nothing and now it is at \$7,500. Mr. Trabucco clarified that the increase would be a reinstatement. Mr. Stone stated that Mr. Boyle will be representing Pembroke at the vote and each town's vote has a certain weight depending on the number of residents within the town. Mr. Boyle stated that in the event he cannot attend the meeting he would need a member of the Board to attend and vote in his place. Mr. Boulter moved to allow Mr. Furlong to attend the Commissioners meeting and vote on behalf of the Town of Pembroke; the motion was seconded by Mr. Boyle. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Stone stated that Plymouth's Board of Selectmen is against the increase as the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds has been in need of additional funding. Mr. Stone stated that the registry has been under staffed for years and the Plymouth Board of Selectmen believe if there is any extra funding it should go to the Registry. Mr. Trabucco stressed the importance of Plymouth County being financially and fiscally responsible. Mr. Trabucco moved to vote not in favor of the Plymouth County Commissioners pay increase; the motion was seconded by Mr. Furlong. The vote was 4 in favor, with Mr. Boyle recusing himself as he will place his vote in the present at the commissioners meeting.

Mr. Stone read the upcoming issues from the agenda.

Mr. Stone stated that due to the Patriots' Day holiday on April 17 there would not be a Board of Selectmen's Meeting next week. Mr. Stone stated that he would be available to sign the warrants on behalf of the Board. Mr. Boyle made a motion to grant Mr. Stone permission to sign all warrants for the week of April 17, 2017 on behalf of the Board of Selectmen; Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

At 9:00 pm, Mr. Boulter moved to enter executive session under M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21 (3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares: Town of Pembroke Water Wheel Committee; and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; Pembroke Police Superior Officers Association MOA. Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. By roll call: Boyle – yes, Furlong – yes, Trabucco – yes, Boulter – yes, and Stone – yes.