

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 12, 2015
6:30pm Clifford B. Green Memorial Center**

Present: Rick Ives, Bob Kelleher, and Shelley Hopkins, Recording Secretary. Joe Voccio joined the meeting at 6:37pm.

Also Present: Sandy Brodeur, Lou Brodeur, Aaron Kerouack, and WINY radio.

- 1. Call to Order:** Mr. Ives called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.
- 2. Approve Previous Minutes:** Bob Kelleher made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 26, 2015 as presented. Rick Ives seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.
- 3. Public Comment:** Aaron Kerouack inquired as to who he should contact regarding the current balance in the Open Space fund. Mr. Ives stated that there is approximately \$113,000 in the fund. Future inquiries regarding the fund balance may be directed to the Finance Director.
- 4. Appointments**

- Housing Authority – Reappoint Aida Bissonnette as a regular member with a term expiring 03/31/2020 (Board Appointment)

Rick Ives stated that it is time to sit down with the Housing Authority and review the Authority's philosophy. There is a concern that the current philosophy may not be in the best interests of the Town and its residents. Mr. Voccio suggested that the Board consider tabling this appointment until the Board can meet with Ms. Bissonnette. Bob Kelleher made a motion to table the appointment of Ms. Bissonnette until the Board's next meeting. Joe Voccio seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

- Recreation – Reappoint Scott Allen as a regular member with a term expiring 03/11/2019 (First Selectman Appointment)
- Housing Authority – Accept resignation from Andy Pinto

Bob Kelleher made a motion to accept Mr. Pinto's resignation. Joe Voccio seconded the motion. Mr. Voccio stated that he hopes Mr. Pinto will be able to volunteer in some other capacity in the future. Motion passed 3-0.

5. Approve Regional Performance Incentive Grant Endorsements

Mr. Ives stated that NECCOG is participating in a joint application for a Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant for a statewide GIS project. Because Mr. Kelleher and Mr. Voccio did not receive the information about this project until today, Mr. Ives suggested that the Board wait to act on it at the next meeting. Municipal resolutions endorsing this project are not due until March 31. No action taken.

6. Approve Historic Document Preservations Grant Resolution

Mr. Ives stated that this is another grant for which the Town routinely applies. Mr. Voccio stated that the Town Clerk has done an excellent job of preserving and archiving the Town's records. Joe Voccio made a motion to approve the resolution and empower Rick Ives to execute and deliver the grant application on behalf of the Town. Bob Kelleher seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

7. Approve Joint Community Application Cooperation Agreement – Small Cities Block Grant

Mr. Ives stated that this is the renewal of the Small Cities partnership with Hampton that the Town has done for the past four years. The Town did not make a lot of use of the program during the first two years; however, the Town has since done five projects and another three are in progress. The program enables low income homeowners to secure low or no interest loans to make repairs to their homes. Mr. Voccio inquired whether Paula Stewart is the grant administrator. Mr. Ives stated that while the company is from Boston, they have an office at the Hampton Town Hall. Mr. Voccio asked whether, in the event that Hampton made a loan to an ineligible Hampton homeowner and the Department of Housing required that monies be reimbursed to the State, Brooklyn would be responsible for a share of that repayment. Mr. Ives said the answer is no. It is possible the Town could be held liable if the program administrator did something wrong; however, the Town has insurance for this. Joe Voccio made a motion to approve the joint community application cooperation agreement for the Small Cities Block Grant. Bob Kelleher seconded the motion. Bob Kelleher noted that this program could be used in conjunction with the blight ordinance. Motion passed 3-0.

