

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
APRIL 8, 2013**

Chairman Belanger called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Members present were Douglas Belanger, Thomas Buckley, Dianna Provencher and Matthew Dennison. Also present was Town Administrator Robert Reed. Selectman Wilson was absent.

Town Common Improvement Committee (TCIC) Recommendation – Historical Commission

Mr. Belanger spoke on behalf of TCIC. Historical Commission members present were J. Donald Lennerton Jr, Joseph Lennerton III, and Kathleen Wilson.

Mr. Belanger noted that HUD funds remain available for economic development purposes, as Becker College, the recipient of the funds, have given up on their attempt to make the May House property into a local visitor center. The TCIC was formed in an effort to repurpose these with a project that will benefit both the College and the Town. Being that we share ownership of the Town Common, it was felt that improvements could be made allowing for more accessibility, improvements to the leveling of grounds, lighting, landscaping and the like. The grant funds are being administered by the Town. The general consensus of the TCIC group is to make the Town Common more inviting and user friendly. The hope is to get the property in pristine condition, which will benefit both organizations. We have been cautioned on certain burials and underground water cisterns that remain. Senator Jim McGovern assures us that the repurposing will be approved at the Federal level. We must put a plan together for their consideration.

Don Lennerton noted that he is only one of committee of seven. They all need to be involved. There are regulations that must be followed; Mass Historical Commission (MHC) forms must be filed from which MHC will then contact us upon review, and we will need to consult with peers on the local Commission.

Kathleen Wilson noted that Mass General Laws protect the Town Common. Federal moneys and any other stakeholders are involved. Cultural resources may be effected. She noted that the Town Common Improvement Committee will need to contact MHC.

Don Lennerton noted their concerns at this time is that this proposal be reviewed with the full Historical Commission. Joe Lennerton noted that we can expect lots of questions. Don Lennerton asked that TCIC reps do a walk-thru viewing of the Common area with the Historical Commission. There are items buried underground, which need to be duly noted. Any topography or lighting changes will need to be reviewed and discussed between parties. Mr. Dennison had heard that the Copeland Library building would be relocated on the Common. Mr. Belanger noted that does not seem to be viable. Kathleen Wilson listed a number of issues that come into play when dealing with historical sites; she will make this information available to TCIC in writing.

Mr. Buckley felt the town residents are the stakeholders in this property. Do we need to get permission to work on the Town Common, he asked. Mr. Belanger stated yes, which is why there is an article on the upcoming town meeting warrant requesting permission to use the property per a proposed plan. Interested parties such as Bandstand Committee, Parks & Recreation Committee, Becker College and our Historical Commission will need to give input.

Don Lennerton noted where the properties are divided among the Town and Becker College, stating east of the westerly corner of Unitarian Church is the dividing line, with the western side being owned by the Town and is deemed a public park. Mr. Belanger noted that Becker College has reps on TCIC, and put up the funds to have landscape architect produce preliminary plans, and they are very optimistic that we can improve this park land for all to enjoy.

Don Lennerton stated that the Town Common is on the National Historical Register, a very prestigious honor and one that should not be taken lightly.

It was agreed that a walk-thru will be conducted, perhaps a meeting with Historical Commission, and surveyed plans be prepared for all to consider.

Town Meeting – Police Cruisers

Sgt Ken Antanavica was present to discuss request for two new police vehicles at upcoming annual town meeting. One would be a sedan and one an SUV Interceptor. Costs are higher because new models do not match up with our equipment that needs to be transferred to new vehicles. The decision to refurbish vs replacement last year did not work out so well and increased their repair costs significantly. That makes two years without vehicle replacement, so we must plan ahead now for this year.

Discussion on lease vs purchase and the cost of a vehicle vs hiring patrolman. Mr. Belanger felt we may end up buying one now and one in the fall. The Board thanked Mr. Antanavica for his presentation.

Municipal Health Insurance – MGL Chapter 32B, Sections 21-23

Mr. Belanger explained that new regulations allow for Selectmen to accept sections of MGL, which would remove collective bargaining over health insurance changes.

