

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MINUTES JUNE 2, 2014
APPROVED**

Present: Peter S. Cunningham, Member; Josh A. Degen, Member; Anna Eliot, Member; Stuart M. Schulman, Member; John G. Petropoulos, Member

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Mr. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Mr. Cunningham said that is was with great sadness that he acknowledges the passing of Ed Kopec. He said that Mr. Kopec had been a member of the Board of Assessors for many years and an integral part of town government.

Mr. Cunningham said that they also had a special guest that evening, Emma Ruth Clark Wilson, who the Board presented a proclamation to in honor of Ms. Wilson's 100th birthday.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Mr. Haddad said that it was the first meeting after the new election in which the Board made reorganized. He said that he would accept nominations.

Ms. Eliot nominated Mr. Degen as Chair. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Degen abstaining.

Mr. Cunningham nominated Ms. Eliot as Vice Chair. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Ms. Eliot abstaining.

Mr. Cunningham nominated Mr. Schulman as Clerk. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1 in favor with Mr. Schulman abstaining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Haddad said that Headmaster Temba Maqubela and Mr. Hal Smith were present to speak with the Board. Mr. Maqubela said that as the 8th Headmaster of Groton School they would like to present the Town with a contribution of \$100K. He also stated that Mr. Smith had guided him through this and this would be the last time he would be presenting the check with him. Ms. Eliot thanked Mr. Smith for everything he had done for the Town. Mr. Haddad said that he would also like to acknowledge the generous donation from the Groton School that was used to purchase fitness equipment at the new Fire Station.

FIRE CHIEF ASSESSMENT CENTER

Mr. Haddad said that he had conducted a search for a new Fire Chief as specified by the Charter. He said that the process was taken very seriously and that he had great candidates to present. Mr. Haddad outlined the search process for the Board. He said that they had advertised the position in MMA Bulletin, Mass Fire Chief Association and the Lowell Sun, the same as Townsend and Littleton had recently done. He said that they had received 25 resumes who were all reviewed and weighed against the profile done by Chief McCarraher and narrowed down to 7 candidates. 2 candidates had dropped out for personal reasons and the search team still decided to only interview the 5 remaining. He said that these were in depth interviews in which he did not participate. The search team narrowed down the candidates to 3 for the Technical Review Team to interview. He said that this was a detailed interview in which 2 local Chiefs also took part. He said that the process brought out the real qualifications of the job where 2 candidates rose to the top. He said that he was pleased to announce that the 2 finalists he was bringing forward to the Board was A. Steele McCurdy, Deputy Chief of Littleton and Robert Hart, Deputy Chief of Acton. Mr. Haddad said that he would be extremely happy with either one and thanked the members of the search team and technical review team for their help. He said that when hiring the Town Manager and Police Chief, an Assessment Center had been used and

was very successful. He said that they had scheduled one for Tuesday, June 10th adding that he would like the Board to conduct their interviews on Monday the 9th beginning at 4:30pm.

Mr. Mark Morse, of the MMA Consulting Group introduced himself adding that he had been here 2 times before as Mr. Haddad had mentioned. He said that the assessment center process would look at competency and skills of the candidate based on 5 exercises that they would be given. He said that there would be 3 experts on the panel who would provide the Board with the information needed to make their decision. He added that the process for interviewing the applicants was already more involved than what they were used to seeing. Mr. Schulman said that he appreciated exercises on questions the candidates didn't expect. Mr. Morse said that their exercises for the Chief would be focused on how they respond to an issue. Ms. Eliot asked how many candidates they usually had as they only were bringing 2 to the assessment center. Mr. Morse said that there was more pressure with more than 2 candidates adding that they usually had 2-3 candidates. He said that there would be a lot less down time and things would move along more quickly.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad said that Paul Funch of the Trails Vision Committee was present to submit the Committee's final report to the Board. Mr. Funch said that this report was generated to help the State to understand what the town needed for funding moving forward. He said that the project's emphasis was on non-motorized pathways. 23 projects had been described in the report including ways to improve accessibility. He said that all projects had been prioritized, timelines assigned and costs provided. Mr. Funch said that the report plans for about 5 years and hoped to provide an update at each annual town meeting. Mr. Degen thanked Mr. Funch and the Committee for all their hard work adding that the dedication of volunteers never went unnoticed by the Board. Ms. Eliot said that it was a fabulous report adding that the Town's trails were great assets. Mr. Cunningham said that it was a comprehensive document and thought it was helpful to see a prioritized list.

Mr. Cunningham moved to accept the Trails Vision Report as presented. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mr. Haddad said that the Trails Committee was applying for a grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to create a fully accessible non-paved forest trail on state property off Nod Road. He said that they would like a letter of support from the Board and asked the Board to consider approving the letter.

