

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES MARCH 12, 2012
APPROVED**

Present: Anna Eliot, Chairman; George Dillon, Jr., Vice Chairman; Peter Cunningham, Clerk; Joshua A. Degen; Stuart M. Schulman

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant

Ms. Eliot called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda. Ms. Eliot noted the boy scouts in the audience working towards a municipal government badge requirement.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad updated the Board on the work of the Center Fire Station Building Committee. Mr. Haddad reported that the name of the Committee has been changed to reflect their work. Mr. Haddad stated that he has successfully concluded negotiations with Dore and Whittier on their contract and they have commenced work on reviewing the Lawrence Homestead Trust property. The contract price is \$30k. The Center Fire Station Building Committee has set a meeting schedule in which they meet twice a week. The Committee plans on meeting Monday afternoons and Friday mornings over the next several weeks. A Public hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at 7:00pm to gather public input on the three sites under consideration. All abutters have been notified and we plan on broadcasting the hearing on cable. Mr. Haddad stated that work will begin at the Lawrence site this week and the wetlands would be delineated. Mr. Haddad noted that the response time study for the three locations with a full understanding of what it means will be provided. Mr. Haddad added that an email address has been set up for all questions for the committee. Mr. Haddad stated that the Prescott Architect submitted a preliminary draft and was sent to all selectmen.
2. Mr. Haddad stated that the Board is scheduled to meet in joint session on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 7:00m with the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Electric Light Commission to review the Light Department's building plans on Station Avenue. Mr. Haddad informed the Board that the Light Department has completed the delineation of the wetlands.
3. Mr. Haddad enclosed two letter that he would like to send to Senator Donoghue and Representative Harrington urging their support to increase the amount of money set aside for Chapter 90 Funding in FY2013. The MMA is requesting that we contact our representatives on this very important issue. The letter provides a good explanation of why we need this increase. **[Document 1-Letter to State Reps]**
4. Mr. Haddad stated that the Town has been working with the Town of Ayer to determine the feasibility of sending our sewerage from the Lost Lake area to the Ayer Treatment Plant. In order to formalize the process and move forward with the review, we have drafted a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Ayer and Mr. Haddad requested the Board approve. Mr. Haddad explained that this would be a preliminary step prior to a formal inter-municipal agreement. In addition, Bond Counsel has requested this as part of the bonding authorization approved at last Fall's Town Meeting. Mr. Schulman asked about the capacity restriction on Willow Road in the MOU. Mr. Haddad that this needed to be evaluated moving forward. Mr. Degen asked if anyone was going to the meeting in Ayer representing the Town of Groton. Mr. Haddad stated that he would check to see if Groton representation was needed. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board move to authorize him to sign the MOU. Mr. Cunningham moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Ayer and the Town of Groton dated February 27, 2012. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. **[Document 2-MOU]**
3. Mr. Haddad gave the Board an update on the website. Mr. Haddad stated that the Finance Committee reviewed the plan and proposal which stated that the website was 90% complete. There will be a link to the

new website sent so that selectmen and key people can test the site. Mr. Bulger is requesting feedback from those who test the new website. Mr. Haddad stated that an offer has been extended to the desktop specialist and will bring the new hire to the next selectmen's meeting. The new hire is a Groton resident with a full background IT. Mr. Degen asked if the new hire was aware that full time may be offered. Mr. Haddad stated that the new hire was aware of the future potential of the position.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Dillon stated that he attended the recent Finance Committee meeting and that Mr. Bulger did an excellent job explaining his plans for IT. Mr. Dillon also indicated that the Chief gave another excellent presentation as to the needs of the Police Department. Mr. Schulman stated that he attended the recent Hazardous Waste Day at Devens and encourages residents to participate.

MINUTES

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee of February 11, 2012. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. [Document 3-Draft 2-11-12 Minutes]

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the regularly scheduled meeting of February 13, 2012. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. [Document 4-Draft 2-13-12 Minutes]

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2012, not to release. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. [Document 5-Draft 2-13-12 ES Minutes]

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2012, to release. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried, Mr. Degen abstaining. [Document 6-Draft 2-22-12 ES Minutes]

REVIEW FIRST DRAFT OF 2012 SPRING TOWN MEETING[Document 7-Draft Spring Town Meeting Report]

Mr. Haddad began by reviewing Articles 1-4 for the Spring Town Meeting. Under Article 4, Wage and Classification Schedule, Mr. Haddad requested two selectmen sit down with the HR Director and Town Manager to review the Personnel Bylaw. Mr. Dillon and Mr. Cunningham volunteered to review the Personnel Bylaw for Town Meeting.

