

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
APRIL 30, 2018**

PRESENT: Willard J. Boulter, Jr. (Chairman), Lewis W. Stone (Clerk), Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Selectman), Daniel Trabucco (Selectman), Edwin J. Thorne (Town Administrator), Michael Buckley (Town Accountant), Stephen Dodge (Moderator), Richard Wall (Police Chief), J. Michael Hill (Fire Chief), Erin Obey (School Superintendent), Linda Peterson, Stephen Curley, John Brown, Stephen Walsh, Elizabeth Monks, Donna Badger, Elizabeth Bates, Robert DeMarzo, Ben Bastianelli, Paul Whitman, Patrick Chilcott, Gino Fellini, Michelle Burt, Arthur Egerton, Charles Mathewson, Sabrina Chilcott (Assistant to the Town Administrator) and others

REMOTELY PARTICIPATING VIA SPEAKERPHONE: Matthew J. Furlong (Vice-Chairman), geographic distance

At 7:00 pm Mr. Boulter opened the meeting and advised that Selectmen Furlong is participating via remote participation in accordance with the requirements of 940 CMR 29.10 via speakerphone due to geographic distance. All votes will be made via roll call. Mr. Boulter further 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.

**VOTE COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT:
ANDREW FREEMAN, 98 SUNSET WY**

Mr. Stone moved to appoint Andrew Freeman of 98 Sunset Way to the Commission on Disabilities for a term to expire 2020 at the recommendation of Chairman Weinreich. Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. By roll call: Boyle – yes, Furlong – yes, Stone – yes, Trabucco – yes, Boulter – yes.

**VOTE HERRING FISHERIES COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT:
GINO FELLINI, 239 OLDHAM ST AND JOSHUA ROSARIO, 67 GROVE ST**

Mr. Fellini and Mr. Rosario were present before the Board on their applications for appointment to the Herring Fisheries Commission. Mr. Stone moved to appoint Gino Fellini to the vacancy on the Herring Fisheries Commission, term to expire 2019 and to appoint Joshua Rosario to the alternate vacancy on the Herring Fisheries Commission, term to expire 2020. Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. By roll call: Boyle – yes, Furlong – yes, Stone – yes, Trabucco – yes, Boulter – yes.

**REVIEW DRAFT OF SELECTMEN'S REPORT FOR TOWN MEETING REGARDING
CONTINGENT BUDGET**

Mr. Thorne recommended that the Board take this item up after the joint meeting to discuss town meeting.

VOTE MINUTES OF APRIL 2, 2018

Mr. Stone moved to accept the minutes of April 2, 2018 as written; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. By roll call: Boyle – yes, Furlong – yes, Stone – yes, Trabucco – yes, Boulter – yes.

VOTE MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2018

Mr. Stone moved to accept the minutes of April 9, 2018 as written; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. By roll call: Boyle – yes, Furlong – yes, Stone – yes, Trabucco – yes, Boulter – yes.

**7:15 (7:30) JOINT MEETING: ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MODERATOR AND SELECTMEN:
TOWN MEETING**

Mr. Dodge stated that this joint meeting serves as a preview of May 8th annual Town Meeting. Mr. Dodge stated that the purpose of this meeting is to orchestrate a process, not an outcome. The intent is to determine how and by whom the motions will be presented. Mr. Dodge advised that Annual Town Meeting will be held at the Pembroke High School on Tuesday, May 8th at 7:00 pm. The warrants of articles to be heard are available on the town website with paper copies available at Town Hall. Mr. Dodge introduced the Consent Agenda which contains Articles 1, 6, 9, 23 and 26; all of these articles should be able to be voted by consent

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

as they have not generated controversy in the past. The Advisory Committee and Board of Selectmen concurred. Discussion ensued. Mr. Dodge stated that both boards are in agreement on most of their remaining recommendations, and it is customary for the Advisory Committee to present articles that they support. Mr. Dodge confirmed that the Advisory Committee will present the articles on the annual warrant numbers two through five, seven, eight, ten through thirteen, and twenty-two. Mr. Dodge will ask the TGSC to move article twenty-one, Recreation to move article 14, the Police Chief to move articles 17 and 18, the Fire Chief to move article 16, the DPW to move articles 19 and 20, the Library Director to move article 15, the CPC to move article 24. Discussion ensued on the citizen's petition article. Mr. Dodge stated that he will reach out to the petitioner to make his motion. Mr. Dodge confirmed that Advisory Committee will move all five articles on the Special within the annual warrant. Discussion ensued on article three and the contingent budget recommendation; Mr. Dodge advised that he will read the budget by line as usual, and Advisory will move the five contingent articles subject to a proposition two and one half override. Discussion ensued on town meeting procedure regarding potential amendments and their execution.

