

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MAY 20, 2013**

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

Outdoor Business Permit – Wicked Local Dogs

Mr. Belanger noted that since we last met our building inspector has stated that the applicant looking to start a vending truck can use her home address for licensing purposes but cannot sell from that residential location. He and Mr. Reed attended Parks & Rec Committee meeting, who are supportive of the vendor utilizing Rochdale Park for setup and sales, where there is no concession stand. The Board agreed that this is a good start and should work out, as long as sales are not done at facilities where fundraising is taking place. We can amend the permit should other issues be realized.

MOTION: Mr. Dennison moved to approve Outdoor Business Permit for Carol Cooper, 71 Boyd St, Cherry Valley. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Council on Aging Appointment

Mr. Belanger noted communications between member Kathy Roberts, who has been unable to attend meetings and has not submit letter of resignation. The Chairman of Council on Aging has since declared a vacancy, as allowed per General Bylaws.

Ms. LeChasseur noted that neither applicant nor rep from COA were able to attend this evening.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to accept declaration of vacancy on Council on Aging.
Mr. Dennison seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Mr. Dennison moved to appoint Darlene Eager to Council on Aging, term to expire 6/30/15.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Capital Plan – set FY'14 Capital Budget

Selectman Dennison, as Chairman of the Capital Planning Committee, noted that they voted to assign the following capital projects to FY'14: two (2) 1-ton dump trucks for Highway, a new camera system and portable defibrillators for Police, and a security lock system for the Schools.

Mr. Belanger stated that the Highway Supt informed him that his highest priority would be to replace the heavy duty dump truck first. With pending increases to Chapter 90 Transportation funds, Mr. Dennison asked if we could purchase a new dump truck with these anticipated increases to Chapter 90 funds. Mr. Reed cautioned that we be certain this proposed Chapter 90 increase is approved by the legislature. Mr. Dennison agreed with the concept as follows: \$17,729 from insurance reimbursement, \$153,000 from Chapter 90 additional funding, and the \$19,000 balance from Free Cash. The Board agreed.

Ms. Wilson asked; If we do not receive the extra funding after we've approved the dump truck replacement, can the vote be amended at the special town meeting? Mr. Reed stated yes. Mr. Belanger felt we may be able to add projects in the Fall at the STM, when we may very well be considering an Override.

Mr. Buckley stated that he has received complaints and can see that several manhole structures on newly surfaced roads seem to be sinking, which Highway Supt felt may have been caused by out severe winter. He asked Mr. Reed to see if this can be addressed.

Common Victuallers License Application – Wicked Wings & Ice Cream

Michael Jubinville was present on his application to open new business at 15 South Main Street plaza. An opportunity arose and he is looking forward to starting another life selling his favorite foods, chicken wings and ice cream. On discussing hours of operation, Mr. Jubinville reconsidered and opted to utilize extended hours offered by the Board; he does not have to remain open but the hours would be available should he see a need. Hours were set at 6:00am – 11:00pm. He will continue with permitting process and looks forward to opening up this summer. The Board wished him the best of luck.

MOTION: Mr. Dennison moved to approve Common Victuallers License for Wicked Wings & Ice Cream, subject to completion of permitting process. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

FY'14 Budget and Override Discussions

Mr. Belanger noted there is much confusion out there relative to our proposed multi-year Proposition 2½ Override discussions. Town Counsel has issues with our plan as well. After discussion at last week's meeting of the chairs, Mr. Belanger noted the following proposal at this point in time:

- ATM session on 5/29/13 we present a level-funded FY'14 Budget
- October election ballot will pursue one-time \$1.5Million Override question and not the three-phase \$225Million Override as previously discussed.
- Put off discussions on regional dispatching pending results of Override proposal.