8. Discussion/Action on Revised Joint State-Town Agreement Offer to Purchase Development Rights to Farmland: Barrett Hill Farm

Mr. Ives stated that the owners of this property have been interested in selling the development rights for quite some time. However, none of the previous programs worked out. With this program the Town and the State Department of Agriculture are co-applicants. The application was accepted and the parties have agreed upon a price. The next step is for the Conservation and the Planning and Zoning Commissions to weigh in on the purchase. The Board of Selectmen must act on it and the matter must go to a Town meeting. The Town's share of the purchase price is \$37,250. The property, which is agricultural, features some Indian artifacts and abuts the Wolf Den Land Trust as well as the Putnam Elms. The Town is trying to negotiate some public access to the land. Mr. Kelleher asked what the purpose of the 100 foot buffer is. Mr. Ives stated that he does not have the answer to that question at this time. Bob Kelleher made a motion to approve the proposed transfer; recommend to the Board of Finance the appropriation of \$37,250 from the Open Space Fund, subject to the reports from the Conservation and Planning & Zoning Commission; and to put this item on the agenda of the next Town Meeting. Joe Voccio seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

9. Discussion on Capital Expenditures: Mr. Voccio stated that the Capital Committee had its second meeting last night. The Committee invited Superintendent Berry, Chairperson May Lyons, and Hughes & Associates, the consultants for the fire alarm project, to attend the

meeting. The Committee received an update on the phone system, computer wiring, and security card access proposals. The Committee did not act on these items as the school is going to provide the Committee with a new proposal for these projects within the next 30 to 45 days. The ball field proposal was tabled to allow Bucky time to address it. The Committee felt good enough about the status of the fire alarm project to send it to the Selectmen to approve for a Town Meeting. Mr. Voccio recommended that the Town reserve the right to rebid the project. After speaking with the local general contractor, he feels there may be a way to realize some additional savings by rebidding the project. Mr. Voccio stated that the low bid was \$387,260. The Board discussed a contingency percentage. Mr. Voccio felt that 5% should be more than sufficient. The Selectmen agreed that a total appropriation of \$400,000 should be enough. The Town can continue to pay Hughes & Associate's fees out of previously appropriated monies. The Selectmen discussed at length whether the project should be rebid since only two bids were received. Mr. Kelleher stated that this decision should be made by the Board of Education. Mr. Ives suggested that Mr. Voccio's information be shared with the Board of Education for their consideration. Bob Kelleher made a motion to recommend to the Board of Finance an appropriation of up to \$400,000 to finance the school fire alarm project that was approved by the Capital Committee. Joe Voccio seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

10. Discussion on Open Space: This item was covered in Item 8.

Mr. Ives left the room at 7:30pm. Mr. Ives returned to the room at 7:32pm.

11. Discussion/Action to Set Town Meeting: Bob Kelleher made a motion to schedule a Town Meeting for Tuesday, April 7 at 7pm at the school to approve the following items: 1) appropriation of \$400,000 for the school fire alarm project; appropriation of \$37,250 from the Open Space Fund for the purchase of Barrett Hill Farm; and 3) peddlers ordinance. Joe Voccio seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

12. Continued Discussion on Special Act – Elections: Mr. Kelleher noted that the Board had assumed that it would be necessary to go to the Legislature to get a change. Mr. Ives hopes to speak to Mike Alberts and Ed May tomorrow, but he has been informed that the deadline to submit a bill has passed. Mr. Kelleher explained that the way things work now the newly elected First Selectman takes office at midnight on Election Day. This makes for a very difficult transition. The Board is looking to find a way to provide for a transition period between the date Selectmen are elected and the date they take office.

13. Continued Discussion on Peddlers Ordinance: Mr. Kelleher has made several minor changes. The term "charitable" shall mean a non-profit. The term "hawker" is not needed. The term "peddler" should be substituted for "person" throughout the ordinance. He changed the fee section to be in keeping with the Board's intent that there be a \$20 application fee and \$80 if the application is approved and credentials issued. The rest of the changes involved the term "applicant." He changed the fine to be consistent with state statute. Mr. Voccio asked about the PTO. Mr. Kelleher said the ordinance makes it clear that the PTO is not a peddler and can sell its wares at the school. Mr. Ives noted that the ordinance is targeted at door-to-door

salesmen. Mr. Kelleher noted that he changed all references to “registrant” to “applicant.” Mr. Kelleher will provide Mr. Ives with a clean copy of the revised draft so that the attorney may review it. Mr. Ives stated that the Board can vote on the final version at its next meeting.

