

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MARCH 24, 2014**

PRESENT: Willard J. Boulter, Jr. (Chairman), Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Vice-Chairman), Lewis W. Stone (Clerk), Michelle Burt (Selectman), Daniel Trabucco (Selectman), Edwin J. Thorne (Town Administrator), Stephen Dodge (Town Moderator), Stephen Burt, Holly Walsh, Scott Wilson, Richard Camiolo, Robert DeMarzo, Sabrina Chilcott (Executive Assistant), and others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Boyle displayed a certificate presented to the BOS by the Girl Scouts at the Silver Award ceremony honoring Lauren Walsh and Lara Federspeil on Saturday.

7:00 ICE CREAM TRUCK PERMIT RENEWAL APPLICATION: STEPHEN BURT OF BURT'S ICE CREAM

Mr. Burt was present to discuss last year's success; he has again received his permit from the Hanson Police Chief, accepted by Chief Wall. Mr. Boyle moved to grant the renewal of Burt's Ice Cream Truck permit with the same conditions and pending inspection by the Board of Health. Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

CONSIDER APPLICANTS FOR THE TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Mr. Boulter announced applicants Frank Hackett, Elizabeth Bates, Dan Taylor, Matt Dovell, Scott Wilson, Paul Burke and Holly Walsh. Ms. Walsh was present before the Board to detail the experience and diversity she would bring to the committee. Mr. Wilson was also present to expound on his credentials to serve on the committee. Mr. Boulter, Mr. Trabucco and Mr. Boyle spoke in favor of Mr. Hackett, Ms. Bates and Mr. Taylor. Mr. Stone stated that Mr. Dovell and Mr. Burke are qualified applicants for the Committee. Mr. Trabucco recommended that the Board increase the membership of the committee to nine and appoint the slate of applicants. Mr. Boyle moved to expand the number of members of the Town Government Study Committee from seven to nine; Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Trabucco moved to appoint Frank Hackett, Elizabeth Bates, Daniel Taylor, Matthew Dovell, Scott Wilson, Paul Burke and Holly Walsh to the Town Government Study Committee, with one vacancy. Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Trabucco stated that the committee will need to manage their work in pieces, accomplishing short term goals and establishing long term goals; he hopes the committee will have warrant articles ready for the 2015 ATM but it will require a lot of background study and effort to accomplish this goal.

CONSIDER SPECIAL WITHIN THE ATM WARRANT ARTICLES FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

General discussion ensued on the articles. Mr. Boyle moved favorable action on article one; Ms. Burt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Trabucco moved to table article two for one week; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Boyle moved favorable action on article three; Mr. Thorne advised that this article funds contract for this year and previous years. Ms. Burt seconded the motion; the vote was unanimously in favor. Ms. Burt moved to table article four for one week; Mr. Thorne will confirm funding for this article next week. Mr. Stone moved favorable action on article on article five; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Stone moved favorable action on article six; Ms. Burt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Stone moved favorable action on article seven; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Boyle moved favorable action on article eight; Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

ASK THE SELECTMEN

Mr. Boulter stated he had received calls from residents regarding potholes; he requested that residents be patient as the DPW is working hard to resolve the issue.

UPCOMING ISSUES

On March 31st the Board will review detail on the Town's boards, committees and commissions. April 7th the BOS sign the warrants, April 8th the Special within the ATM warrant is posted; April 15th the ATM warrant is posted; April 14th is a joint meeting of the BOS, Advisory Committee and Town Moderator to review ATM procedures.

7:30 RESIDENT RICHARD CAMIOLO: ADDITION OF UNPAID WATER CHARGES TO REAL ESTATE TAX

Mr. Camiolo was present before the Board to state that the policy of placing a lien on unpaid water bills is not fair to the impoverished residents of Pembroke. He would like to see the lien amount reduced. Mr. Thorne advised that this practice was implemented as a result of a Town Meeting vote in 1931 whereby the residents of Pembroke voted to accept the provisions of G.L. c.40 §§ 41A through 41I. Ms. Burt explained that the BOS do not have the authority to overturn a vote of Town Meeting. Mr. Boyle suggested Mr. Camiolo work with Representative Josh Cutler to change the law; even if Pembroke voters overturned the prior Town Meeting vote via a petition article, the impoverished that Mr. Camiolo is concerned with aiding outside of Pembroke would not be helped. Mr. Trabucco cautioned that a petition to overturn this vote could have far reaching, adverse consequences for the Town and requested that Mr. Camiolo research these sections carefully. DPW Commissioner Ben Bastianelli was present to advise that the DPW meets regularly with residents in hardship circumstances to accommodate a payment arrangement; the situation that is referenced here could have been prevented had the resident in question sought relief prior to lien. Mr. Stone and Mr. Trabucco stressed this option as a consideration for the residents in Pembroke who need help.

