

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
FEBRUARY 11, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Daniel W. Trabucco (Chairman), Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Vice-Chairman), Lewis W. Stone (Clerk), Willard J. Boulter, Jr. (Selectman), Michelle L. Burt (Selectman), Kathleen McCarthy (Treasurer/Collector), Nick Zechello, Jr., Alan Peterson, Win Sargent, Diana Julian, Matt Dovell, Mark Burrige (Pembroke Mariner Express), Sabrina Chilcott (Executive Assistant), and others.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Pembroke Drug Prevention Coalition's sponsored discussion on substance abuse has been postponed until April. PACTV announces the re-play of February 4<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting at 7:00 pm Thursday, February 12 and the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:00 pm Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> then regular re-play at noon and 7:00 pm, Friday through Sunday each week. The Selectmen's office advises that the trash pickup for Tuesday through Friday will be delayed one (1) day. The Monday pickup for this week was cancelled by the contractor. In an effort to catch up, they will forego the holiday, with Monday's trash pickup occurring on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and each following day picked up as scheduled. Additionally, for residents who are wondering why the Town flags remain at half-staff: this is the law, a statute, which must be followed regarding Edward W. Brooke, III who was a United States Senator, elected 1966 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who passed away January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Trabucco updated the DPW concerns with receiving salt trucked and explained that the delay is largely due to delays in trucking it in from Chelsea. An appeal to expedite the delivery of salt has been made to MEMA.

**CONSIDER TREASURER'S REQUEST: VOTE TO ACCEPT 47 FURNACE ROAD, B7-25, AS A TAX POSSESSION PROPERTY**

Mr. Boyle moved to accept the Treasurer's recommendation and accept 47 Furnace Road, B7-25, as a tax possession property. Ms. Burt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**CONSIDER TREASURER'S REQUEST: VOTE TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF ITEMS IN TWO BORROWING ARTICLES VOTED AT STM/ATM**

Mr. Stone moved that the maximum useful life of the departmental equipment listed below to be financed with the proceeds of the borrowing authorized by votes of the Town passed October 28, 2014 (Article 1, Action 12, Part 3) is hereby determined pursuant to G.L. c.44, s7(9) to be as follows: 10 Wheel Dump Truck With Sander and Plow, borrowing amount \$250,000 with a maximum useful life of ten (10) years and Garage Lift, borrowing amount \$65,000 with a maximum useful life of eight (8) years. Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion. Mr. Stone moved that the maximum useful life of the departmental equipment listed below to be financed with the proceeds of the borrowing authorized by votes of the Town passed April 23, 2013 (Article 6, Action 9, Article 7, Action 5 and Article 18, Action 17) is hereby determined pursuant to G.L. c.44, s7(9) to be as follows: DPW/Emergency Generator, borrowing amount \$40,000 with a maximum useful life of eight (8) year, DPW Sander, borrowing amount \$85,000 with a maximum useful life of eight (8) years, Library Generator, borrowing amount \$65,000 with a maximum useful life of eight (8) years. Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

**DISCUSSION: PROPOMOTION FROM WITHIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Boyle advised that the position of Fire Chief is not regulated by Civil Service and must be an open process. Mr. Boulter moved to place an advertisement regarding the Fire Chief's position. Mr. Stone seconded the motion; the vote was unanimously in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Discussion ensued on ownership of 140 Center Street known as "VFW – Pembroke Police Boys Club" building. Based on preliminary research done by the Chief Assessor, it appears as though the VFW owns the building, not the town.

Mr. Boulter stated that the VFW turned the building over to the town when they closed the local chapter in 1979. Ms. Burt moved to instruct Kopelman and Paige to review the deed and provide an opinion on the status of the building.

Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Mr. Stone advised that the Council on Aging Board's Director Selection Committee is referring on candidate for interview by the BOS. Discussion ensued on the lack of additional candidates for interview and the two late applications that were not considered. Mr. Boyle moved to re-advertise the position of Council on Aging Director; Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

### **VOTE ON SOLAR LANDFILL PROJECT: POWER OPTIONS/SUN EDISON VS. RFP/RFQ**

Nick Zechello, Jr. was present before the Board to explain the Energy Committee's position on recommending that the BOS select Power Options and Sun Edison to develop the landfill solar project; they feel this is a unique opportunity to lock in electric rates for twenty years. The town will only be obligated to buy back power at a reduced rate, while Sun Edison fully funds and develops the solar project under the current net metering cap. Discussion ensued; a resulting delay of one year to issue an RFP was explored and determined by the BOS to be less. Mr. Trabucco confirmed that he reviewed other town's figures after undertaking the open procurement process and the amounts were very close, within 1-1.5% points. Mr. Stone and Mr. Boulter voiced a favorable opinion of pursuing an agreement with Power Options. Mr. Win Sargent stated he has concerns regarding a company that loses \$3.5 billion annually offering the town a fixed rate for the life of the contract. He stated his concern is that they will not hold the asset; they will opt to "flip" it. He stated that selecting them would be a poor decision with his credit and risk analysis. Mr. Trabucco pointed out that many solar developers fail for a variety of reasons and the town will not have the same risk with Sun Edison as they would with another developer. Alan Peterson was present to summarize that the capped landfill has limited allowable uses, the town would save over \$250,000/annually with no up-front costs or cash outlay. Mr. Zechello stated that any concerns regarding the developer can be addressed through the pre-negotiated contract from Power Options; Mr. Zechello stated that he has not yet seen the contract. Ms. Burt stated that she has concerns with choosing Sun Edison without undertaking the open procurement process to investigate the other options in today's marketplace. Ms. Burt further stated that the town does not lose money by waiting six months as the landfill doesn't generate revenue; the only loss would be prospective savings not yet realized, but that savings will still be realized later and longer. Mr. Boulter moved to accept the recommendation of the Energy Committee and select Power Options to initiate the solar project at the landfill. Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was 3/2 in favor with Ms. Burt and Mr. Boyle opposed.

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

Mr. Thorne advised that he delivered his FY16 budget message to the Advisory Committee and will meet with them February 17<sup>th</sup> to review in detail. Mr. Thorne summarized a total net revenue increase of \$1.1million based on tax levy, debt exclusion projects, etc. The Town Administrator's recommended budget sees an increase of approximately \$100,000 increase in general government, education increase of \$500,000, debt portion of operating costs is approximately \$140,000, and the increase in fixed costs (pension, health, property insurance, medicare tax, etc.) comprises the remaining balance; total net revenue and expenditures of \$55,683,399.

### **UPCOMING ISSUES**

Mr. Trabucco read off the items from the agenda and added the two scheduled appointments that were rescheduled, the Route 14 Project discussion and the Zaniboni land acquisition discussion.

At 8:45 pm, Mr. Boyle moved to adjourn; Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.