14. Continued Discussion on Recycling Bins: Mr. Ives stated that many residents want a second recycling bin. Mr. Ives proposed that all bins be handed out at the transfer station on Friday and Saturday. All residents are entitled to one bin. Casella has put about 3,600 bins into the Town. Casella does not want to bear the cost of additional bins. Recycling is being utilized at a rate the Town did not expect. If residents want a second bin, they will have to pay for it. The cost will be \$50. Two residents have already purchased second bins. The revenues will be put back into the Resource and Recovery coffers. Mr. Kelleher suggested that information about the program be posted on the Town website. Mr. Voccio inquired as to the policy regarding bins damaged by snowplows. Mr. Ives replied that the Town replaces them at no cost. Mr. Ives noted that second bins belong to those who purchase them.

15. 2014-15 Budget Discussion: Mr. Ives stated that he is still trying to put together all of the storm-related expenses to show the Board where the Town stands with regard to the 2014-15 budget.

16. 2015-16 Budget Discussion: Mr. Ives stated that the Town has everything except Hooker & Holcombe and the pension. The one item that was a little unexpected was the state troopers. The cost is approximately \$113,000. This number may change because it is based on officer seniority and salary and the Town may have a change in its officers.

17. Approve Bills: Mr. Ives stated that there are no bills to approve at this meeting. Going forward, he would like to approve bills every two weeks.

18. Liaison Reports: Mr. Voccio stated that he had nothing to report for the Board of Education. Mr. Voccio noted that the Capital Committee would like to see the accounting for the capital net recording projects.

19. Other Business: Joe Voccio made a motion to entertain public comment. Bob Kelleher seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

- Sandy Brodeur stated that based on what she heard at a Resource Recovery meeting last night, it might be more appropriate for residents to pay for their second recycling bin at the Town Hall rather than at the transfer station. There seems to be some confusion about the program on the part of the transfer station employees. Mr. Ives stated that he already reviewed the program with the transfer station employees, but will speak with them again.
- Lou Brodeur said the Agriculture Commission would like the Board of Selectmen to exempt agricultural products from the peddlers ordinance. The Board of Selectmen was

agreeable to the concept. Mr. Kelleher will revise the ordinance to incorporate this idea.

- Mr. Ives reported on the Board of Fire Commissioners last meeting. East Brooklyn came in with a budget of \$1,000 less. Mortlake came in with an ambulance budget of \$69,000 but it is now \$20,000. For the fire budget they asked for approximately \$5,000 more; however, they are going to receive the same amount they received last year. The capital budgets were exactly the same for both departments. East Brooklyn is looking to have a water line put back to their building.
- Mr. Voccio asked how the Town Garage's capital request is coming along. Mr. Ives would prefer not to have to buy a dump truck this year, but one of the vehicles has been very problematic. The Town has incurred some significant expenses associated with this truck. It may make sense to lease all of the Town's frontline dump trucks for 5 years, which essentially coincides with the warranty for the chassis, engine, and some of the parts. To do so would normalize costs. The Board has looked at this option in the past, but the numbers have not worked out. The Board will need to see if the numbers work out this time. The Town Garage is also looking at an 8 foot snow blower that would be put on the big Massey Ferguson tractor for use in parking lots and on cul de sacs. Bucky is looking at a plow and tractor, but may not need to ask for it this year. Mr. Ives noted that with most things, the Town can take a few weeks or a month to make plans to purchase a replacement. However, in the winter, if snow clearing equipment breaks down, the Town does not have this luxury. Mr. Voccio noted that equipment rentals are costly.

20. Executive Session to discuss Union Negotiations

Joe Voccio made a motion to close public comment and go into executive session to discuss union negotiations at 8:25 pm. Bob Kelleher seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

21. Adjourn

The Board came out of executive session at 9:35 pm. Joe Voccio made a motion to adjourn. Bob Kelleher seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Hopkins
Recording Secretary