

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
JUNE 24, 2013**

Chairman Belanger called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Members present were Douglas Belanger, Sandra Wilson, Thomas Buckley, Dianna Provencher and Matthew Dennison. The Town Administrator was not present.

Correspondence

1. Letter of resignation from EMS employee Jason Wilson.

MOTION: Mr. Dennison moved to accept with regret, with letter of thanks sent for timed served.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Executive Session

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to go into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, Sections 21(a)3 contract negotiations and 21(a)6 real property matters.
Mr. Dennison seconded. The Board was polled: ALL AYES

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:06pm.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:28pm.

Announcements:

- Town has signed collective bargaining agreements with both unions, Local 168 and Local 168A, one year contracts through 6/30/13.
- Town has set minimum bid for sale of 1078 Main Street at \$150,000.

Reorganization of Board of Selectmen – Mr. Belanger thanked his colleagues for entrusting the chairmanship to him, for the cooperation from fellow chairs on the finance team, our budget deliberations are going very well of late. We seem to have a map to guide us and is thankful for the improved communications among groups.

MOTION: Mr. Belanger nominated Sandra Wilson as Chair. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: Mr. Belanger nominated Thomas Buckley as Vice Chair. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: Mr. Belanger nominated Dianna Provencher as 2nd Vice Chair. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

Chairman Wilson presided over the meeting hence forth.

Pole Hearings (2) – Verizon

Green Street – Verizon rep explained that there needs to be a stub-pole to secure the main pole across the street.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve new pole location as presented.
Mr. Dennison seconded. UNANIMOUS

Rawson Street – Verizon rep explained that there needs to be a pole relocated to allow wider driveway entrance for handicapped resident.

MOTION: Mr. Buckley moved to approve pole relocation as presented.
Mr. Dennison seconded. UNANIMOUS

Highway Supt. Tom Wood was present and told the Board of his concerns that utility companies are not removing the old poles; there are many places where double poles remain. Mr. Dennison asked what the timeframe is when old poles will be removed. Verizon rep stated that there are more utilities with equipment on poles, so more companies to be involved in relocating their equipment. Chairman Wilson asked that Verizon

provide us with contact information in this regard, and that we receive a listing of where these double-poles are located. Mr. Belanger recommended that we make this part of our pole hearing process and require utility companies to determine when old poles will be removed prior to approval of their requests.

Highway Department – Superintendent Thomas Wood

Appointment of Mechanic – Mr. Wood reported that his interview group, made up of local highway supervisors, interviewed six of the ten applicants and any Leicester residents. Their recommendation lists three individuals to be hired in order of #1, #2 and #3. Their unanimous recommendation is to hire Brian Knott of Whittemore Street in Leicester, who happens to hold an air-brake endorsement, something the department will benefit from.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve hiring of Brian Knott as Highway Mechanic, subject to all hiring policies and procedures. Mr. Belanger seconded. UNANIMOUS

Intersection of Baldwin & River Streets – Mr. Wood reported concern with visibility issues. He has met with property owners who understood the safety concerns and offered to allow the Town to trim the limbs of the big pines from ground level up to about 10' high, therefore allowing better line of vision.

MOTION: Mr. Belanger moved to allow Highway Department to trim trees on this private property, as noted. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Materials Bids Award – Mr. Wood noted there was a tie bid in one category. It was recommended that he determine the distance from Highway barn to vendor, which was slightly less for one company, which allowed him to realize a slight savings from pick-up of products. He recommends award per list in hands of Selectmen.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to award bids to qualified vendors per recommendations of Highway Supt as listed. Mr. Buckley seconded. UNANIMOUS

Chapter 90 Funds – recommended Chapter 90 roadways for grinding and paving this summer are listed for the Board's approval.

Mr. Wood noted it is very difficult of late to manage road work when the State continues to hold back on issuance of Chapter 90 funds to municipalities. We should know of our allotment six months ahead of time, as we only have three months to get all the work done. The State has not helped us in this regard and some roadways may not get done at all due to lateness of these appropriations, he explained. Mr. Wood has had to scale back planned projects because the State has held back 50% of our apportionment. And the original report that would have increased some \$200,000 to Leicester resulted in our voting to allow Capital purchase of large dump truck; now those plans are on hold and he won't have the heavy duty equipment in time to plow the roads. Mr. Dennison suggested we send letter to our legislators letting them know the difficult spot they have put us in. Ms. Wilson asked, if we do not know of any increased Chapter 90 funds by October, should we instead order two smaller trucks. Mr. Wood stated that he would prefer the larger dump truck.

