

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MINUTES FEBRUARY 10, 2015
APPROVED**

Present: Anna Eliot, Vice Chair; Stuart M. Schulman, Clerk; John G. Petropoulos, Member

Absent: Josh A. Degen, Chair; Peter S. Cunningham, Member

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

Ms. Eliot called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Ms. Eliot said she would like to take a moment to remember Arthur Blackman who passed away over the weekend. She said he was selfless in his dedication to the Board and the Town and his passing was a huge loss to the Town.

Mr. Schulman said Mr. Blackman was his good friend of his and added he was sitting in his seat because of him.

Mr. Haddad asked if they could discuss the Earth Removal Permit for Lawrence Academy first. Mr. Haddad said the ERSAC had met on January 6, 2015 and voted unanimously to issue a Stormwater Permit to LA for construction of the athletic turf fields. He said the Committee recommended that the Board grant the Certificate of Exemption with standard conditions. Mr. Haddad said that the only reason this was before the Board was because they had to cross Route 40 with the material. Mr. Petropoulos asked that there be a condition that any damage to the road be fixed.

Mr. Schulman moved to approve the Certificate of Exemption with standard conditions. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad said that he had provided the Board with the Fiscal Year 2015 Second Quarter Budget Report. He said that as requested the Town Accountant had inserted columns that show a comparison between FY14 and FY15 adding they were in a very good financial position. He said that FY15 revenues were showing they were way ahead on building permit and that fines and forfeits were up and library revenues were where they should be. He said that motor vehicle excise tax was showing they were down but the commitments just went out and would be seen in March. He said that general government expenditures were at 50%, public safety was at 50% and added they were anticipating a shortfall in the Fire Department wages which they would be monitoring. He said that a vote had been taken on Saturday's meeting to deficit spend snow and ice. He said they were already \$15,000 over budget right now due to the recent snow storms. He said they were carrying \$200,000 in next year's budget. Mr. Haddad said that he was comfortable with the financial position with his only concerns being in the legal budget and fire wages. Mr. Petropoulos said that this spreadsheet had evolved and was a valuable tool. He said it allowed them to see historically where they were at. Mr. Haddad said that Ms. Dufresne did a wonderful job in keeping them in line and thanked her for her hard work.
2. Mr. Haddad said that because they were missing a couple of members, he wondered if they would like to hold off on discussing the Policies and Procedures of the Board. Ms. Eliot agreed that they should wait.
3. Mr. Haddad said that the Municipal Building Committee for the Prescott School had reviewed the charge of the Committee and proposed some changes. He said that the meetings had been going very well and they planned to provide the Board with an update in April. He said they revisions were minor and asked the Board to consider approving the changes.

Mr. Schulman moved to accept the modified charge of the Municipal Building Committee for the Prescott School as presented. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Mr. Haddad said that the meeting on Saturday with the Finance Committee had gone really well. He said that the Department Heads had done a great job with their presentations and were well prepared with answers to questions. Mr. Haddad said that Mr. Green, Fin Com Chairman pointed out that he didn't see any fat in the budget and there were great items presented for consideration. He said that he was meeting with his Finance Team the next day to look at building up excess levy capacity. Mr. Haddad said that the communication between the school department and the Town was phenomenal. He said the budget discussions had been a great collaborative effort between the two. Dr. Rodriguez agreed with Mr. Haddad and added that they had their first budget meeting the following night. Mr. Haddad asked if the Board had any questions or issues they wanted the Finance Team to bring forward or look at. Ms. Eliot said she also thought the meeting went very well and added that people were concerned about the climbing tax rate. Mr. Petropoulos said he too was concerned about affordability. He added that department spending over time seemed pretty average as compared to other towns based on preliminary data he had compiled.
5. Mr. Haddad said that he wanted to mention the Highway Department and the great job they had done clearing the roads and sidewalks. He said the amount of time they had spent over the past few weeks on snow removal was herculean and wanted to publically thank Mr. Delaney, Mr. Conley and the entire DPW for all their hard work and time.
6. Mr. Haddad said that he had appointed Irmin Pierce as a Special Police Officer and requested that the Board ratify his appointment.

Mr. Schulman moved to ratify the appointment of Irmin Pierce as a Special Police Officer. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Eliot said that she and Mr. Degen had attended the Dunstable Board of Selectmen meeting last month. Dr. Rodriguez said the School Committee asked MARS to do a study of the regional agreement. She said they applied for a grant but as part of the 9C cuts, this had been cut. Mr. Haddad said Dunstable asked for a committee to be formed and that this Board designate someone to participate in those meetings. Mr. Haddad said that Mr. Degen was very interested in participating.

Mr. Schulman moved to designate Josh Degen as the Board of Selectmen representative on the Committee to review the regional agreement. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

Mr. Petropoulos moved to approve the Regular Session meeting minutes of December 8, 2014 as amended. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Petropoulos moved to approve the Regular Session meeting minutes of December 15, 2014. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Petropoulos moved to approve the Regular Session meeting minutes of December 22, 2014. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Petropoulos moved to approve the Regular Session meeting minutes of January 5, 2015 as amended. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schulman moved to approve the Regular Session meeting minutes of January 12, 2015. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schulman moved to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes of January 5, 2015 and not release. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schulman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved: _____

Stuart Schulman, Clerk

respectfully *submitted*,
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 2/23/15