

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES DECEMBER 3, 2012
APPROVED**

Present: Stuart M. Schulman Chairman; John G. Petropoulos; Anna Eliot;
On-Phone: Joshua A. Degen
Absent: Peter S. Cunningham, Vice Chairman
Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant

Mr. Schulman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Mr. Schulman made several local announcements.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad referred to the enclosed Special Town meeting Warrant Draft scheduled for January 26th. [Document 1- Draft Warrant] Mr. Haddad informed the Board that the warrant closed close of business on Monday, December 3rd. Currently there are three articles:
Article 1: Construction Funding for New Center Fire Station
Article 2: Herbicide Treatment for Lost Lake/Knops Pond
Article 3: Funding for Demolition and/or Replacement of Fitch's Bridge
Mr. Haddad reviewed the bid process for the fire station. Mr. Petropoulos explained the reason the fire station bid was sent out this time of year. With construction companies planning their work for next year, the Town may receive a more competitive price. Mr. Haddad explained that the Town has thirty (30) days from the bid opening (excluding holidays and weekends) to award the bid and that is why the Town Meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2013. Mr. Haddad stated that the bids for Herbicide are due 12/20/12. Mr. Haddad noted that for Fitch's Bridge there will be a demolition cost as well as a replacement cost. Mr. Degen asked if there was any way to save the current structure. Mr. Manugian stated that that refurbishing the old bridge was discussed and that it was ruled out due to the problems with the existing bridge. Mr. Petropoulos stated that regardless of replacing the bridge or not it needs to be voted up or down. Mr. Haddad suggested crafting the article based on what the Board decides and having a motion A and a Motion B to address demolish only and demolish/replace. Mr. Haddad stated that the Board would have bid results prior to Town Meeting.

2. Mr. Haddad stated that the Town is required to provide the state with an emergency action plan for the Lost Lake Dam. The plan provides for what action the Town will take to protect life and property should the dam fail. The original plan was created in 2010 and needed to be updated and re-filed with the state. Mr. Haddad referred the Board to the report from Ducharme & Dillis. [Document 2-Duscharme & Dillis Report] The plan needed to be approved by the Board. Mr. Delaney commented briefly on the need to update the plan.
Ms. Eliot moved to approve the EAP for Lost Lake Dam updated 11/1/12 by Ducharme & Dillis with update in three years. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. Roll Call- Degen-aye; Petropoulos-aye; Eliot-aye; Schulman-aye.

3. Mr. Haddad stated that the Town hired David Ross and Assoc. to design and permit a septic system for Squannacook Hall. The septic system has been designed and approved by the Board of Health. The system accommodates for a 4 bedroom home or its original use as a theater/performing arts hall. Mr. Haddad suggested a RFP be put out for the redeveloping or selling of Squannacook Hall. Mr. Haddad stated that he would bring the RFP back to the Board.

INTERVIEW AND APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE TOWN MEETING REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Schulman commenced interviews of residents. Mr. Schulman stated that Barry Pease could not attend and read his letter into the record. [Document 3-B. Pease Letter of Interest]

1. Ellen Baxendale stated that she has been a resident for over 20 years. Ms. Baxendale's was most interested in people with limited accessibility. Mr. Petropoulos asked if she had volunteered in the past with the Town. Ms. Baxendale stated that she has not volunteered previously. Mr. Schulman asked if she has attended Town Meeting. Ms. Baxendale stated she use to attend before her disability. Ms. Baxendale looked forward to the opportunity to address the needs of the elderly and disabled.
2. Robert Collins stated that he is a local attorney and expressed interest in the democratic process and was against eliminating Open Town Meeting. Mr. Collins addressed the accessibility issue and believed Town Meeting was important. Mr. Petropoulos asked if Mr. Collins was open to changes at Town Meeting. Mr. Collins stated that things could be made better and recognized he would be one person within a committee.
3. Alberta Erickson stated that she is a current member of the School Committee and like MR. Collins liked the traditions at Town Meeting. Ms. Erickson stated she was open to all ideas but the Town would be too small for a representative town meeting form of government. Ms. Erickson was interested in the checks and balances and would keep an open mind.
4. Alison Eydenberg stated her credentials and noted that she did not have any specific recommendations but would consider suggestions. Ms. Eydenburg noted the challenges of time and format for Town Meetings.
5. Greg Fishbone stated that he was a new resident and wanted to be more involved in Town. Mr. Fishbone recognized how special the Town meeting process was and noted that he was an attorney and involved in the Groton List. Mr. Fishbone was interested in technology and solving some issues.
6. Scott Harker stated why he was interested in the committee and was also a member of the Accessibility Committee. Mr. Harker wanted to lend his voice to the committee and to bring Town Meeting into the 21st Century.
7. Rudd Harris was unable to be at the meeting.
8. Rule Loving stated that since the quorum requirement has been eliminated Town Meeting was not democratic. Mr. Loving stated that the Finance Committee's role has changed and wanted to participate in the committee to improve it. Mr. Loving was concerned with the order of articles on the warrant. Mr. Loving was in favor of all bonding articles for the Town be put on a ballot. Mr. Petropoulos asked if Mr. Loving had an open mind to all ideas. Mr. Loving stated he was firm on his ideas regarding the quorum and the ballot.