Mr. Buckley asked about the condition of some of the manholes on Pleasant Street and whether they would be reset. Mr. Wood stated that the structures tend to move during cold winter months, but we want them to sit lower than pavement as they currently do.

MOTION: Mr. Belanger moved to approve listing of Chapter 90 roadways scheduled for grinding or paving in FY'14. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Retiree – Mr. Wood is hoping he could keep outgoing mechanic Gary Dufries on the roster in order to utilize his fabricating and welding skills. If we were to send that work out, it would be expensive to undertake. Mr. Dufries' skills could be utilized as a retiree on a per diem basis. Mr. Belanger noted we will have to assist in process concerning retirement regulations, but is supportive of concept, which other members agreed with.

MOTION: Mr. Belanger moved to support concept of per diem hours for outgoing mechanic Gary Dufries. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

The Board asked that we forward to Mr. Dufries a letter of appreciation and congratulations on his years of service and retirement from Town employment.

FY'14 Budget Discussions

Members of School Committee in attendance:

Deborah LaBombard/Chair, Larry Spaulding/Vice Chair, Scott Francis, Mark Armington and Tyler Keenan.

Members of Advisory Committee in attendance:

Bonnie Layden/Chair, Dave Mero/Vice Chair, Walter Hastings, Dorothy Dudley, Mary Gabriela and Rick Antanavica.

Chairman Wilson reported their recent meeting of the Chairs of each group resulted in agreement for a \$1.5 Million Override proposal for FY'14, with 2% limit to budgets within a 5-year plan, through 2018.

Ms. Layden/Advisory – wants to make sure we maintain level services, including School Dept, project out 5-year plan, addressing significant issues within Town budget. They do not feel a higher Override proposal would pass town voters' approval.

Ms. Paloucci/Schools – in unity on \$1.5 Million Override with 2% budget limits increased over 5-year plan. However, it was also agreed by all parties that any new mandates or extraordinary SPED costs will be considered as well. The other participants agreed.

Ms. Belanger felt that if our legislators would provide funding with mandated programs, then that would go a long way to offset our deficit. We will certainly not deny any relief that may come our way in this regard, he wanted to make known; we don't want to restrict the ability to accept additional funding if available.

\$1.5 Million FY'14 Proposition 2½ Override proposal would cost average homeowner about \$1/day, or \$365/year.

- Residents will have to ask themselves if it is worth it to secure level services
- The years within 5-year plan where "extra funds" are available through Override, those funds will be pegged for either Stabilization Fund or Capital projects
 - Ms. Provencher asked if the \$354/year will remain on tax rolls indefinitely. Mr. Belanger stated yes, although there is a procedure in place where we could ask for an "override" if we find ourselves in receipt of additional revenues, which would allow us to reduce tax rate.
 - Mr. Buckley pointed out that we will once again need to balance the FY'14 Budget this fall at STM. He felt we have a good plan in place, however, to stop the bleeding.

MOTION: Mr. Belanger moved to establish October 1, 2013 as Special Election for Override ballot question on \$1,500,000 FY'14 proposal. Mr. Buckley seconded. UNANIMOUS

Chairman Wilson stated that we will need to create policies and a joint sub-committee for distribution of funds. The group felt continuing with the chairs and vice chairs of these groups may work best. Ms. Layden noted this is an advisory within DOR's report of Town finances. All agreed that this working group has been fabulous, with good camaraderie among peers. Ms. Paloucci agreed and felt we need to work together to find new sources of revenue.

Year-end-transfers

Request from Ms. LeChasseur/Selectmen's Office to transfer funds within Selectmen's budgets, per DOR regulations and as follows, which must also be approved by Advisory Committee:

- \$8250 from Insurance #193 Budget to Legal #111 Budget
- \$1000 from Travel #122 Budget and \$4850 from Postage #122 Budget to Street Lights #424 Budget.

