

Board of Selectmen Meeting
William Belden Training Room
Chairman: Selectman Brian Moriarty

May 1, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.
Approved: July 10, 2018

Present: Selectman Brian Moriarty, Selectman Edmund Jaworski, Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator, Phil Genovese, DPW Director

Selectman Moriarty opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. It was announced that the Board will meet with the Finance Committee to review Annual Town Meeting warrant articles. The Annual Town Meeting is May 8th at 7:00 p.m. at Smith Academy.

Public Forum – Bill Korza, Hatfield Lions Club Pavilion came in to say their parking lot is being ripped up because of the water line for the community gardens. He said he believed that the Water Department deviated from the plan described in a meeting. Mr. Genovese is to talk with Tony Lastowski, Water Superintendent and get back with Mr. Korza.

Bobby Betsold of the 350th Steering Committee announced there are four finalists for the logo contest. These were narrowed down from 48 submissions. He said residents can vote at hatfield350.com and the artists are all anonymous. An announcement will be made in June about the winner.

There were no minutes to be approved.

Posted Business

Fire Department Report - Chief, Stephen Gaughan

The Chief went over some items involving his department including the Fire Department association fundraising efforts which obtained a pickup truck, lettered with donated funds. The association will also purchase a new John Deere Gator 4 wheel drive golf cart, through raised funds. It can carry water up the mountain and patients, etc., and will replace the current one. The Chief mentioned his need to speak to property owners of structures with 6 or more units about new fire prevention code compliance from the State Fire Marshall. There are also new hotworks regulations requiring certifications for cutting and welding. The goal is to get fire protection in. He will attend a hotworks class next month. He will also come back to the Board for acceptance of the new Gator when it's received.

Teamsters Grievance Form

The grievance was filed by an employee for not having been reimbursed for a meal chit for \$10. Selectman Moriarty moved to have the accountant pay the \$10 bill to an employee as per a submitted receipt. Selectman Jaworski seconded. He noted we need to work out a compromise for the receipts. The contract will be examined. Selectman Moriarty said the town is looking for an itemized receipt. We have a lot more things to consider than this for 7 or 10 dollars.

A short recess was taken at 6:22 p.m.

The Finance Committee joined the meeting. Darryl Williams, Betsy Rider, Paul Fisher, Sean Barry and Shawn Robinson

Also in attendance were: Financial Team members: Edwina Palmisano, Sharon Strzegowski, and Derek Geser, John Roberts, School Superintendent, Mike Paszek, School Committee, Catherine Engledardt, School Committee, Police Chief Michael Dekoshak, Fire Chief, Stephen Gaughan, Kyle Scott, Building

Commissioner, Phil Genovese, DPW Director, Kerry Flaherty, Council on Aging, Ed Lesko, Emergency Management Committee

Selectman Moriarty announced items that would be discussed. Throughout the budget discussion, Ms. Michonski updated figures on a budget spreadsheet which was projected for the group to see.

Mr. Williams noted it has been a frustrating budget season. He said proposed cuts have no negative connotation on the different departments; it's just math. He said we don't have free cash, don't know when it will be certified, have talked about budget options over the last weeks, and found it is fiscally prudent to take a 1% reduction across the board, with DPW taking a 2% cut. Ms. Rider said increasing health insurance costs will continue to be a challenge. There is money for Baystate Accounting to correct some of our budgeting issues. Mr. Williams went on to say that things have gotten better; FY17 has been booked. Justin Cole is working on Schedule A, so maybe auditors can get in and there will be a draft audit for free cash certification in time for a Special Town Meeting before June 30th.

Selectman Moriarty explained, so that residents will understand, the difficulty with the budget is a \$100,000.00 increase in health insurance. Mr. Williams said we borrowed a lot of money in the past few years but now we have to pay it back. This is not good for the school, because we want to draw school choice students and hope free cash can be certified with a Special Town Meeting before June 30th to perhaps restore some money before the Fall. Mr. Robinson said he was concerned about the level of cuts to the schools and suggested the vehicle lease can wait 3 months.

Selectman Moriarty explained for the viewing audience that there were 2 budgets before the Board and consensus is to find a budget that will not exceed the levy limit. The vehicle lease and professional services in Ms. Michonski's budget were discussed. Selectman Moriarty said when free cash is certified, all department budgets will be restored to level funding. Mr. Williams mentioned that one of the police cars won't pass inspection. Ms. Rider was concerned about taking money out of professional services. Mr. Williams said the only way to help the FY18 budget is to get free cash. Mr. Robinson felt that the vehicle lease was a large item.