Ms. Wilson asked what would be funded with a \$1.5Million Override. Mr. Belanger stated the 2.5% budget increase that was proposed for this year for both School and Town departments. Ms. Wilson noted this plan will bring us back into deficit in FY'17 and FY'18. Mr. Belanger felt if we ask for too much it could be disapproved. Ms. Wilson felt we cannot rebuild services with this latest proposal. We need to be able to show the townspeople that an Override proposal can work to get the Town what it needs to function at level services. Mr. Belanger stated that the Dept of Revenue and our Town Counsel are not in favor of our original 3-year Override proposal. Ms. Wilson was not aware of the meeting last week and is sorry that she did not get a chance to speak on this matter. Mr. Buckley felt it may be a simpler plan for the townspeople to comprehend. He felt a handout will be needed from which townspeople can learn what is required and how an Override process works.

Layout Hearing – Carey Hill Estates

Attorney George Kiritsky was present on behalf of his client, Clealand Blair, the developer. He noted a long history with this development, with their first request to accept roadways issued in 2001, and presented a 2-page letter with several attachments in regards to this matter. They had come to an Agreement with the Town last winter to resolve any remaining issues at the site and the Town would place an article on the next available town meeting warrant, which is where we are at now.

Discussion between parties on what was asked of who, when items were expected to be completed, and whether or not the final work has been accomplished by the developer. Town Planner Michelle Buck was present and stated that she did receive a call at 4:30pm today that the catch basins had been cleaned while the street sweeper was on its way. The Agreement called for this work to be completed by December 31, 2012. There are funds available in escrow account, per Agreement, to complete any items on the Town engineer's list that the developer did not perform in a timely manner. This project has been on her books since 1998 and has been less than perfect to say the least. She noted that they will have twenty-one (21) days from the date of Town Counsel's notice to the developer that they may be in default of the Agreement relative to completion of deliverables. A list from Highway Superintendent may have items that would not fall under escrow Agreement for completion by the Town. Mr. Blair stated that he has \$10,000 on hold with the Town and has no plans to walk away from that. He claimed all work was completed.

Mr. Reed suggested we accept layout subject to completion of deliverable items no later than May 28th. Mr. Dennison asked Mr. Reed to get specifics from Highway Supt so we can work toward completion of items.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to accept roadways within Carey Hill Estates subject to completion by May 28th of all outstanding matters, including sink holes, driveway approaches, catch basin cleaning and street sweeping. Mr. Buckley seconded. UNANIMOUS

Override Discussions (continued)

Mr. Belanger reported on discussions among chairs of a special election on October 1st. We will need a special town meeting at the end of October when Free Cash has been certified; at that time we can adjust FY'14 Budgets should an Override budget be approved at the STM & Election box. Mr. Buckley asked that we obtain from the Accountant an early estimate on Free Cash. Mr. Reed is happy to help out if the Board wants particular budget scenarios laid out. Mr. Buckley would like to see a \$1Million Override proposal.

Bonnie Layden, Advisory Board, felt the original discussion of a \$2.5Million Override looked to help for several years; she would be agreeable to a minimum of \$2.25Million Override as she does not want to be back here in three years discussing these same problems.

Mr. Reed urged that there needs to be a plan developed as to an Override Budget and a Non-Override Budget including what information is available to support each. He will have a handout available next week for the townspeople, general information about how a Proposition 2½ Override would work, with the process outlined.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to recommend Article 17 Operating Budget at level funding for FY'14. Ms. Wilson seconded. UNANIMOUS

Waite Pond

There was some confusion as to who would be contacting abutters or the association to see if they are ready to move toward forming a water district and taking the dam by eminent domain. Mr. Reed had wanted to put the dam into the property sale to be held at the end of June, but he feels it is too late now. Selectmen Dennison and Buckley will meet with Waite Pond representatives.

Regional Dispatching

Mr. Belanger felt we must table at this time the proposal to join with Worcester in regional dispatching. He noted the confusion among townspeople, employees, and committee members, many feeling that if we approve regional dispatching than we will not have to pursue a Proposition 2½ Override. He did not want to jeopardize the Override plan and felt if we have regional dispatching in the forefront that just might happen. He recommended we wait until results of Override steps to address regional dispatching plans.

Ms. Wilson felt she might be the only one who is in favor of the regional dispatching, but the Board rules. She felt strongly that the quality of the dispatching services in Leicester needs improvement; one person cannot handle the number of and depth of the calls that come in to the station in this day and age. And the Police Chief has already implemented restrictions on office hours for service at the police station; there will be no more 24/7 office hours.