Mr. Cunningham moved to support the application for grant. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Mr. Haddad said that Zoll Cellars was requesting a Winery License to sell and sample wines at the Farmer's Market this summer. He requested that the Board approve the license.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the winery license for Zoll Cellars for the Farmer's Market with the usual conditions. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Mr. Haddad said that Mr. Evan Boucher was interviewed and offered the position of Equipment Operator/Laborer for the Highway Department. He asked the Board to ratify the position adding that Mr. Boucher was also a call department member. Mr. Delaney said that Mr. Troy Conley had just been recently promoted to the Foreman position which left this vacancy in the department. He said that it was a good process and that Mr. Boucher was coming from MassDOT.

Ms. Eliot moved to ratify the appointment of Evan Boucher as the Department of Public Works Equipment Operator/Laborer. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Mr. Haddad presented the Board with a proposed summer schedule. The Board was acceptable of an every other week meeting schedule for the summer.
6. Mr. Haddad said that they held their last Fire Station construction meeting that day. He said that he would now be up to him and the architect to finish the project. He said that the final checks and certifications were being done at that moment. He added that the cleaners were in their now and the landscaper was starting on Thursday. Mr. Haddad recognized Bob Garside adding that the project would not have been completed without him. He said that they were still working on the budget and were hoping for temp occupancy on June 12th with a final move in on July 1st. Mr. Cunningham asked about the punch list. Mr. Haddad said that it started that day adding that the architect was pleased with the quality of work. Mr. Petropoulos said that any construction project this size would have crumbled with distraction adding that he was impressed with the way the project kept moving forward. Mr. Schulman said that it was almost a blessing TLT went bankrupt and they were very lucky they had hands available.
7. Mr. Haddad said that the RFP to hire a realtor to market Tarbell and Prescott School had been advertised with bids due on June 19th. He said that it had been advertised in Banker & Tradesman and in the Lowell Sun.

LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Eliot went to the Country Club open house. She commended the Country Club adding how accessible it was for the public. She added that there was a meeting with Kinder Morgan planned for June 23rd at Lawrence Academy.

Mr. Schulman said that the parade a week prior had been successful adding that he thought they needed more participation. Mr. Cunningham gave kudos to Mr. Bob Johnson, Veterans Agent, for coordinating.

Mr. Petropoulos said that the Groton Board of Trade auction was held and he heard they raised \$20K. A donation was going to be made to the Country Club to help out with their signage.

Mr. Cunningham said that the Tennessee Gas info meeting was very well attended. He said it was a full house and many people were concerned about the pipeline. He said that there were a lot of questions that couldn't be answered. Mr. Degen said that there was a tremendous amount of angst out there and residents were looking for the Board to take some kind of action. Mr. Petropoulos said that he spoke to Kevin Lindemer in an effort to obtain accurate information. He said that he was in favor of holding an additional meeting and maybe having Kevin answer questions. Mr. Schulman said that it was good to have orderly process adding that they didn't have a lot of time and needed to move quickly. Ms. Eliot said she agreed with what had been said. She said that she had also been approached about a non-binding resolution and whether or not the Board should vote on one. Mr. Cunningham said that nothing had been filed with the DPU yet as he checked. He said that they should wait to take a position until after their meeting with Kinder Morgan on the 23rd. Mr. Petropoulos said that the most important thing was to get the accurate information out there. Mr. Lindemer said that he was happy to help out. He said that there was a lot of homework that needed to be done. He said that he had worked for 2 energy companies and worked 20 years as an energy research consultant. He said that he had been involved on all sides. Mr. Cunningham asked what the best forum to do this would be. Mr. Petropoulos said that he suggested a forum where as residents could provide questions in advance allowing those answering to be prepared with answers. Mr. Degen said that it made sense to do it prior to the meeting on the 23rd. Mr. Haddad suggested June 16th.

Mr. Petropoulos proposed the formation of a working group and handed out an outline. Mr. Degen suggested that this be added to next week's agenda. Ms. Eliot asked that the school committee be added.

Mr. Degen said that the Sargisson Beach Committee along with volunteers put up sign board and installed the docks. He said that all the graffiti had been gone and the police department would be patrolling.

MINUTES

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Regular Session minutes of May 5, 2014. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0-2 with Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Degen abstaining.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Regular Session minutes of May 12, 2014 as corrected. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Petropoulos abstaining.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Regular Session minutes of May 19, 2014. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of May 7, 2014 and not release. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of May 13, 20p14 and not release. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cunningham moved to adjourn at 7:36pm. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved: _____

Stuart Schulman, Clerk

respectfully submitted,
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 7/28/14