Ed Burns, EBS Foran, was present to explain process and alternatives available to the Town. Mr. Reed noted that Section 23 refers to State GIS program, which we are not interested in. Sections 21 and 22 would have to be followed should the Town opt into this program. Mr. Belanger noted our long history of positive labor negotiations regarding health insurance, maintaining costs or limiting increases to very low percentages. The Town even went as far as to set up an HRA (Health Reimbursement Account) to help with increased co-pays, but that alleviates subscribers pursuing for less expensive options that are available to them.

Lou/Mass Teachers Association, was present to speak to the Town maintaining the current health insurance advisory system and asked that we not adopt these General Laws but continue with union negotiations as the Town does very well with their health insurance proposals. This year a 2% increase is unheard of elsewhere.

Sgt. Paul Doray and Officer Steve Zecco, Leicester Police Dept and union reps, asked that the Town reconsider and remain with the current system, which we have all worked hard to address each year. They asked that the Board not adopt the Section 21-23 option.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to table the option to adopt MGL Chapter 32B, Sections 21-23.
Mr. Dennison seconded.

Discussion – Mr. Buckley felt this statute seems to fix something that isn't broken. Mr. Belanger noted that we hadn't received final health insurance proposal until last Thursday. Some towns are saving hundreds of thousands of dollars, but our health plan has been so good that we would not.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Mr. Reed thanked all participants and members of Health Insurance Advisory Committee; it is through their cooperation that we have been so successful here.

Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants

Mr. Reed explained that auditors advise that we set up a new Capital Stabilization Account with proceeds from Hillcrest CC lease. We will have an article to facilitate that account and transfer from the current Hillcrest CC Lease Revolving Account a sum to be determined as start-up funding; the not-to-exceed figure within that revolving fund will be reduced this year.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant – close for posting

Article 1 Town Reports	Motion made and 2 nd . UNANMOUS
Articles 2-14 Consent Calendar	Motion made and 2 nd . UNANIMOUS
Article 15 Chapter 90 funds	Motion made and 2 nd . UNANIMOUS
Article 16 Elected Officials pay	Motion made and 2 nd . UNANIMOUS
Article 17 Operating Budget	Motion made and 2 nd . UNANIMOUS
Article 18 Retired employees' health insurance	Motion made and 2 nd . UNANIMOUS
Article 19 CMRPC annual fee	Motion made 2 nd . 3-0, Ms. Provencher abstained
Article 20 Reserve Fund	Motion made and 2 nd . UNANIMOUS
Article 21 Rescind borrowing authorization	Motion made and 2 nd . UNANIMOUS
Article 22 FY'14 Capital Budget & 5-year plan	Motion made and 2 nd . UNANIMOUS

Article 23	Stormwater management obligations	Motion made and 2 nd .	UNANIMOUS
Article 24	Dam management obligations	Motion made and 2 nd .	UNANIMOUS
Article 25	Hillcrest Capital Stabilization Fund	Motion made and 2 nd .	UNANIMOUS
Article 26	Personal property driveway repair	Motion made and 2 nd .	UNANIMOUS
Article 27	Police cruisers	Motion made and 2 nd .	UNANIMOUS
Article 28	GASB 45 upgrades	Motion made and 2 nd .	UNANIMOUS
Article 29	Carey Hill Estates roadways acceptance	Motion made and 2 nd .	UNANIMOUS
Article 30	Plan of improvements to Town Common	Motion made and 2 nd .	UNANIMOUS
Article 31	Establish agricultural commission	Motion made and 2 nd .	UNANIMOUS
Article 32	Amend General Bylaws – stretch energy code	Motion made and 2 nd .	UNANIMOUS
Article 33	Amend General Bylaws – Advisory Board	Motion made and 2 nd .	UNANIMOUS
Article 34	Amend Zoning Bylaws – medical marijuana	Motion made and 2 nd .	UNANIMOUS
Article 35	Amend Zoning Bylaws – child care facilities	Motion made and 2 nd .	UNANIMOUS

