

Board of Selectmen Meeting:  
Memorial Town Hall  
Chairman:

Edmund E. Jaworski

June 20, 2018 @ 6:00pm  
Approved: September 19, 2018

Present: Selectman Brian Moriarty, Selectman Cindy Doty, Selectman Edmund Jaworski, Chair  
Ms. Michonski was absent.

Selectman Jaworski announced the Board will go into executive session according to MGL Chapter 30A, § 21, number to discuss union negotiations. A roll call vote was conducted and with all voting aye, the motion was approved to convene in executive session.

The Board returned to public session at 6:28p.m.

Selectman Jaworski announced that the Finance Committee said previously that if there is no free cash figure then they wouldn't need to meet.

Selectman Doty announced a tanker truck flipped over on Route 91 in Whately. The Town of Hatfield sent mutual aid. Ms. Strzegowski explained that water from foam trucks in Whately meant water discoloration this afternoon.

No one was present for Public Forum.

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve executive session minutes of June 12, 2018. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved. Selectman Doty asked to discuss the June 15, 2018 minutes with Ms. Michonski.

Selectman Jaworski announced a request from the building inspector to carry over 40.9 hours of vacation time. Selectman Moriarty moved to approve this request. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved.

Darryl Williams, Paul Fisher, Betsy Rider, Sean Barry, members of the Finance Committee joined the meeting.

Ms. Strzegowski and Ms. Michonski talked about current communications with Justin Cole of Baystate Municipal Accounting Group. Ms. Michonski said there has been no update as of 1:30 this afternoon. So there is no confirmation that everything's been submitted.

Mr. Williams asked to schedule a meeting next Tuesday night before the Special Town Meeting for 6:30pm. He said we have no confirmation that there was a submission to DOR.

Selectman Jaworski asked the Finance Committee about possibly bringing in Scanlon to do FY18. Mr. Barry noted they had refused to do it previously. Selectman Moriarty asked if the Finance Committee was on Board with the town outsourcing accounting services. Mr. Williams said we have to do something. Because what we're doing now doesn't work. He noted a serious lack of municipal accountants, saying the town would be looking at a firm because it would not be able to find someone with the qualified experience. Selectman Moriarty cautioned that this was a public session and to be careful of what was being said. Selectman Doty said she wants what's quickest and best for the town. She said she spoke with Mr. Cole – and this is beyond our expertise.

Mr. Cole's advice about training was discussed. Selectman Doty said that as per Mr. Cole, if we have someone in place now, keep them in place. It is best to have someone in house for any town. Mr. Cole

said he thought the town should put more time into training. Mr. Williams said we've done this for 3-4 years and we're still here. Selectman Jaworski said working with Baystate is training.

Mr. Williams said Mr. Cole's plan is Baystate would take care of A/P for FY19 and Mr. Geser would concentrate on FY18 and higher level stuff. Selectman Moriarty said the issue was worse than anyone anticipated. He said we were ready to set the tax rate but things just kept surfacing. The use of an outside group to help was discussed and Mr. Fisher said someone coming in now would take some time to get up to speed. Selectman Jaworski said he has been trying to listen to everybody and asked how comfortable all felt that the existing accountant is performing his job. It was suggested that a list of goals be put out after running them by Mr. Cole. Mr. Williams said we set deadlines for specific tasks to be completed and they were not met. Mr. Barry asked about Baystate, saying the town didn't specify paying them a certain amount to fix the problem.

Ms. Strzegowski informed that the plan is to switch to a new chart of accounts July 1, 2018 however, for all the back information the old systems still have to be used. The hope is to be done FY18 in March but we keep finding more problems and everyone is already stretched. Mr. Williams asked about a dedicated finance reserve number if there is a Special Town Meeting meeting next week. Selectman Doty said the submission of the Schedule A didn't come up in a meeting today with Mr. Cole.

Ms. Strzegowski said the idea was Mr. Cole was to take A/P so that Mr. Geser could learn the higher stuff. Selectman Moriarty said it's the accountant's responsibility to submit the Schedule A using the Gateway system. Mr. Geser and Mr. Cole were working together. Mr. Williams said DOR won't trust anything unless Roselli and Mr. Cole sign off. Selectman Moriarty said we want to know the free cash number and were hopeful that we would have it today. Mr. Barry said not getting a number by Tuesday will be evidence enough that we need to do something; we have to somehow get FY18 closed out..

Mr. Fisher asked if anyone had spoken to Tom Scanlon Jr. Selectman Moriarty did not know if anyone in particular had been contacted but said a new direction needs to be looked at.

Mr. Barry is to talk to Tom Scanlon Jr. tomorrow. Ms. Strzegowski informed that Mr. Cole said he reached out to Scanlon. Mr. Williams said there is a plan going forward with Mr. Cole. Selectman Jaworski would like to have Ms. Michonski talk with Mr. Cole and tell him if Schedule A is not done and submitted this week then we need to know why. Mr. Williams said DOR recommended Mr. Cole's firm. Mr. Fisher said work has been done, and we're farther along. There was discussion around whether the town was better off now. Selectman Jaworski said this has been a problem for quite a few years and we're finally taking the initiative to fix it.

Selectman Jaworski said if we have free cash next Tuesday we could possibly know what money is available for transferring. Mr. Williams said if we don't have free cash there is one thing we can do, we have \$40,000.00, and stabilization of \$140,000.00. Mr. Williams said there is a need to clarify the plan, the goals and responsibilities for Mr. Cole and for Mr. Geser. Mr. Barry suggested borrowing but Ms. Slys noted the status of the town's bond rating.

Selectman Doty said Terry Williams is retiring in 10 days. Mr. Barry suggested hiring Terry Williams. Selectman Moriarty moved to adjourn. Selectman Doty seconded. All voting in favor, the motion carried and the meeting ended at 7:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ki. J. Eno, Executive Assistant