

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
March 17, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. Members present were Sandra Wilson, Thomas Buckley, Dianna Provencher, Matthew Dennison, and Douglas Belanger. Also present was Town Administrator Kevin Mizikar.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Wilson noted there were no members of the public present.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Wilson read a letter from the Massachusetts Federation of Business and Professional Women requesting a proclamation be issued by the Board declaring equal pay day. Mr. Dennison moved to prepare and sign the proclamation as presented. Ms. Provencher second. All in Favor.

Ms. Wilson read a memo from Highway Superintendent Wood providing the details on the current deficit of approximately \$120,000 in the Snow & Ice Account.

Mr. Belanger commented on the challenges and additional expenses that will be faced this spring from a road condition and maintenance standpoint.

Mr. Buckley commented that the Highway Department has been diligent in addressing significant areas of deterioration.

Mr. Mizikar stated that he was pleased with the efforts of the Highway Superintendent in keeping the costs to what they are. This is over 26% less than was spent last year.

Ms. Wilson requested a letter be sent to the entire Department on behalf of the Board commending their efforts.

**NEW BUSINESS
APPOINTMENTS**

Economic Development Committee – Carol Pappas - Mr. Belanger made a motion to have Ms. Pappas fill open at large seat through June 30, 2014. Mr. Dennison second. All in Favor.

Council on Aging – June Stephens – Ms. Wilson noted that Ms. Stephens is application is supported by the COA Chairman Moore. Ms. Provencher moved the appointment filling the vacant seat through 2016. Mr. Buckley second. All in favor.

**Request for use of Town Roadway and Property – 8th Annual Devin Kravitz Memorial
5K**

Janet Kravitz provided a description of the route and plans for the day of the event, and stated that the event will be officially recognized by the American Heart Association.

Mr. Belanger noted the amazing dedication of the Kravitz family to work through their tragedy and promote the education of this disease.

Mr. Belanger offered a motion to permit the use of Town property and roadways. Ms. Provencher second. All in Favor.

Request for use of Town Property – Tumbledown LLC

Ms. Wilson explained a production company requested the use of the recycling center for a film shoot and a standard site agreement was included in the Board binders. Mr. Mizikar requested the Board Authorize him to negotiate and sign the agreement.

Ms. Provencher offered a motion to authorize the TA to negotiate and sign the agreement. Mr. Belanger second. All in Favor.

Accept Donation – Police Department – McKenna Insurance

Ms. Wilson read a letter from Police Chief Hurley regarding the donation.

Ms. Provencher offered a motion to accept. Mr. Dennison second.

Mr. Belanger requested a letter of thanks be sent and that request was echoed by Mr. Belanger. Ms. Wilson read a list of other donations that McKenna Insurance has made to community organizations.

All in Favor.

Accept Donation – Senior Center - Multiple

For those on behalf of Jackie Johnson, Ms. Provencher offered a motion to accept. Mr. Dennison second. All in Favor.

For the donation by Frank Buffone Jr for general programs. Mr. Buckley offered a motion to accept, Mr. Dennison second. All in Favor.

Request of Board of Health to Dispose of Property

Ms. Wilson explained the non-working Dell Computer Monitor will be recycled. Ms. Provencher offered a motion to approve. Mr. Buckley second. All in Favor.

Changes to Several Town Policies

Mr. Mizikar provided the Board with options as to how to approve the changes to the policies and their consolidation into a single document. The Board decided to have the TA produce a clean version of the document incorporating any changes that Board Members have individually addressed with Mr. Mizikar. Approval will be considered at the next Board Meeting.

Establish Energy Study Advisory Committee

Ms. Wilson read the background and charge of the Committee as presented to the Board. Ms. Provencher offered a motion to establish the Committee as recommended by the TA. Mr. Buckley second. All in Favor.

Reserve Fund Transfer Request – Ambulance – ALS Equipment

This item was passed over after Ms. Wilson explained that the equipment will be purchased using existing Ambulance Funds and their budget will be adjusted at the Special Town Meeting in May.

