

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES DECEMBER 10, 2012
APPROVED**

Present: Stuart M. Schulman Chairman; John G. Petropoulos; Anna Eliot; 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 5:00pm. Mr. Schulman made several local announcements.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board re-accept the Whitaker Lane Conservation Restriction offered by the American Baptist Churches of MA. The Board had previously voted to accept this restriction, but it has been re-written by the Division of Conservation Services and needs to be re-accepted by the Board. Attorney Collins stated that the changed did not affect the Town's rights under the restriction, however Mr. Haddad asked to bring back the restriction to make sure there are no substantive changes.

2. Mr. Haddad noted a vacancy on the Great Ponds Advisory Committee. The Committee has recommended that James Luening of 711 Martins Pond Road be appointed.

Ms. Eliot moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of James Luening to the Great Ponds Advisory Committee term to expire June 30, 2013. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

3. Mr. Haddad stated that he along with his Finance Team have been meeting with the various Departments and Committees to review their request for FY14. The meetings are going very well Department Heads have been well prepared. Mr. Haddad reported that he is ½ million under the levy. Mr. Schulman asked about the schools. Mr. Haddad replied that he is accounting for a 2.5% increase in the schools budgets. Mr. Degen asked about the roof repair. Mr. Haddad noted that this would be a short term borrow that would affect FY15.

4. Mr. Haddad noted that GELD is through their permitting process and will meet this Thursday with the Planning Board. Mr. Haddad asked the Board to authorize a letter of support. Ms. Eliot asked that the last line be amended.

Mr. Degen moved to authorize the Board of Selectmen to send a letter of support as drafted with amendment to last sentence for the GELD building project. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

**REVIEW PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE OF THE FITCH'S BRIDGE DEMOLITION/
REPLACEMENT**

Mr. Haddad showed some cost impacts and estimates for Fitch's Bridge. [Document 1- Fitch's Bridge Cost Estimates]

The bids are due 1/20/13. The RFP asks for two prices one for demo only and one for demo/replace. A preliminary estimate is \$600k to demo and replace and \$400k for demo only. Mr. Manugian thought \$600k was high and that estimate could decrease. Mr. Petropoulos reiterated the public safety piece. Chief Palma stated that the bridge issue has become a "attractive nuisance". Chief Palma supported a new bridge stating that increased traffic may deter youth from hanging out at the bridge. Mr. Degen asked how the cost estimate was created. Mr. Manugian stated that FST developed the cost estimate. Mr. Degen hoped to save the bridge and its historic value. Mr. Manugian stated the cost to refurbish the bridge was too high. There is no vehicle access to the bridge but there was a lead paint issue. Ms. Eliot noted the new bridge and the link to trails on the


other side. Mr. Petropoulos asked about pedestrians using the road off the bridge. Chief Palma did not see a safety issue using the road. The board would need to determine its position on the bridge.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT CONTINUED

5. Mr. Haddad stated that at the last meeting the Board discussed whether or not to add an article to the January 26, 2013 Special Town meeting to create the Lost Lake Sewer District. The Board had requested that Woodard & Curran be contacted to determine if it was imperative that the creation of this District take place prior to Spring Town meeting. Ms. Blacquier stated that the Town will need to get the Sewer District passed in January 2013 if the Town wants to secure its place with the USDA/RD. Mr. Bonavita, of the USDA informed him that the USDA needed the District as the "borrower/legal entity" in order to keep the application in the queue. The Town of Groton does not qualify and when the Town looked at using the Town Center District as the legal entity as it would require a whole new income survey, qualifying income limits, etc. Creating a Lost Lake Sewer District is needed before March 2013 when the USDA will be adopting the 2010 US Census which would eliminate Groton altogether from consideration due to population being over 10,000. The Board needs to decide whether funding from the USDA is worth bringing this matter forward. Mr. Haddad added that the Town could save an estimate of 1 million dollars but its not guaranteed. Mr. Petropoulos thought it would be best to consider placing this on the warrant. If the proposal is explained well at Town Meeting it would pass. Mr. Petropoulos felt it was the responsibility of the Board to bring this forward. Mr. Haddad stated the Board can still apply for funding but would miss out on USDA funding opportunities. Mr. Petropoulos stated that he spoke to people and once it was explained that Town Meeting would just create a district they were fine with voting for it. Mr. Degen felt that the Board would be disingenuous if it placed it on the warrant given its defeat at the last Town Meeting and would not support the article. Ms. Eliot agreed with Mr. Degen and could not support an article on the warrant to create the district. Mr. Schulman was concerned that it could jeopardize the fire station. Mr. Haddad also worried about perception.
6. Mr. Haddad stated that a draft charge for the Lost Lake Sewer Committee was drafted. [Document 2- Draft Charge] Mr. Haddad stated that he reviewed the 2008 Town meeting vote that created the Committee and the original charge of the Committee. Mr. Haddad also reached out to current Committee members and engineers for input. Ms. Eliot wanted there to be a Board of Health Representative on the committee. Mr. Petropoulos was concerned that the charge just assumed establishing a sewer was the only option. Mr. Haddad replied that it was the charge from the 2008 Town meeting vote to establish a sewer. Mr. Schulman added that the last Town Meeting the sewer failed due to money and that the committee needed to strategize funding. Mr. Degen suggested having a member from the Board of Selectmen on the Committee as well as someone from the Finance Committee. Mr. Haddad will clean up the charge and bring it back to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Petropoulos moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m and to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to M.G.L c30A sec 21 (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if any open meeting may have detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares and not return to open session. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Roll Call- Degen-aye; Eliot-ye; Petropoulos-aye; Schulman-aye Meeting adjourned.

Approved: 
John G. Petropoulos, Clerk

respectfully *submitted*,
Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 1-7-13