

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2018 AT 6:30PM
TOWN HALL, ROOM 3**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chairman Brooks called the meeting to order at 6:36pm. Chairman Harry Brooks, Vice-Chair Dianna Provencher, 2nd Vice-Chair Sandra Wilson, Selectman Douglas Belanger, Selectman Brian Green, Town Administrator David Genereux, Assistant to the Town Administrator Kristen Forsberg and Student Liaisons Alyssa Pupillo and Robert Kemp were in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public provided comment

1. SCHEDULED

a. 6:30pm – Library Renovation & Expansion Project Change Order Discussion

Mr. Genereux discussed the process for approving change orders for the Library project and provided an update on the financials which he is managing. Rob Para, OPM for the project, noted the General Contractor DA Sullivan is highly recommended and that he along with the architect Charlie Van Voorhis look at all proposals and change orders through their bi-weekly meetings. Alternates and credits are reviewed to mitigate change orders whenever possible. The project was bid at \$6.6 million with \$6.8 budgeted. It is 27% complete at this time. The project is a few weeks beyond the early schedule but in line for occupancy in December. All funds are in an interest-bearing account and will be spent in the following order: State grant, private donations, Town funds then the anonymous \$2M donation. The Board asked Mr. Genereux to draft a change order policy and bring it back to the Board for review.

b. 6:45pm – Municipal Energy Aggregation – Good Energy

Mr. Genereux noted the Town Meeting previously voted to allow for municipal electricity aggregation for residents. The vendor selected at that time did not work out and the project has remained dormant since. Mr. Genereux reached out to John O'Rourke from Good Energy which does municipal aggregation in five states. Mr. O'Rourke noted once the Town opts in, there would be a competitive bid process and the electricity rate will be lower than what Ngrid offers. All residents are automatically enrolled but can opt out if they choose without penalty. There is no out of pocket cost for the municipality and residents enjoy lower prices, long term stable prices and more renewable energy options. Put simply, this is a bulk electricity buying situation. The bills and service will still come from Ngrid; the only change on the bill is the name of the electricity supplier. Good Energy has over 200 successful and active aggregates serving 2.5M residents with a total savings through December of 2017 of \$175M. Good Energy does significant marketing to residents including public meetings prior to the start of this program and they can opt out at any time. A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Green to authorize the Town Administrator to move forward with electricity aggregation through Good Energy and have Counsel review the legal docs ahead of time. The motion carried unanimously.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Student Liaison Reports

Alyssa Pupillo noted there will be a jump rope for heart fundraiser at the Primary school from February 12-16. Kindergarten registration is also February 12-16. Rob Kemp said two Middle School teachers and students are working on a Star Wars short film. The class of 2019 at LHS are putting on a prom fashion show. Tickets are \$5 and proceeds go to the class of 2019.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Resignations

i. Karen Durant – EMT Basic

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to accept with regret the resignation of Karen Durant from the position of EMT Basic and to send a letter of thanks. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Appointments

i. Council on Aging – Lucille Jacques

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Belanger to appoint Lucille Jacques to the Council on Aging. The motion carried unanimously.

ii. Full Time Police Officers (2)

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to conditionally appoint the first candidate on the list, Matthew Soojian, to the position of full time Police Officer. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to conditionally appoint the second candidate on the list (out of the tie), Charles Laperle, to the position of full time Police Officer. The motion carried unanimously.

c. 2018 Annual License Renewals

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the 2018 license renewals as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Disposal of Obsolete/Surplus Supplies – Highway Department

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to declare the list of Highway Department items as surplus and to allow the Town Administrator and Highway Superintendent to determine the appropriate method of disposal. The motion carried unanimously.

e. Contract – Complete Streets Program – Howard Stein Hudson

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to authorize the Chair to sign a contract with Howard Stein Hudson to develop the prioritization plan for the Complete Streets program. The motion was amended by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract. The motion carried unanimously.

f. Town Counsel Selection

The Board discussed three proposals for Town Counsel services provided by Mirick O'Connell (\$190/hour), Petrini & Associates (\$195/hour) and Louison, Costello, Condon & Pfaff (\$175/hour). The Board expressed interest in having one firm provide all legal services to the Town now that Joe Cove has retired. Mr. Genereux noted Mirick O'Connell has provided Town Labor Counsel services to the Town for 20 years and Petrini & Associates have been filling in since Mr. Cove retired. Mr. Genereux added he worked with Louison Costello in Uxbridge for a number of years. Mr. Genereux stated he believes all firms are well experienced and can do that job but recommended Louison and Costello based on price and the fact that they alone also offer tax title services. The Board discussed the experience the Town has had with Mirick O'Connell and Petrini & Associates and expressed comfort with Petrini & Associates already having had experience in Town on the regular counsel side. Mr. Green stated a preference for Louison and Costello based on David's experience with the firm and their price. A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to select Petrini & Associates to provide Town Counsel services. The motion carried 4:1 with Mr. Green casting the opposing vote.

g. Tax Lien Sale Process Discussion

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Green to authorize the Town Administrator to use tax lien sales to sell the liens to properties in tax default and regain past owed taxes for the Town. The motion carried unanimously.

h. Fire & EMS Headquarters Fence

The item was passed over.

4. DISCUSSION/OLD BUSINESS

a. February Meeting Dates

The Board decided to meet on Saturday, February 10th prior to the budget meeting then on February 26th.

b. Remote Meeting Participation Policy

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the Remote Meeting Participation Policy. The motion carried 3:2 with Mr. Belanger and Mr. Brooks casting the opposing votes.

c. Town Charter Discussion

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Brooks to start a Town Committee to create a Charter. The motion was amended by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Brooks to start a Town Government Study Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The Town Administrator presented highlights from his written report.

6. MINUTES

a. December 4, 2017

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the minutes of December 4, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

b. December 18, 2017

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the minutes of December 18, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

7. SELECT BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Belanger thanked the Police Department for their work addressing the recent car break-ins.

Ms. Wilson thanked the recycling volunteers for being out over the holidays and in the cold. Ms. Wilson added that Ruth Kaminiski made the right call to not be open this past Saturday due to the cold as it would have broken the rest of the equipment.

8. FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

- LED Streetlights & extra streetlights stored at the Highway Department (see what is usable)

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher at 9:13pm. The motion carried unanimously.