DISCUSSION/OLD BUSINESS

FY2015 Budget

Mr. Mizikar provided the Board with an update on the State Senate's proposal for local aid which would bring the Town an additional \$42,000 in funding. He stated that the Governor's numbers will continue to be used for the purposes of preparing the FY15 budget.

Ms. Wilson reminded the Board of the meeting Wednesday March 19th with the Finance Advisory Committee and School Board for the presentation of the FY15 Budget.

Mr. Belanger commented on his attendance at the School Budget presentation last week. He expressed that they did a great job and the Town seems to be in a great position where everyone is comfortable with what has been presented. Mr. Buckley commented that this is refreshing.

9 Water Street - Structural Engineering Report

Ms. Wilson provided a summary of the report that was included in the Board's binders stating that the building as it stands does not seem structurally sound for a Fire Station.

Mr. Belanger noted that regardless of whether the Town pursued the use or improvement of the site, something would have to be done with the building.

Ms. Wilson stated that since it was the first mill in Town, and given its age and significance, if it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places it would be eligible for Federal funding for improvements.

Mr. Dennison questioned whether that designation would impact the future use of the site. Ms. Wilson stated that there would be conditions placed on the building if rehabbed with Federal funds.

Mr. Belanger asked the TA to provide the Board with a list of pros and cons for having the building designated. Mr. Buckley said the Town may get money, but if that is a long way off or makes it much more difficult, than it may not be worth it.

Annual Town Meeting & Special Town Meeting Warrants

Ms. Wilson stated that there are six articles for the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Mizikar summarized each article.

Mr. Dennison further explained the article that is proposed for professional support related to the planned improvements at the Worcester Regional Airport.

Ms. Wilson asked if the funds will be spent prior to 7/1? Mr. Mizikar explained that the funds are needed prior to 7/1 but he did not feel that all funds would be expended prior to that date.

Mr. Belanger supported the article and commented that the Town is not trying to block the project, rather have someone at the table in support of our interests.

Mr. Buckley expressed that he was in favor of putting this support in place given the proposed project.

Ms. Wilson asked the Board if there were any other articles that the members wanted to offer. There were none offered.

Ms. Wilson moved the list of 30 articles for the Annual Town Meeting. She explained that the first five were standard and routine and that article six related to the Founders Day committee may be removed.

Mr. Mizikar went into details on articles 19 – 23. Mr. Dennison summarized the schools request to fund a facility needs study through article 24. He stated that that goal is to determine how to best utilize the existing facilities. This may include eliminating one building and making improvements to others.

Mr. Mizikar then went over the use of Free Cash that is currently proposed.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Mizikar highlighted activities that were provided to the Board through his written report.

BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Buckley stated he wished Ruth Kaminski a quick recovery, and thanked her for all the work that she does for the Town.

Ms. Provencher wished Ruth Kaminski a speedy recovery. She also read a press release related to meals being prepared by the Christ Church. Mr. Belanger explained the details of that project. Ms. Provencher also discussed the CMRPC quarterly meeting topic on regionalization including Towns partnering on the purchase of a bucket truck. She mentioned the Town of Leicester's participation in several of these initiatives.

Mr. Dennison wished Ruth Kaminski the best in her recovery.

Mr. Belanger wished Ruth Kaminski the best in her recovery. He commended the High School students that put on the play, Peter Panic. He said it was ready for Broadway.

Ms. Wilson extended her best wishes and speedy recovery to Ruth Kaminski. She also attended Peter Panic and explained the plot, and noted that lead role was played by a freshman who has a great career ahead of her.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Buckley moved to go into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A Section 21a #3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation for the matters of TOL v. Leicester Planning Board & Paul D. Schold, Trustee of SS Realty Trust and Litigation Strategy – Lombardozzi v. Town of Leicester & HRD, and strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Highway, Patrolman, Dispatchers, Sergeants, and Fire Employee unions. The Board will reconvene in Open Session only for the purpose of adjournment.

Second by Ms. Provencher

Ms. Wilson stated she declared that to discuss these matters in open session would compromise the position of the Town.

VOTE BY ROLL CALL – All in favor.

The Board reconvened in open session.

Mr. Buckley offered a motion for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Belanger. All in favor at 8:40PM.