

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MINUTES APRIL 1, 2019
APPROVED

SB Members Present: Alison S. Manugian, Vice Chair; John R. Giger, Clerk; Joshua A. Degen, Member; Rebecca H. Pine, Member

Member Absent: Barry A. Pease, Chair

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

Ms. Manugian called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Haddad said that there would be a hearing held at the State House on Tuesday regarding the Charter. He said that this was very good news for Groton adding it was the next step before a vote.

Mr. Giger said that the Friends of the Groton Elders would be holding their fundraising event on Saturday night at 6pm at the Groton Inn.

Ms. Manugian said that the Library would be having their carpet replaced and for a period of 2 weeks from April 30th-May 15th the second two floors would be unavailable.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Gilbert said that their departments had been audited and they were currently reviewing the cafeteria services. She said that the contract with the cafeteria employees provided them with a 90 day notice today that they were still interested in bargaining but were also looking to contract out for services. She said that they were bargaining in good faith but would not participate in a smear campaign. She asked if the Board had heard from anyone regarding this. Mr. Degen said he had received emails but had not forwarded them but could upon redacting the senders name. Mr. Degen asked if the budget under consideration by the town from the schools included current contract bargaining. Ms. Gilbert said it was based on the contract as it stands. Ms. Manugian thanked them for doing this adding that she had not heard from a single person. Mr. Giger and Ms. Pine said that they had not been contacted.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. *Mr. Degen moved that they ratify the appointments of the Town Manager of Julia Van Pelt and Nicholas Towle as Country Club Golf Staff. Mr. Giger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

2. Mr. Haddad said that the Finance Committee was meeting the next day and would have an update on the budget at their next meeting.

CPC ARTICLES PRESENTATION

Ms. Perkins said that article 11 was to appropriate money to each of the community preservation accounting buckets. She said that these amounts that would be placed within the 4 different buckets based on an 11% state match. Ms. Perkins said that the registry fees would be raised for the first time in close to 20 years which was a good thing adding she hoped that the state match would go up in future years because of this. Ms. Perkins said that they had funded some really good projects with this money over the years and encouraged the Board to remember that when discussing whether or not to discontinue the program.

Ms. Perkins said that they were able to approve most of what had been requested and reviewed the projects they voted on to include the housing coordinator, historic volumes storage cabinet, fitch's bridge wall repair, conservation fund, and the 1893 library roof preservation. She said that the only project they were not able to fund was the high school track resurface. Mr. Haddad said that he could take CPC proposal A (Housing Production Plan) off the warrant so there would be no confusion adding that they had received a grant for this.

The Board took the following positions on articles contained in the warrant.

The Board was unanimous in its support of Article 11.

The Board was unanimous in its support of the following projects listed under Article 12: Housing Coordinator; Volumes Cabinet, Conservation Commission Fund, Library Roof. The Board was 4 in favor one no position (Degen) on the Fitch's Bridge CPC application.

The Board was unanimous in its support of Article 1, Article 2 and Article 3.

The Board did not take a position on Article 4 deferring until the next meeting.

The Board was 4 in favor, Giger at Town Meeting on Article 5.

The Board was unanimous in its support of Article 6 for the following capital item: Engine 3, Service 1, Rubber Tire Excavator, Dump Truck, IT Infrastructure, Dispatch Upgrades, Municipal Building Repairs, Police Station Repairs, Tractor Trailer Unit, Cruisers, Cath Paths, Green Mower. The Board was 3 in favor 2 opposed (Degen & Manugian) to the Country Club Pool Improvements. Mr. Degen said that they needed a comprehensive plan for the CC before making these renovations. Ms. Manugian said that she agreed with Mr. Degen. Mr. Delaney said that this was to help them not to have to fix things every year and were safety upgrades. Mr. Degen asked for the safety items to be broken out adding he might be able to support the safety items. Mr. Degen said that he would be at Town Meeting pending this information. Ms. Manugian agreed.

