

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
April 25, 2016
Slade Building

Members present: Daniel Galante, Chair
Michael Stauder
Patrick Girouard
Jeffrey Williams

Staff present: Raeanne Siegel, Interim Town Administrator; Lisa Wanamaker, Executive Administrative Assistant;

Others present: Shauna Larson, Martin Elowitz, Mark Kataisto, Robert Polazarski, Ron Ruston

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Dan Galante. Mr. Galante announced that the meeting was being live broadcasted on the Peg Access channel.

Open Session:

Shauna Larson approached to inquire about the steps of pressing a formal complaint against the dog personnel in the town. She stated that they have suffered a very vicious dog attack on April 9th. Have had contact with both Cheryl and Kim and also Marcel. Cheryl and Kim on numerous phone calls, swore up and down that this was the first attack this dog had been involved in. However, on April 21st, Marcel called Mr. Larson and stated that something had been bothering him and that he knew he had been at that home before and sure enough that dog had been involved in a previous attack where the victim dog had its ear ripped off and stomach ripped open. The Larson's dog had most of her ear ripped off, her jugular punctured and her hind quarters ripped open. She is recovering but at a great expense to the Larson's. However, these dog officers did not go to see the Larson's, they did not take a statement from them. In fact their written official report was that there were no witnesses to the attack. It involved Mr. Larson and my their two grandbabies who were viciously circled and nipped at for over 10 minutes while he tried to bring the girls up from the bottom of their property to the safety of their home. The dog in question is a rescue dog who is supposedly part Shephard, part Lab and part Pitbull. Mrs. Larson has visited some of the abutting neighbors, they have all had altercations with this animal. They are all deadly afraid of this animal. They don't believe this animal belongs in our neighborhood. The dog attack was on April 9th, the dog's surgery was on April 11th. Once Marcel stated that he remembered that that dog had been involved in a previous attack, he was honest, he stepped up, apologized profusely and tried to rectify his mistake. Ms. Siegel spoke with both Kim and Cheryl, she stated that when they were going through it, they were under the impression that it was the first attack. They had spoken with the dog owners and basically got the synopsis that the dog was always on a leash or in a fenced in area, sometimes with a muzzle and was complaining that the Larson's dog went into his yard. Then they spoke about how Marcel remembered another incident and never reported it. He is to go to the chief and discuss what is to be done in the future, but in the meantime, we still have this issue. Marcel was made aware of the attack by the Larson's Veterinary Clinic and was sent pictures of the dog's injuries just so there was a public record of the attack. Mrs. Larson is awaiting police reports from Gardner where Kim or Cheryl would have filed the information on record. It will be at least another 7-8 days for that report. She has requested information on the dog that was attacked prior. The people actually

ended up moving away because they were so fearful of the dog coming through the woods. The neighbors failed to pay for the surgeries. She wants that dog out. Board will discuss with Ms. Siegel and Chief Perron. Ms. Siegel asked Mrs. Larson for a copy of the police report once she receives it.

Martin Ellowitz – To address a culvert the town constructed 5 or 6 years ago on my property. It is 3 ½ feet on my property, not on town property. Before it was constructed, the water on the high side of New Templeton Rd. went under three driveways and then there were culverts down by Bob Hayes' house. No deed, no easements, no flow, no records of a prior culvert according to Mr. Ellowitz. Dan Galante stated current situation is that the headwall is on the Ellowitz property. Discussed options of how to handle the culvert and water issues. Mike Stauder asked Mr. Ellowitz to give the board time to figure out how to handle the situation.

Mr. Kataisto approached to discuss a deposit on earth removal from 1988. Need to verify conditions first. Renewal was never received in 2005, what happened to the \$100? Ms. Siegel will look into the conditions and the renewal and let BOS and Mr. Kataisto know.

DPW

Tim Kilhart, DPW Director

- Chapter 90 projects/3 yr plan Discussion on what roads will be covered under Chapter 90 and remainder of bridge funds leftover. \$125,000 listed roads; other one is \$236,164 for Old Princeton Rd/George Howard.

Motion: M. Stauder

2nd: J. Williams

To approve Chapter 90 as submitted

Vote: All in Favor

- Strap Grant – We have awarded the Strap Grant to Mass Broken Stone in the amount of \$653,455. The price of the asphalt came in much lower than predicted. Project to start July 1st. If the prices came in, you can do an amendment to the original Strap Grant. If it is contingent to the neighborhood you are working with.
- Surplus Mower – Bought a brand new mower for the cemetery and brought the old cemetery mower to the recreation field. Now the rec field's mower, the zero turn John Deere, asking the board to surplus that so we can get rid of that.

