

Minutes, August 26, 2013  
Leicester Board of Selectmen

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Members in attendance were Chair Sandra Wilson, Dianna Provencher, Matthew Dennison and Douglas Belanger. Also in attendance was Town Administrator Robert Reed.

Cable Advisory Committee – Contract renewal

Ms. Sharon Richford, Chair of the Cable Advisory Committee, informed the Board that negotiations with Charter have been completed and that her Committee recommends approval of the negotiated contract, a draft of which had been previously emailed to the Board. She passed out sheets, dated August 26, 2013, listing the significant changes in the terms of the contract, the free basics only cable drops and the INET locations. After some discussion Board members commended Ms. Richford and her Committee for the work they had done in negotiating the new cable television contract.

MOTION – Mr. Belanger moved that the Selectmen approve the cable television contract with Charter as negotiated by the Cable Advisory Committee. Ms. Provencher seconded. The vote was unanimous.

EMPG Grant - MEMA

Mr. Reed explained that the Town has the contract for the 2012 Emergency Management Planning Grant from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$2,790. The funds will be used by the Emergency Management Director for the purchase of various emergency management equipment and supplies. Mr. Reed asked for the Board's approval of the contract to be signed by the Chair.

MOTION – Ms. Provencher moved that the Board approve the contract for 2012 EMPG grant funds to be signed by the Chair. Mr. Dennison seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Chartwells for Becker College – 1 day beer and wine license – 3 requests

Ms. Wilson read the request from Mr. Robert Wilder, Director of Dining Services for Chartwells, for three one day beer and wine licenses to be issued to Becker College for three separate events to be held. Date and times are: September 20<sup>th</sup>, 6PM – 9PM. September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:30PM – 3:30PM. September 21<sup>st</sup>, 7PM – 9:30PM. All events were to be held in a tent in the common area on the Becker campus. The events are to be part of Becker's alumni weekend.

Mr. Reed explained that the provisions of the special one day beer and wine license policy have been met.

MOTION – Ms. Provencher moved that the three special one day beer and wine licenses be granted. Mr. Dennison seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Proposition 2 ½ override – FY' 14 budget

The Board discussed the allocation of the \$99,505. which represents the 2% increase which would be added to municipal budgets should the \$1.5 million override be successful. \$50,000. was to be added to the Police department, \$20,000. to the Fire Department, \$15,000. to the Library budget, \$6,000. to the Council on aging budget with \$8,505. remaining available for use.

A revised budget sheet was distributed to the Board incorporating into FY '14 municipal budgets the department supplemental transfers made at the May 7, 2013 special town meeting into end of year FY '13 budgets. This sheet was intended to show the new budget base for FY '14 and to help avoid additional end of year transfers at future town meetings. Mr. Reed pointed out that not only is the base to be used for the 2% increase (should the override pass) \$197,310. greater, but even with this increased base there has been no discussion of wage increases on the municipal side for Fy '14.

Ms. Wilson stated that the additional \$15,000. in Library monies were to be used in combination with school funds to pay for a Children's librarian, but nothing had been submitted or agreed to in writing. Mr. Reed said that we should see what the school offer is before committing the funds. Mr. Belanger said that allocation of these funds occurred at a meeting which he was unable to attend and he felt that the Board should remain flexible with the commitment of the funds, particularly since we had nothing in writing about an agreement on a Children's librarian.

MOTION – Mr. Belanger moved that \$50,000. of the additional funds go to the Police Dept., \$20,000. to the Fire Dept., and \$6,000. to the Council on Aging and pending an agreement with the schools the Selectmen should remain flexible on the remainder of the funds. Ms. Provencher seconded. The vote was unanimous.

There was discussion about how departments would use the voted funds plus additional funds that were added to the municipal base through the special town meeting transfers. For example, the Police Department would receive an additional \$34,000. and the Fire Dept. would receive an additional \$18,350. Mr. Reed said that he would contact these department heads for this information.

Mr. Belanger explained that while the future of regional dispatch with the City of Worcester was less and less certain there remained the possibility of regional dispatch with other communities and while it would not help the Town financially in FY '14 the Board should keep regional dispatch on the table should the override fail.

#### Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Reed reported that the Community Development Block Grant application with Charlton tied with two other communities for second place and DHCD used the Community Wide Needs Score as the tie breaker, so the other two towns were funded and Leicester/Charlton was not. A letter requesting the use of DHCD reserve funds in the amount of \$549,124. was submitted and this has been supported by the legislators of both communities. This amount would fund a scaled back grant request, but would still fund the two priorities of Leicester and Charlton; ADA improvements and housing rehab. Presently there was no way of knowing when a decision would be made by DHCD on the use of reserve funds.

A request was made to Fuss and O'Neil, the Town's engineers on Waite Pond, to do some preliminary work on the pond (wetlands delineation and surveying) in order to put

the town in a position to request another extension on its Phase II requirements at the pond. This work might also help a town request for a variance or waiver from the Phase II requirements if the town produces a repair plan. This plan might also put the town in a position to apply for funding under the new grant program which favors “shovel ready” projects.

The Town is waiting to hear from its legislators on their support for a request submitted to the Board to request special legislation to allow operating costs to be included in a Prop 2 ½ debt exclusion question.

Mr. Reed had spoken with the Administrator of the Town of Spencer, Mr. Adam Gaudette, about applying for technical funds through the regional planning agency, CMRPC, to conduct a study of a regional dispatch arrangement with Spencer and possibly other communities. The Board supported this study in concept and Mr. Reed will get additional information on cost and timing.

The Board then discussed going into executive session and Mr. Belanger asked whether there would be an announcement to the press and public after executive session. After some discussion it was agreed that there might be an announcement depending on what action the Board took in executive session.

MOTION – Ms. Provencher moved that the Board go into executive session under MGL Chapter 30A Section 21 (a) 3. Ms. Wilson polled the Board, Mr. Belanger – yes, Mr. Dennison – yes, Ms. Provencher – yes, Ms. Wilson – yes. The time was 7:55 PM.

The Board returned to open session and Ms. Wilson stated that the Board had agreed on the provisions of a contract to submit to Mr. Kevin Mizikar.

Mr. Belanger moved to adjourn. Ms. Provencher seconded. The vote was unanimous. The time was 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert T. Reed