At 7:45 pm, Mr. Boyle moved to recess the meeting to join the Advisory Committee in the conference room to partake in discussions pertaining to a review of the submitted FY15 budget; and Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING ADVISORY COMMITTEE, CONFERENCE ROOM MARCH 24, 2014 AT 7:45 PM

PRESENT: Board of Selectmen (Boulter, Boyle, Stone, Trabucco, Burt), Town Administrator (Thorne), Town Accountant (Buckley), Advisory Committee (Curley, Peterson, McCollum, McNeilly, Elsner, O'Brien, Michael, Walsh), Police Chief (Wall), DPW Commissioner (Bastianelli), Robert DeMarzo, Miriam MacInnis, Sabrina Chilcott.

Discussion ensued on revenue projections and collective bargaining agreements. Mr. Curley advised that the budget submitted calls for \$344,000 from the Stabilization account for funding. Ms. Peterson inquired as to the balance of the non-fuel Stabilization account; Mr. Buckley stated that the balance will be close to zero after funding the budget. Mr. DeMarzo inquired as to the status of the \$800,000 proceeds from the land sale; Mr. Buckley stated that this money must go through the General Fund this year to become Free Cash next year. Mr. Buckley added that the Town's Free Cash amount of \$622,000 must fund \$100,000 unemployment benefits, \$40,000 veteran's benefits and \$435,000 toward the three contracts. Ms. Peterson stated that next fiscal year there will be no savings left to use; Mr. Curley stated that FY16 will begin \$350,000 in arrears. Mr. Buckley explained that the figure for FY16 actually begins \$420,000 in arrears; Mr. Buckley explained that the difference is \$80,000 in overlay. Mr. O'Brien inquired about the snow and ice deficit; Mr. Curley advised that this deficit is balanced in the fall. Mr. O'Brien stated that the DOR recommends Stabilization be funded at 4-6%. Discussion ensued on merits of Stabilization funding. Mr. O'Brien stated he was not comfortable using the savings account to balance the budget. Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Curley and Ms. Peterson advised it would be prudent to make cuts in the budget this year as opposed to next year when the financial situation will be more challenging. Discussion ensued on the challenge of funding the contracts. Mr. Curley advised that the School Department rewrote the steps and lanes in the teacher's contract to reduce payroll when entering into a multi year contract with percentage increases; they additionally raised employee health

contributions and made other departmental cuts including layoffs to reduce budgetary issues the contracts raised. Mr. Curley asked for feedback from the Board of Selectmen whether to cut the budget this year and next year or wait until next year to perform massive cuts. Chief Wall expressed concern for cuts in understaffed departments, particularly as an issue of public safety; he stressed that the Police Department is challenged with staffing and maintaining service levels to the town now. Discussion ensued on the prior teacher's contract; Mr. Curley clarified that the School Department's budget has been reduced from 58.5% of the budget to 55% over the last five years and public safety increased slightly from 10.9% to 11.04% over the same period. Mr. Thorne clarified that the increase in unemployment is a result of laid off school teachers and staff. Chief Wall stated he disagrees with the idea of cutting personnel to leave money in Stabilization. Discussion ensued on the feasibility of an operational override. Further discussion ensued on the merits of personnel cuts versus spending the balance in the Stabilization account. Ms. Burt voiced the opinion that the individual payroll is not the problem but the number of people receiving it may be; she suggested personnel cuts in all of the departments. Discussion ensued. Mr. Boyle stated that the Town needs to work together to resolve and he does not want to see one department pitted against another; cuts will effect everyone. Ms. Burt recommended a consistent percentage be considered for cuts in every department. Mr. Thorne stated that the contracts need to be voted for acceptance at Town Meeting The Town Accountant and Town Adminsitrator are recommending this budget and additionally recommending informing the public that FY2016 will result in cuts to promote full transparency. Mr. Bastianelli stated he supports across the board percentage cuts now. Discussion ensued on the cost of layoffs and resulting unemployment. Mr. Thorne explained the budget process; department heads presented a proposed budget and he met with each one individually to make the preliminary cuts, reducing the original amount by \$2.5million. Mr. Trabucco confirmed this budget represents minimum operational budget. Mr. Stone stated that he supports the Town Administrator's budget. Discussion ensued on fiscal responsibility versus public safety. Consensus was reached on several departments' current lack of appropriate staffing with the population increase. Mr. Thorne stated that entering a new solid waste contract will save the Town approximately \$300,000 per year allowing for fees to be reduced.

At 9:00 pm, Mr. Trabucco moved to adjourn and Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.