7:30 (7:00) ADVISORY COMMITTEE FINANCE PRESENTATION

Linda Peterson announced the date, time and location of town meeting again and introduced Advisory Committee member Stephen Curley. Mr. Curley stated that the intent of this financial presentation is to afford residents a chance to ask questions in advance of town meeting. Mr. Curley presented statistics of increased expenditures over ten years at an annual average in general government (3.22%/yr), public safety (5%/yr), benefits increases of 18% of the budget and the reduction in state aid from 32.88% down to 25.21%. Mr. Curley stated there is \$354,000 less in lottery aid than ten years ago. Discussion ensued on reduced funding to the School Department as a percentage of the budget and a reduced enrollment. Mr. Curley stated that kindergarten through grade 6 has dropped 22% and grades 7-12 have dropped by 5%. School Committee chairman Patrick Chilcott stated that the enrollment is not down by that significant a figure; Mr. Curley confirmed that he used the state's funding level figures for enrollment. Mr. Chilcott advised that pre-k and kindergarten students are counted differently at a state level for funding, and he cautioned that reduced enrollment is often spread across many grades making it not always feasible to reduce staffing at a certain grade level. Mrs. Bates advised that the data doesn't show a cost per student trend; she stated that Pembroke has always been on the lower end of spending per pupil, and inquired as to the current data. Superintendent Obey stated that the town has reduced spending per pupil for the last eight years, and Pembroke is currently the 14th lowest spending per pupil community out of the 331 Massachusetts towns that report this data. Mr. DeMarzo pointed out that when enrollment drops, state aid drops as well so there is no windfall realized. Mr. Chilcott advised that half of per pupil funding derives from state aid. Mr. Curley advised that reduction in the teaching staff leads to unemployment increases unless staff can reemploy elsewhere. Discussion ensued on the proposed contingency budget, and the pros and cons of funding the services as requested. Further discussion ensued on the mechanics of the contingency items passing or failing at town meeting versus passing or failing at the ballot. It was widely recognized that an issue would only arise if items failed at town meeting and passed at the ballot; Town Accountant Michael Buckley and Chief Assessor Catherine Salmon spoke to the unlikelihood of such an outcome. The fact was established that, should this unlikely event occur, it would create an excess levy capacity that would increase the tax rate. Mr. Chilcott stated that this is the thirteenth consecutive budget balanced with cuts to services and expenditures with the reality of state aid increasing by only 1.3% annually while expenses increase by more year after year accumulating a deficit. Mr. Chilcott concluded by stating that this increase would return Police and Fire staffing levels to where they were fourteen years ago and the public needs to be aware of that fact. Mr. Stone inquired as to the increase to each resident if the contingency budget passes; Mr. Buckley stated that the annual increase on an average value home of \$374,000 is \$125. Discussion ensued on next years anticipated deficit. Don Bryant stated that seniors are struggling now to stay in their homes and they fear additional tax increases.

9:00 (8:00) TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE: TOWN MANAGER ARTICLE (#21)

Town Government Study Committee member Tim Brennan was present before the Board to address new questions concerning proposed article 21, an act to establish a town manager form of government. Mr. Brennan explained that this is a zero cost solution to re-align professional staff under a professional manager. This will streamline the reorganization of staff efficiently. Mr. Brennan stressed that no board is being

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

eliminated. Mr. Bastianelli stated several times that he did not understand this article or the need for it at this time. Mr. Brennan explained that best practice across industries it to have professional staff report to a full time, professional manager versus a part time board. Discussion ensued on the need to maintain an independent Water Commission to set water rates and protect water resources today in the future.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Thorne presented an executive summary of the Route 53 Corridor Study project to the Board. Mr. Thorne reported that 144 cars took advantage of the Household Hazardous Waste Day event.

At 9:30 pm, Mr. Boulter read the upcoming issues from the agenda.

At 9:30 pm, Mr. Trabucco moved to adjourn; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion.

Mr. Thorne thanked Mr. Stone for his nine years of dedicated service to the town and to the Board of Selectmen; he stated that Mr. Stone's hard work and thoughtfulness will be greatly missed. The vote to adjourn by roll call: Boyle – yes, Furlong – yes, Stone – yes, Trabucco – yes, Boulter – yes.

MATERIALS & EXHIBITS

PowerPoint Presentation, Advisory Committee Finance Presentation (Advisory Committee/BOS/TA Office)

Email, T. Weinreich, Application A. Freeman re: Comm. on Disabilities Appointment (BOS/TA Office)

Applications for Vacancy Appointment, G. Fellini and J. Rosario (BOS/TA Office)

Draft annual warrant and special within the annual warrants (BOS/TA Office)

Draft Selectmen's Report of Town Meeting Budget Process with Contingency Alternate (BOS/TA Office)