MOTION: Ms. Wilson moved to establish a group representing Fire, Police and Highway to set policy on communications. No 2nd was offered. Motion dies.

Mr. Dennison wanted time to think on it. They are desperate for help down there. He was quite impressed with the work they do, both dispatchers and officers and all involved. He would certainly consider a group to work on communications issues, but would need more information.

Correspondence

1. Request for appointment of Christine Swanson to Arts Council, who would be able to come off ex-officio status and begin first 3-year term.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to appoint Christine Swanson to Arts Council, term to expire 6/30/16. Mr. Buckley seconded. UNANIMOUS

2. Request for appointment of Kurt Parliment to Arts Council, who would be able to serve his second 3-year term.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to appoint Kurt Parliment to Arts Council, term to expire 1/13/16.
Mr. Buckley seconded. UNANIMOUS

3. Memo from Council on Aging reporting \$100 donation from local resident to go toward repair or replacement of certain items. Ms. Wilson asked that we follow-up on another \$500 donation she had heard of.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to accept donation as noted.
Mr. Dennison seconded. UNANIMOUS

4. Letter from Town of Auburn reporting their completion of boundary markings, some involving Leicester boundaries. A copy of the report was included. Ms. Wilson inquired as to the Town of Spencer. Mr. LeChasseur noted that was done in 2012. FILE

5. Letter from Commonwealth of Mass seeking office space for lease. FILE

6. Notice from DHCD of our 2010 CDBG Grant closeout. FILE

Signatures

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to ratify signed Annual Town Meeting reconvened session Warrant.
Mr. Dennison seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve Annual Town Election Warrant, hours set at 12:00pm-8:00pm, to be held June 11th. Mr. Dennison seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Ms. Wilson moved to approve and the Board execute Special State Election Warrant for June 25, 2013. Mr. Buckley seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Ms. Wilson moved to authorize Town Administrator to execute Amendment 4 to contract with STG Consulting Inc for HUD Grant and Drawdown #4 to be executed by Treasurer.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOU - Solterra LLC - purchase of solar electricity - Mr. Reed reported Town Counsel being uncomfortable with some of the agreement language. The Board agreed to table this item. PENDING

Town Administrator's Report

- He should have agreement ready for the Board's next meeting on Reverse 911 services with CodeRed. A grant from EMPC and Police Dept funds budgeted at recent special town meeting will pay costs this year.
- WRTA contract for senior center services, to be signed by Town Administrator.

MOTION: Mr. Dennison moved to authorize Town Administrator to execute WRTA Agreement with Town.
Mr. Buckley seconded. UNANIMOUS

Board Reports/New Business

Selectman Dennison:

- Expressed concern for the Oklahoma areas affected by the recent tornadoes and the people who lost so much.
- Memorial Day Parade was awesome!

Selectman Provencher:

- She too is heart sick over the devastating storms affecting so many.
- We should be proud of the job done by the Memorial Day Parade Committee; a wonderful annual event.

Selectman Buckley:

- Asked if residential customers will benefit from solar energy savings the Town is planning on. Mr. Reed will speak to him in more detail outside of the meeting, but noted aggregations are different than ours would be.

Selectman Wilson:

- High School seniors graduated - best wishes to all.
- Founders Day dance and toll booth helped toward fundraising. June 1st will be the reenactment and skirmish on the Common. They need more floats and bands for the parade, food vendors for the Common, and fireworks contract is in place.

Selectman Belanger:

- Congratulated all on another successful Memorial Day celebration. He recommended to those members who have not attended before to get involved in the re-dedication of the Veterans Squares, which takes place on Sunday the week before the holiday. It is a very moving tribute. He salutes the organizations involved.

Executive Session

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and consider real property issue; no public announcements anticipated, the Board will adjourn with lack of quorum.

Ms. Wilson seconded. The Board was polled: ALL AYES

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:58pm.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:15pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan LeChasseur,
Administrative Assistant