Mr. Haddad stated he would defer the Town Meeting Discussion and continue after Senator Donoghue and Representative Harrington have concluded.

SENATOR EILEEN DONOGHUE & REPRESENTATIVE HARRINGTON-UPDATE ON ISSUES

Senator Donoghue stated that there is a consensus of the Governor's figures for revenues which is showing a 4.5% growth. Senator Donoghue addressed the Governor's proposal for a \$.50 cents increase on cigarettes and a potential tax on candy and soda. Senator Donoghue reviewed the schedule for the budget and hoped the Senate would have a better idea of revenues once the budget is received. Senator Donoghue noted the increase in local aid to municipalities, including Chapter 70. Senator Donoghue commented that the Speaker of the House has stated publically regarding no increase in taxes. Mr. Cunningham asked that given the mild winter if snow and ice monies would be used to offset the budget. Senator Donoghue replied that it may be used to reconcile the MBTA debt. Mr. Schulman asked if there were any proposed cuts. Senator Donoghue stated that it was too soon to say. Mr. Degen suggested using snow and ice money towards Chapter 90 funding. Mr. Haddad delivered the Chapter 90 Letters to the state representatives that were discussed earlier in the meeting. Thus saving the Town the cost of stamps.

Representative Harrington addressed the no new taxes statements. Representative Harrington concurred with the consensus on budget numbers. Representative Harrington commented on the consolidation efforts by the Governor and noted that the numbers did not play out. Mr. Cunningham asked about regional schools transportation aid Chapter 71 from the state. Mr. Haddad stated that this aid has been level funded. Mr. Degen asked if there would be any elimination of jobs through consolidation efforts. Representative Harrington again stated that consolidation was not transferring into a lower budget. Ms. Sartini, a member of the press asked about regionalizing Housing so that more town could join in on hitting the 10% Affordable Housing number. Representative Harrington has not heard anything in regards to regionalizing Affordable Housing. Representative Harrington concluded by letting residents know about recent issues with the 111 bridge access to Route 2.

PUBLIC HEARING-ACCEPT ORION WAY AS A PUBLIC WAY [Document 8-Orion Way]

Mr. Degen moved to open the public meeting. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Hearing opened.

Mr. Cunningham read the legal notice. Mr. Delaney stated that this road has been taken care of for the past 4-5 years and has no issues. Mr. Haddad asked the Board to accept the layout and recommend it to Town Meeting.

Mr. Degen moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Hearing closed.

Mr. Cunningham moved to accept the layout of Orion Way. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

REVIEW FIRST DRAFT OF 2012 SPRING TOWN MEETING Continued

Mr. Haddad stated that Article 5 was the budget and asked the Board if they had any questions. Mr. Cunningham asked about the Country Club and if it was planning a new initiative to open the club up to residents more times of the year. Mr. Degen commented on the passage of the capital items in Article 6 regarding the country club and its potential affect on the Country Club operating budget in Article 5. The Board agreed that the capital item under Article 6 for the Country Club could be moved up in order. Mr. Haddad reminded the Board that the Country Club is operating revenue neutral and if the Capital Items were not funded it would have a major impact. Mr. Dillon suggested that the Country Club Manager look at the Capital Items and their impact on his operating budget.

Under Article 6 all the Capital Items are broken out by item and some money to fund would come from the Capital Stabilization Fund.

For Articles 7-10 more information needed to be gathered and can be discussed at the public hearing on March 26th. Also Article 7 – 14 is under the FY12 Budget, in the past listed under a Special Town Meeting. Mr. Haddad stated that Article 12 and 13 are place holders in case a site is selected for the Center Fire Station. Mr. Degen asked if the Trust site was selected if the Planning Board needed to do an A& R Plan. Mr. Haddad did not see any problems in timing.

Mr. Haddad stated that the CPC is getting 30% reimbursement from the state and that there is 1 Article for the replenishment of the Conservation Fund. Article 16 and 17 are annual articles. Article 18 is for the Town of Ayer to join Nashoba Valley Regional Tech District. Article 22 was the acceptance of the Master Plan and Article 26 was to change the bylaw for consumption of alcohol on Town owned property. Mr. Haddad stated that the public hearing for the Spring Town Meeting Warrant is scheduled for March 26th.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cunningham moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____
Peter S. Cunningham, Clerk

respectfully *submitted*,
Patrice Garvin
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: 3-26-12