The Board was at Town Meeting on Article 7.

The Board was unanimous in its support of Article 9.

The Board was 2 in support (Degen and Manugian), 2 at Town Meeting (Giger and Pine) for Article 10.

The Board was unanimous in its support of Article 13.

Mr. Haddad said that Article 14 would be requesting \$77K at Town Meeting. Mr. Haddad said that this article would be for the Town's obligations as landlords of Prescott School. He said he would not recommend that any shortage that may occur for the sprinkler system and alarm system come out of this article. Mr. Degen said that they were faced with an additional \$32K to fund the unanticipated infrastructure issues. He said that he had previously said he didn't want to see any additional town expenditures go into the building. He said he was having difficulty swallowing these big pills. He supported the Friends and the lease but said that they were dealing with an old building. He said that Mr. Haddad and Mr. Delaney were doing a good job with this but thought this was becoming another country club and thought they should sell the building that was tied to the lease.

Mr. Giger read a letter from Janet Landry Shea that the Board received earlier that day.

Ms. Pine recollected the actions taken by Town Meeting, committees organized to study the Prescott School and the results of that study. Ms. Pine said that the Town had made errors when it came to usage of the building adding that allowed uses had changed over the course of the last year or so. Mr. Haddad said that that was not true adding that the Friends were instructed by the State Fire Marshal's office to get permission from the Building Commissioner for their programming prior to advertising. He said that the Town had not been at fault as Ms. Pine had indicated. Ms. Pine said that "we the Town" were responsible for protecting the building from deterioration. Mr. Giger questioned who "we the Town" was. Ms. Pine said that she was referring to the Town as a whole when she said that. She said it was unfortunate that they estimated wrong and hoped that they were more accurate this time around. Ms. Manugian said that in the world of commercial property, the impotence was on the applicant to legally know what they could do within a space. She said that the Building Commissioner had been very clear and consistent all along. Mr. Haddad said that they did their best to estimate any and all costs they anticipated including the insurance costs. Mr. Giger said that he the business plan had been presented to the Select Board but that no one had presented it to the Town to see if they wanted to make that investment into the building.

Mr. Petropoulos said that this had been presented to the Town over and over again. He cited the country club as an example of needing subsidizing. He said that the Friends came forward with a vision and the Board accepted it. He said he didn't understand the manner in which the Friends was being treated and thought this should be brought to the Town Meeting for consideration. Mr. Delaney said that these repairs were necessities. Ms. Jennings said that they were not looking for a

subsidy. She said that they replied to an RFP and were awarded it. She said that the Board needed to stand behind their decision adding they were looking to save a building.

Mr. Degen moved to amend Article 14 funding to \$50K. There was no second.

Mr. Degen and Ms. Manugian were opposed to this Article; Mr. Giger and Ms. Pine were in support.

The Board was unanimous in its support of Article 15, Article 16 and Article 17, Article 18, Article 19, Article 20, Article 21, Article 22, and Article 23. They were at Town Meeting on Article 24. Mr. Giger was at Town Meeting on Article 25, the others were in support. Article 26 was going to be brought back the following week. The Board was at Town Meeting at on Article 27. Article 28 was going to be brought back the following week. The Board was unanimous in its support of Article 29 and 30. Mr. Giger deferred for another week on Article 31, the other Board members were in support. The Board was unanimous in its support of Article 33, 35 and 36.

ON-GOING ISSUES

A: Senior Center – Mr. Haddad said that things had really turned around adding that the roofer had really stepped up and had done a great job fixing the issues.

Mr. Degen said that there was an eagle scout ceremony coming up this weekend. He said that a constituent had said that the office had not responded to their request for a proclamation. He said that that was not the case adding that Ms. Dunbar had done a great job for the office.

The regular session meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm. The Board announced that they would be reentering Executive Session without the intent to return to Open Session.

Approved: _____
John Giger, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted:
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 4/8/19