Motion: M. Stauder

2nd: J. Williams

To surplus mower

Vote: All in Favor

- WPI contract - \$600 contract to cover cost, need \$300 after July 1st for the 7 week Town Center Committee

Motion: M. Stauder

2nd: P. Girouard

To approve the contract with WPI, retroactive to April 20th

Vote: All in Favor

QRSD

Dr. Marshall and Cheryl presented a handout of budget revenues. Discussion around proposition 2 ½ override and how much Special Education is a driving force financially. Unusual increase in special education costs this year. If there was not such a huge increase in Special Ed this year, the budget would have made it, would have been tight, but would have made it.

FY'16 Budget Shortfalls

- Veteran Fire Fighter leaving - Federal law dictates that we have to pay out all of the remaining vacation days he has, and that is 14 days. The Union contract dictates that we must pay half of his remaining sick days, and that is 53. These come out to about \$9000, right now about \$6000 of that can be supported by the '16 budget between the wages with him gone and a couple of things on call time. The other \$3000, Bob said could come out of call wages or training wages, the only thing is if they have some kind of high level

calls, that amount will go down. If it can't be completely funded with the budget that they have, then they may need a reserve funds transfer but it would only be about \$1000.

- Rutland Dispatch – Hubbardston's share of the shortfall is \$24,550. It is a combination of staffing level issues and also they were counting on getting a grant to pay for the director's salary which is \$79,000 but they did not get the grant. Ms. Siegel would like to try to pay this in '16 because she does not think the budget for '17 will support it. She spoke with Chief Perron, he said he may have between \$10 and \$15,000 depending on how much vacation and sick pay he will have to pay out. Still going to have a reserve fund transfer of anywhere from \$9500 to \$14,000. M. Stauder is disappointed in the regional dispatch situation and especially that they relied on a grant to pay the director's salary. Ms. Siegel indicated that feelers have been put out to other towns to see if there is any interest in a regional dispatch.

Old Business

Pitcherville Sand & Gravel – Would like to bring gravel pit forward as a new use. Confirm availability of the building inspector. Ms. Siegel will confirm availability.

Appointments/Wage Authorizations

Motion: M. Stauder

To appoint James Bertheaume to Memorial Day Committee

Motion: M. Stauder

To temporarily appoint Audrey Brooks to be the Assistant Treasurer Collector, retroactive to April 11th.

2nd: J. Williams

Vote: All in Favor

2nd: P. Girouard

Vote: All in Favor

Budget Review

Non-union employees were brought up to their regular number of hours, just at the FY'16 pay rate. Goes throughout budget to level fund.

Restored Fire and Ambulance Service to Sunday. Where it came from: Duplicate \$5000 listed on Rutland Dispatch line. 3 people who were taking Family plan health insurance that are no longer taking those plans, that is a big savings. Reduced everyone's expenses by 5% so that is an additional savings as well. Some came from free cash.

Surplus free cash is at \$48,190. Confident with free cash being low because we are trying to incorporate best practices, one-time hit, trying to keep everyone level funded. Board agrees on both hours and restoring Sunday services.

Warrant Review

Articles 8 and 9 – still need to put in final numbers once the budget is accepted.

Senior Center and Public Safety buildings are off the warrant.

Capital Article Table – Administrative cruiser will be an Impala instead of an SUV, which will be about \$25,000.

DPW Ford F550 remove from table

Remove Fire Panel and put it in the Capital Article Table

Discussion about putting the Proposition 2 ½ Override on the warrant.

Motion: M. Stauder

To put the override on the warrant

2nd: J. Williams

Vote: 3 of 4 in Favor

1 Opposed

Town Administrator Report – See attached

Charter Cable License Renewal Negotiations will be next meeting, May 2nd.

Curtis Field Basketball Courts – bid awarded to Busy Bee

Five Year Financial Forecast – Eric Kinsherf has been awarded the contract for the 5-year Financial Forecast of both revenues and expenditures.

Senior Center/Public Safety - proposed site sign is up

Authorization of Person

Motion: M. Stauder

2nd: J. Williams

To approve the Interim Town Administrator to sign accounts payable and payroll vouchers

Vote: All in Favor

Community Compact Grant for QRSD Task Force – contract approved, need motion to make retroactive to April 11th.

Motion: M. Stauder

2nd: J. Williams

To approve retroactively to April 11th.

Vote: All in Favor

Country Hen Scholarship – one application

Town Administrator Report – brought up to publicly post the TA report once it is read at the BOS meetings.

Motion: M. Stauder

2nd: J. Williams

To adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Vote: All in Favor

**Respectfully submitted,
Tonya Martowska**