Special Town Meeting Warrant – close for posting

Article 1	Supplement FY'13 operating budgets	Motion made and 2 nd .	UNANIMOUS
Article 2	Amend FY'13 Capital Budget	Motion made and 2 nd .	UNANIMOUS

Correspondence

1. Memo from Highway Supt with updated Snow & Ice deficit \$168,969 balance in arrears. FILE
2. 2011 EMPGrant will allow us to designate \$3450 toward new Reverse 911 system vs. the costs originally requested under this grant. Mr. Reed asked the Board to amend their vote regarding this change.
MOTION: Mr. Buckley moved to approve amendment to 2011 EMPGrant with MEMA.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS
3. CMRPC Region-wide Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan will allow for Hazard Mitigation Grant funding.
MOTION: Mr. Buckley moved to adopt Resolution on Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented, for the Board to execute. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS
4. InterMunicipal Agreement with Towns of Spencer & Leicester for Town Planner services for FY'14. This is a continuing arrangement for reauthorization.
MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to authorize Board to sign InterMunicipal Agreement with Spencer for Town Planner services. Mr. Dennison seconded. UNANIMOUS

Reappointments

MOTION: Mr. Dennison moved to reappoint the four members of the Board of Fire Engineers, term to expire 4/30/14, namely Robert Wilson, Donald Berube, Michael Dupuis, and Matthew Tebo.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Budget Review

Members of the Advisory Committee were present, including Bonnie Layden, David Mero, Dorothy Dudley, Mark Gabrila and Walter Hastings. Discussion included the following relative to any Prop 2½ Override proposal:

- 5-year plan must be developed and include all infrastructure improvements.
- Net School Spending is currently \$123,000 over minimum requirement.
- Salary or wage increases must be limited or non-existent.
- \$750,000 Override for three consecutive years will not be enough to make any capital improvements but will merely allow us to exist as is.
- Debt Exclusion should be considered in addition to an Override for capital projects such as borrowing for equipment.
- Reverse the trend by requesting of the townspeople a \$2 or \$3 Million Override.
- Stop using Free Cash and built up Stabilization Account funds. This was done for years but robbed by ATM vote.
- Cannot continue to develop budgets beyond our means.
- Why the inequities that continue by our proposing 1.5% increase for Town and 2.5% increase for Schools.
- We must be real and live with needs and forget what we want.
- Must provide list of what the townspeople will be getting for \$750,000 per year.

- All budgets are established 'subject to available funds'.

Late Correspondence

Request from Stuart Kravitz to hold 7th Annual Devin Kravitz Memorial 5K Road Race on August 31st, Labor Day Weekend, similar to the procedures over the past several years. The Board asked that we assure all departments are on board with this plan.

MOTION: Mr. Dennison moved to approve 5K Road Race as requested.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

One-Day Beer & Wine Permits for Becker College – three separate events at three locations on campus. Ms. LeChasseur reported all deliverables received.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve Event 1 on May 9th as requested.
Mr. Buckley seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve Event 1 on May 10th as requested.
Mr. Buckley seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve Event 2 on May 10th as requested.
Mr. Buckley seconded. UNANIMOUS

Little League Parade – invitation for Board to join in parade on April 20th at 12:00pm from Town Common.

Board Reports/New Business

Selectman Provencher:

- Founders Day Committee's next meeting will be held on April 18th. Volunteers are needed.
- Attended Worcester Regional Selectmen's Association meeting.

Selectman Dennison:

- Asked that we get moving on putting the School Administration building up for sale.

Selectman Belanger:

- Next meeting of the Selectmen will be held on April 22nd.

Executive Session

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to go into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation; no public announcements anticipated, the Board will adjourn with lack of quorum.
Mr. Dennison seconded. The Board was polled: ALL AYES

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:03pm.
The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:10pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan LeChasseur, Administrative Assistant