Members of the Finance Committee discussed \$70,000.00 of professional services and the vehicle lease line item. The vehicle lease presents a greater risk for public safety if not funded. Mr. Williams asked to hear from representatives of the school department. They noted that with proposed cuts supplies, conferences, travel, and English language learners might be impacted but not personnel. A computer teacher would not be hired or keyboarding program cut. If there were any cuts it might be for one paraprofessional or foreign language. There would be little professional development for staff and very little supplies.

Mr. Williams said we are going to get some free cash. Selectman Jaworski said they withheld \$130,000. in free cash last year. Mr. Robinson said free cash means an additional town meeting. Selectman Moriarty replied we're having one anyway. Selectman Moriarty said we didn't have the \$30,000. in for professional services last year. Mr. Williams said we need to make sure we have an established priority list for restoring some budgets and stabilization. He said every department across the board has needs. The IT budget is underfunded and we need to look at what line items need to be restored if we can do it.

Stabilization was briefly discussed with Ms. Michonski reporting that stabilization was at about \$100,000.. Mr. Barry noted the budget doesn't increase library funding but will lose us a grant. Ms. Michonski said Eliza Langhans, Library Director is ok with this. Mr. Williams said this is as conservative a budget as he can remember.

Mr. Williams addressed one of the articles, which the Finance Committee had decided not to support, a \$25,000.00 amount to establish a line for the town's 350th anniversary. Ms. Michonski said the money was plugged in from taxation because they need something in the account so they can start receiving money. The amount of \$24,900.00 was removed leaving \$100.00 in. The warrant article needs to be amended on town floor.

Mr. Williams spoke with Bob Wagner. The town owes CPC \$46,000 which needs to be repaid. Also, over the past 4 years, money from ambulance revenue which should have gone to ambulance surplus went to free cash, about \$40,000.00. Mr. Geser is working with Chief Gaughan to figure the numbers out. The town needs to put this back as the ambulance is self-sufficient.

Mr. Robinson asked about a running list of items to be funded, and said \$25,000. for the 350th, \$40,000 for ambulance, \$46,000. for CPA, \$47,000. for Mr. Genovese's i & i, \$20,000. for health insurance, \$26,000. for voc ed, \$34,000 for Baystate, \$44,000 for jaws of life, with a total being \$278,000.

Mr. Lesko asked about money for the trails through a reimbursable grant by the state. Mr. Williams said this is a grant anticipation loan and would not be received until after the invoices have been paid. Mr. Robinson asked about what the free cash number would be. Mr. Williams said Justin Cole is working on Schedule A and is fairly confident about draft financials by the second week in June being sufficient to submit for free cash.

Ms. Rider moved to accept the budget including a 1% reduction for many departments, something less than 1% for the School Department and 2% from DPW. Mr. Fisher seconded. All voting in favor, the motion carried.

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the budget as amended tonight. Selectman Jaworski seconded. He thanked everybody saying it's been a long, hard process. With there being no further discussion, the motion was approved.

CPC articles were briefly discussed by Mr. Williams. He said they are a financial arm of the town. Mr. Barry said they are independent with what they do.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant –

Selectman Moriarty read article 1, question 1 regarding the town treasurer/collector. In discussion of article 2, restoration of \$46,000.00 taken out of CPA funds inadvertently, Mr. Williams said it may be appropriate to table it but perhaps explain, or discuss it. Ms. Szych said it would be more of an announcement not a discussion. Ms. Michonski said at the beginning of the meeting you can reference that article and talk about it.

The 25 articles were gone over with one being a study regarding increasing the Board of Selectmen from 3 to 5 members, another involving the town treasurer and collector be combined and appointed and several articles concerned with recreational marijuana.

Kerry Flaherty, Board of Health Chair, said there will be guidelines through the Board of Health, such as there are for tobacco.

Mr. Barry moved the Finance Committee recommend article 17, the annual transfer of monies for CPC articles. Mr. Robinson seconded. The motion was approved.

CPC articles 18 through 20 were recommended by the Finance Committee on vote of Mr. Barry seconded by Ms. Rider.

There are 25 articles for town meeting next week. No COLAs are included for non-union town employees. In discussion about COLA in regards to non-union town employees Ms. Michonski was asked to get this figure for next time, excluding elected officials. Selectman Moriarty said the town has to be careful with this. Mr. Williams asked about school employees getting a percentage cola – 2%. Mr. Robinson said it doesn't seem right to leave out a handful of people. Mr. Williams asked if Ms. Michonski could come up with a number before Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Strzegowski is to run numbers with a list she did last year. Mr. Robert said teachers are mostly 2%.

Mr. Williams noted the next meeting would be at 6:00p.m. at Smith Academy. Selectman Moriarty moved to adjourn. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting ended at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ki. J. Eno
Executive Assistant