



**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 6:00pm
Town Hall Meeting Room**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chair Lucy Wallace in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Selectmen Ken Swanton, Alice von Loesecke, Stu Sklar and Kara McGuire Minar were in attendance as well as Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro. Executive Assistant Julie Doucet entered at 7:00pm and Town Administrator Tim Bragan entered at 8:00pm.

Capital Requests

Police Department

Chief Ed Denmark's recurring capital request is for replacement of one fleet vehicle which will be an F-150 police responder vehicle.

Department of Public Works

Director Tim Kilhart requests include miscellaneous equipment, light dump truck, catch basin truck with boom crane, Ayer Road design & engineering and emergency generator for wells. They discussed cost options for the catch basin truck. The board asked for historical cost data when contracting out for catch basin cleaning. Kilhart elaborated on the Ayer Road design and engineering project. They discussed including the generator request with the misc. equipment.

Fire Department

Chief Rick Sicard requests include a study on Fire Station, upgrade towns fire alarm system, replace hose, replace command car, new repeater on future cell tower and purchase new pickup truck with plow. They discussed rationale for the Fire Station study. Chief Sicard will follow up with estimates for plow truck and command car. The Town Administrator will need to provide an update on the cell tower.

Entertainment License Hearing – Historical Society

Representative from the Historical Society Carlene Phillips explained the event on Saturday, December 2nd will be a fundraiser held after the historical house tours. They will have live music and dinner allowing those who attend to carry-in beer or wine. Abutters have been notified.

On a Sklar/Swanton motion, the board voted unanimously to approve entertainment license for the Historical Society.

Capital Requests continued

Conservation Commission

Commission members Wendy Sisson and Don Ritchie came to answer questions regarding the commission's request to reinstate the \$100,000 annual funding that was removed from the omnibus budget back in 2002. They discussed including more detail in their budget to provide a better understanding how funds are being allocated and spent.

Council on Aging

CoA Director Debbie Thompson attended along with board members Connie Larrabee, Beth Williams and Sue Guswa. They are requesting funds for architectural design and construction for phase 2 of the Hildreth House project. The CoA will continue to seek funding for the additional space needed to provide adequate services to seniors in town. They expressed gratitude to the local churches for allowing the CoA to use their space however this is not a long term solution.

The CoA would also be willing to rent out their building as is done with the upper town hall to generate revenue and encourage multi-generational use and interaction.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Marlene Kenney continues previous clerk's project to have movable shelving installed in the vault. Kenney said a mobile storage container will be rented while the renovation is being completed. The project will happen in the summer and will take three to five days.

Appointments

Cultural Council

Chair Lucy Clerkin introduced Anne Butterfield and Jeff Boudreau for appointment. They both spoke about their interest in serving on the council. On a von Loesecke/Minar motion, the board voted unanimously to appoint Anne Butterfield and Jeff Boudreau to the council.

Conservation Commission

Carl Sciple who was recently appointed to the Council on Aging is also being recommended for appointment to the Conservation Commission. On a von Loesecke/Swanton motion, the board voted unanimously to appoint Carl Sciple to the Conservation Commission.

Housing @ Hildreth House update

Committee member Rick Maiore reported the committee received only one response to the request for proposals (RFP) and it did not qualify. The committee has met and discussed the next course of action. They now have a completed appraisal which they did not have when the RFP went out. They are interested in marketing the property through the MLS listings and in the central register again. Committee member Victor Normand has offered to be the listing broker pro bono allowing the commission to go to the broker who brings in the buyer. They feel this will be a better way to attract developers to this property. The BoS were supportive of the new approach.

Public communication

Diane Temple, former teacher, spoke as a representative for her colleagues. She is hopeful mitigation offered to offset the move of retired teachers from the GICRMT addresses concerns that have been shared and is grateful to see this on the agenda.

Kathleen Doherty, Harvard teacher, urged the BoS to respectfully grandfather current premium splits for the teacher retirees who are being moved from the GICRMT. She said the changes proposed will have a dramatic impact. Doherty said grandfathering is a common approach and should not create an administrative burden. She admitted it is hard to understand where the urgency is coming from to make this change now and feels there should be a compassionate method to create the parity the BoS is seeking. She does not envy the position of the BoS when making these decisions and reminded them there are people at the other end of them.

Julia Chadwick, resident and retired teacher, noted laws were put in place many years ago to support and protect teachers in their elder years. In addition post-employment benefits were added under the GIC for health care instead of Medicare. She quoted high costs for those who wish to continue with an indemnity plan as a consequence to the decision made. She encourage the BoS to offer retirees especially those who do not qualify for Medicare the ability to continue in Minuteman Nashoba with current indemnity offerings.

Retired teacher's mitigation

Bragan and Sobalvarro have been working on a mitigation plan. They have consulted with legal counsel to determine what can be done within Mass General Law. Bragan gave some background explaining how Chapter 32B (town) and Chapter 32A (GIC) differ in how premium contribution rates can be handled. He admitted the GIC has more flexibility. He also noted back several years there was an opportunity for the town to move all active employees and retirees to the GIC plans but the unions were not in favor of making the change. Bragan explained mitigation options are limited therefore they are recommending a step down option. The step down approach could be done over two or three years and would split the percentage increase out over that time period. Sobalvarro provided a table of retiree monthly contribution changes. Sklar took a moment to explain part of the reason why this has come up now is due to the continued increases in insurance costs coupled with reduction in state aid over the years. He also noted savings from making this change will go directly into the OPEB trust fund which will preserve benefit funding for town employees moving forward. The BoS agreed a three year transition was the best approach.

On a Swanton/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to implement over a three year period change previously put in place with the following percentages: 10% - 3/6/6, 15% - 3/3/4, PPO 15% - 10/15/10

Cultural collaborative requests

Wallace explained their requests to add a sink and move some conduits.

On a Swanton/Minar motion, the board voted unanimously to approve sink.

On a Minar/Swanton motion, the board voted unanimously to approve moving conduits for ten outlets to be paid for by accessibility account specific for library.

Special town meeting warrant

Bragan reviewed each article. They discussed the need for a special election as well to accommodate a ballot question for the old library accessibility.

On a von Loesecke/Swanton motion, the board voted unanimously to call a special town election for November 29th with location to be determined.

On a Sklar/Swanton motion, the board voted unanimously to approve warrant as amended.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Documents referenced:

Capital requests:	Police	dated 9.28.2017	DPW	dated 9.14.2017
	Fire	dated 9.29.2017	Con Com	dated 9.21.2017
	CoA	dated 9.22.2017	Town Clerk	dated 9.28.2017

Appointments:	Boudreau vol form	dated 2.6.2017
	Butterfield vol form	dated 7.26.2017

Retired teacher's information	dated 10.17.2017
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Collaborative request	dated 10.12.2017
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