MOTION: Mr. Dennison moved to approve transfer requests as submitted.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Reappointments

- MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve reappointments to various boards and committees per list in hands of Board (on file), terms as noted. Mr. Dennison seconded. UNANIMOUS
- MOTION: Mr. Dennison moved to approve appointment of James Hurley/Chief of Police as keeper of records for Police Dept, Douglas Belanger as representative on WRTA Advisory Committee, and Worcester Airport Advisory Committee, along with sitting member Dianna Provencher. Mr. Buckley seconded. UNANIMOUS
- MOTION: Mr. Dennison moved to accept long-term resignation from outgoing Director and member of Leicester Emergency Management Committee, Robert Dupuis, whose stayed on several months to train new Director, effective 6/30/13. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

The Board asked that letters of appreciation be sent to all outgoing committee members and retirees.

Correspondence (continued)

2. Notice from Sheriff's Office that they will be offering an emergency notification system to municipalities. Ms. Wilson noted that our new system under Code Red will go live on July 1st, so this information is too little too late. FILE

Late – resignation from Advisory Committee member David Connolly, effective immediately.

MOTION: Mr. Dennison moved to accept resignation with regret, with letter of thanks for time served. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Mr. Dennison moved to accept recommendation to remove Bryce Giggey from Advisory Committee due to frequent absences. Mr. Buckley seconded. UNANIMOUS

Board of Health – 1-year Memorandum of Agreement with City of Worcester for regional health services, term to expire 6/30/14. Chris Montiverdi, Chairman, noted that the annual cost to Leicester has been reduced and the in-house hours of service has been reduced from 40 to 25hr/week. The City will now sub-contract for critical food inspection issues.

MOTION: Mr. Belanger moved to approve Memorandum of Agreement between City and Town as presented. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Correspondence (continued)

3. Memo from Council on Aging regarding \$5000 grant award from Greater Worcester Community Foundation to benefit senior center.

MOTION: Mr. Dennison moved to accept grand funding as noted, with thanks to Director for application. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

4. Notice from National Grid regarding planned power outages in Leicester on June 26th, roadways named being Meg Place, Sabrina Circle and Wendy Place. FILE

5. Invitation from Bill Moore regarding Project Hope upcoming fundraiser at local comedy club on August 11th. FILE

Signatures

- Contract for auctioneer services on tax title property sale, specifically 81 Waite St. The Town sought quotes from local vendors, with only one received, that being from The Zekos Group at a 10% commission.

MOTION: Mr. Buckley moved to award auctioneer services to The Zekos Group, authorizing the Chairman to execute contract. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Mr. Dennison moved to appoint Treasurer/Collector Deborah Kristoff as custodian to manage properties within auction. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Dennison moved to approve 2/4/13, 4/8/13, 5/7/13 and 5/20/13 Regular Session minutes.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Mr. Belanger moved to approve 4/8/13, 4/22/13, 5/20/13 and 6/3/13 Executive Session minutes.
Ms. Provencher seconded. 4-0, Mr. Dennison abstained.

Board Reports/New Business

Selectman Belanger:

- Congratulations to Sandy Wilson and Dianna Provencher and all involved in the recent Founders Day celebration. It was all wonderful!
- Cherry Valley Legion post will be hosting upcoming fundraiser to help restore old fire truck. More info to follow.
- Get well wishes to local resident Gina Pingeton, who was involved in a serious car accident recently.
- Castle Restaurant will be hosting a going away party for local resident and correspondent Betty Lilyestrom. He asked that we issue a certificate of appreciation for all she did for this community. The Board agreed.

Selectman Dennison:

- Founders Day was a great event, and the fireworks were excellent!
- Wished Mrs. Pingeton a speedy recovery.
- Attended recent honor society ceremony at Middle School; congratulations to all. It was an amazing display of how well students can perform, thanking all for their involvement. He hopes his son will some day be involved in this program.

Selectman Provencher:

- Distributed seeds along parade route for children to plant and hopefully submit entries at the Harvest Fair in September.

Selectman Buckley:

- Attended recent Waite Pond meeting with abutters and Selectman Dennison, as liaisons, which was a good meeting. Local dam guru Dick Johnston will continue to provide us his expertise but the Waite Pond Task Force's charge has been completed and they want to disband.

Selectman Wilson:

- Thanked both Barbara and Mike Knox, who did the yeoman's work for the bulk of the Founders Day festivities. We had many advisors and several nay-sayers but she too felt all went well. They did raise enough funds to pay all related costs. They have been asked if another one will be held, which is under consideration.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to adjourn. Mr. Buckley seconded. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan LeChasseur

Susan LeChasseur, Administrative Assistant