

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES FEBRUARY 12, 2013
APPROVED**

Present: Stuart M. Schulman, Chairman; Peter S. Cunningham, Vice Chairman; John G. Petropoulos; Anna Eliot

Absent: Joshua A. Degen

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

Mr. Schulman called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad distributed the DY14 Groton-Dunstable School Budget. Mr. Haddad stated that he would inform the Board as the schools budget process moves along. Mr. Cunningham asked about the Technology piece to the budget. Mr. Haddad stated that the technology piece was in a separate part of the budget.
2. Mr. Haddad informed the Board that the Finance Committee set their budget hearing meeting for Saturday, March 9th at 9am.
3. Mr. Haddad stated at the last meeting Town Clerk Michael Bouchard presented the Board with choices for new polling locations for Precincts 2 and 3. The Board took the matter under advisement and asked that it be scheduled for discussion. The Board narrowed the choices to the Prescott School, the Pool and Golf Center and the Town Hall. Mr. Bouchard stated that he would need twenty (20) days to notify residents of the polling change. Mr. Petropoulos asked about Mr. Webber's suggestion of Gibbet Hill. Mr. Haddad replied that Gibbet Hill would not work, not LA School because the idea is to move the polling station away from schools. Mr. Cunningham stated that Prescott School may be the next choice and that Town Hall would present a parking problem. Mr. Schulman agreed that Prescott would be a good location and that the Groton Pool and Golf Center posed accessibility issues. Once accessibility issues could be addressed the Groton Pool and Golf Center could be a more desired polling location. Mr. Bouchard stated that Chief Palms indicated that the Groton Pool and Golf Center would be his preference.

Ms. Eliot moved to make Prescott School Gymnasium Precincts 2 and 3 polling locations, until otherwise determined. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

4. Mr. Haddad stated that at the last meeting the Board discussed whether or not to change the date of the first night of the 2013 Spring Town meeting to either April 20th or April 22nd due to the change of the date of the Annual Election to April 30th. The Board had asked if the PAC was available on Tuesday, April 23rd, and it is. The Board had a brief discussion.

Mr. Cunningham moved to designate the Spring April Town meeting for Monday, April 22, 2013. The second night will be Tuesday, April 23, 2013 and if needed a third night Monday, April 29, 2013. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

5. Mr. Haddad stated that a request has been made from the Groton Dunstable Regional School Department to have the Board appoint a representative to serve on the Business Manager Search Committee. Gerry Martin has informed the School Committee of his intent to retire at the end of the School Year. Mr. Haddad reminded the Board he served on the committee the last time a search was conducted.

Ms. Eliot moved to appoint Mark Haddad as the Board of Selectmen's designee on the Groton Dunstable Regional School Business Manager Search Committee. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

6. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board ratify his appointments as Election Workers.
Mr. Cunningham moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointments of Suzanne Loverin, Lori Sullivan, Kelly Merrill and Richard Van Doren as Election Workers to expire 6/30/13. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.
7. TLT Construction Low Bidder for Center Fire Station: Mr. Haddad stated that he has spoken with the owner of TLT Construction and asked for direct involvement throughout the Building of the Center Fire Station. Mr. Haddad stated that the OPM and the Town has checked references on the Superintendent and Project Manager and was satisfied with the response. Mr. Haddad stated that the OPM has recommended TLT Construction. Mr. Schulman stated that he had confidence in the OPM and was happy that the owner would be involved. Mr. Cunningham asked if Town Counsel was confident with the agreement drafted and enforceability. Mr. Haddad stated that counsel would review and negotiate the final contract. Mr. Cunningham was inclined to go with TLT. Mr. Petropoulos stated that nothing was perfect and that there were risks either way. Ms. Eliot noted that there should be penalties in the contract if promises are broken. Mr. Haddad stated that he would issue the notice of award and draft a contract with TLT. Construction for the Center Fire Station. Mr. Haddad hoped to have a shovel in the ground by April 1st.
8. ET& L have been awarded the Fitch's Bridge project, as the lowest bidder. Mr. Haddad explained that the work with begin sometime in early May and would be a ten week process. Ms. Eliot asked on which side the crane would come from. Mr. Haddad replied that the crane would come in from the Fitch's Bridge road side. Mr. Haddad stated that abutter would be notified. Mr. Petropoulos suggested the removing of the bridge be recorded by cable. Mr. Haddad replied that he would speak to Mr. Coleman about the possibility of recording the bridge replacement.

TOWN ACCOUNTANT PATRICIA DUFRESNE-SENIOR WORK OFF PROGRAM ISSUES

Ms. Dufrense wanted the Board to be aware of some changes to the Senior Work Off Program under 2002 MGL Chapter 59 Sec 5 that allows seniors to volunteer in exchange for a \$500 property tax abatement. MS. Dufrense stated that the problem is that the Federal Government sees the volunteers as employees, therefore taxes (payroll, FICS, etc.) need to be taken from checks. Ms. Dufrense stated that the Town need to be in compliance with the IRS tax code. This would mean adding 40-50 people on the payroll, which may make it less attractive for seniors to enroll in the program. Mr. Haddad stated that a way to continue the program would be to increase the benefit, which would allow seniors to get the full abatement and still pay the federal taxes owed. Ms. Dufrense suggested the new total be \$550 abatement so it would still be a benefit. Seniors enrolled in the program would get a w-2 and be considered employees by the Federal Government. Mr. Cunningham asked if this would be retroactive. Ms. Dufrense stated that it was not retroactive. Some communities have stopped the program and some have increased to the maximum of \$1,000k abatement. Ms. Rena Swezey reviewed some of the history with the program and how a few years ago an income level was instituted. Mr. Haddad stated that he would have Ms. Dufrense draft a letter with the changes to the Senior Work off program and would then have the Board decide how it would like to continue. Mr. Schulman suggested sending a letter to legislators on the logic of the constraints of this program. Ms. Sartini asked if the Town would look at the income level. Ms. Swezey stated that an income level has been introduced and the slots for the program are not full. Mr. Cunningham stated that any benefit change would need Town Meeting approval.

SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Petropoulos stated that he sat in on one of the interviews for Treasurer/Collector and that things were progressing. Mr. Cunningham attended an Eagle Scout presentation and was meeting with the Groton Housing Partnership. Mr. Schulman recently attended the ribbon cutting for Clover Farm General Store.

MINUTES

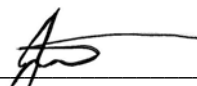
Ms. Eliot moved to approve and not release the Executive Session Minutes of August 23, 2012. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried 3- yes, 1- no Mr. Petropoulos. [Document 1- Draft Minutes 8-23-12 ES]

Ms. Eliot moved to approve and not release the Executive Session Minutes of January 14, 2013. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried 3- yes, 1- no Mr. Petropoulos. [Document 1- Draft Minutes 1-13-13 ES]

January 7, 2013 needed to be back brought to Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cunningham moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: 
John G. Petropoulos, Clerk

respectfully submitted,
Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 2-25-13