Vote by ballot

Mr. Haddad stated that there were four votes for Robert Collins, Alberta Erickson, Greg Fishbone, Scott Harker and Alison Eydenberg. Mr. Haddad stated that there were 2 votes for Rule Loving and Barry Pease. The Board voted to break the tie: Mr. Schulman-Pease, Mr. Degen Loving; Ms. Eliot-Pease; Mr. Petropoulos-Pease.

Mr. Haddad thanked everyone for their time. Mr. Petropoulos asked if there was a Board Liaison to this committee. This issue was tabled. Ms. Erickson suggested Mr. Loving be invited to a committee meeting to express his ideas and concerns.

DISCUSSION LOST LAKE SEWER NEXT STEPS

Mr. Haddad stated that he has set up a meeting to discuss the SRF due to losing the 0% funding for the project. Mr. Haddad is planning on meeting with the Assistant Director to discuss next year's funding cycle. Mr. Haddad suggested recharging the Lost Lake Sewer charge, keeping current members Mr. Orcutt and Ms. Garger on the committee. Mr. Haddad asked the Board about having an article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant in January and recommended not having it due to the lack of any new information. Mr. Haddad did not know if having this article on the Spring Town Meeting would be too late for funding. Mr. Orcutt stated that something needed to be done and suggested having an article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Garger explained the need to get things moving again and that a lot of the work has already been done. Mary Metzger, resident stated that if the Town received 0% funding from SRF then the science was right. Mr. Wheatley stated that the Town should also look at other areas that may be contributing to the problems at the lake. Mr. Degen did not feel the Lost Lake Sewer article should be placed on the January warrant. Mr. Schulman saw the defeat of the Lost Lake Article in the fall as economic and the financial issue needs to be solved before going forward. Mr. Petropoulos stated that validation testing needed to be concluded. Mr. Petropoulos clarified that the article would be to establish a district, nothing else. Mr. Petropoulos felt that if this was explained properly it would pass at the January Meeting. Mr. Haddad noted that any change to the district area could jeopardize the inter-basin transfer with Ayer. Ms. Swezey was concerned that putting the lost Lake Article on the warrant would jeopardize the Herbicide Article. Mr. Degen stated that a selectman should be a member of the Lost Lake Sewer Committee. Mr. Haddad would draft the charge for the Lost Lake Sewer Committee and return to the Board.

ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS [Document 4-Annual License Renewal Applications]

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the following: Mr. Degen seconded the motion contingent on correct hours of operation for Groton Convenience. Roll Call- Degen-aye; Petropoulos-aye; Eliot-aye; Schulman-aye.

Groton Convenience, dba Groton General Store, located at 871 Boston Road Vimuben Patel, Manager

Wine & Malt Package Store License

Hours of Operation Daily 12NOON – 11PM. License to expire December 31, 2013

Gibbet Hill Grill LLC, dba Gibbet Hill Grill Restaurant and Function Hall, located at 61 Lowell Road, Thomas Totman, Manager

All Alcohol Restaurant License (2) & CVL (2)

Hours of Operation: Daily 9am-1am, Licenses to expire December 31, 2013

Contingent on Receipt of Sign-Off from the Building Inspector and Fire Chief

Groton Country Club, located at 94 Lovers Lane Function Hall & Snack Bar Robert Whalen, Manager

General On-Premise All Alcohol, CVL, Entertainment License and Sunday Entertainment License

Hours of Operation: Daily 8am-1am, Licenses to expire December 31, 2013

Contingent on Receipt of Sign-Off from the Building Inspector and Fire Chief

Groton Market, Inc., located at 235 Main Street

John Madigan, Manager

All Alcohol Package Store License

Hours of Operation Mon to Sat 9am to 9pm, Sun 12pm to 6pm. License to expire December 31, 2013

Marchand, Denis H. & Estelle C., dba Craven's Package Store, located at 777 Boston Road

Denis H. Marchand, Manager

All Alcohol Package Store License

Hours of Operation Mon – Sat 8am to 11pm, Sun 12pm to 11pm. License to expire December 31, 2013

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT CONTINUED

4. Mr. Haddad stated that as part of an effort to increase the Town's bond rating prior to going out to bond for two major construction projects, he has been meeting with the Town's financial advisor to get the Town ready for this potential upgrade. Mr. Haddad noted some changes to the financial policies that will improve the towns position. Mr. Haddad stated that the Town is currently doing these things with the exception of OPEB. [Document 5-Updated Policies] Ms. Jenkins explained the update of the policies and the inclusion of OPEB. Mr. Petropoulos requested a sheet that explains the numbers regarding OPEB. *Ms. Eliot moved to approve the updated Financial Policies as amended, dated 11/20/12. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. Roll Call- Degen-aye; Petropoulos-aye; Eliot-aye; Schulman-aye.*

LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Eliot stated that she would like some discussion of the Farmer's Row speed signs. Mr. Petropoulos stated that as Water Department Liaison he recently toured the wells.

MINUTES

The ES Minutes of 11/13/12 will be brought back.

Mr. Petropoulos moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2012. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Roll Call- Degen-aye; Petropoulos-aye; Eliot-aye; Schulman-aye.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Petropoulos moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____
John G. Petropoulos, Clerk

respectfully submitted,
Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 1-7-13