

Present: Brian F. Moriarty, Chairman
Edmund E. Jaworski, Selectman
Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator

Also present: Council on Aging Director Jane Betsold; COA Board of Directors Kerry Flaherty, Chr., Amanda Zygmunt, Susan Hurley, Jill Tucker and Judy Zahn; Smith Vocational Supt. Kevin Farr and Board of Trustee Chr. Michael Cahillane; Laura Lee Bertram, Treasurer and Collector; Finance Committee Members Darryl Williams, Sean Barry, Fran Gougeon, and Paul Fisher; Derek Geser, Town Accountant; Edwina Palmisano; Becky Rider, Christopher Smith, Michael Paszek; Fire Chief Stephen Gaughan;

Chairman Moriarty called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Public Forum – no one present

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Chairman Moriarty seconded by Selectman Jaworski to approve the March 23, 2017 Minutes. Vote: unanimous

Motion made by Chairman Moriarty and seconded by Selectman Jaworski to approve the April 11, 2017 Executive Session Minutes. Vote: unanimous

Motion made by Chairman Moriarty and seconded by Selectman Jaworski to approve the April 11, 2017 Minutes. Vote: unanimous

Council on Aging

Discussion with the Selectmen regarding the future of the Council on Aging and their current space, Board Chairperson Kerry Flaherty said in addition to looking at the overall space in the basement, they have looked at the former Trinity Church, space on Main St. in the rear of the Hatfield Center Store. Mrs. Flaherty presented and reviewed a list identifying space needed including dimensions. A concern of the Board is where their operations will go during Phase II renovations of Town Hall. Viewing the project as a coordinated effort with contractors, Chairman Moriarty suggested if they have some ideas or suggestions for a temporary location, Selectmen would be open to hearing from them. Also, recognizing the COA knows best what they are looking for in terms of long range plans, the question is whether they remain downstairs or move to another location. COA Board member Susan Hurley feels they will outgrow the basement. Referencing a discussion he had with Ed Shibley of the Diocese for the former Trinity Church, Christopher Smith referred to whether there will be one or two options, expressed that they are losing time for placement of an Article on the Warrant. He suggested the Building Inspector look at costs to renovate the former Church, including costs to bring it up to code

compliance. Chairman Moriarty expressed being uncomfortable with having the Building Inspector do that.

4/18/17, pg.2

Although the Board has discussed options, Mrs. Flaherty said they have not voted a recommendation. Discussed briefly the proposed feasibility study for the COA, Museum and HCTV Studio which is recommended on the FY18 Capital Projects Plan. A suggestion was made by Chairman Moriarty that it may be possible to have a preliminary study of the COA done.

Smith Vocational Supt. Kevin Farr and Board of Trustee Chr. Michael Cahillane

Thanking the Selectmen for the students from Hatfield attending Smith Vocational, Mr. Cahillane expanded upon the improvements being made to their curriculum, citing an agreement with Greenfield Community College to supply space for a nursing program. An adult education program has been implemented. Speaking of how proud he is of the students, Mr. Cahillane said enrollment at Smith Vocational is 500.

School Superintendent Kevin Farr gave a brief overview of his career. Since coming to Smith Voc in 2016, his focus has been quality of programming at the School and expanding the Agriculture program. Referencing the unofficial tuition cost for FY18, it will be less than last year. Mr. Farr is looking at the high cost of transportation for surrounding communities.

Speaking to the choice of schools, Chairman Moriarty feels Smith Vocational plays a large role in the schools and thanked Mr. Cahillane and Mr. Farr for coming in.

Executive Session

Motion made by Selectman Jaworski to convene in Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L Ch. 30A, Sec. 21 (a) #2, by a roll call vote to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. Motion seconded by Chairman Moriarty. Jaworski – aye; Moriarty – aye; Vote: unanimous

Returned to Open Session 6:44 p.m.

Joint Meeting w/ Finance Committee / FY18 Budget/ Capital Projects

Treasurer Laura Lee Bertram provided an update regarding her office.

- FY17 July receipts reconciled and is halfway through August. Anticipates handing off July to the Accountant in the next day or two. Referring to identified variances, Ms. Bertram said they are holding true or have been found. Timing remains an issue. It is a challenge to find time for treasurer's work. Mr. Geser, Accountant, said he will need to reconcile to the Treasurer once he receives it.
- Assistant's position is vacant. Position has been posted.
- Edwina Palmisano is working with Treasurer.

Changes made to the FY18 Budget at previous meeting were reviewed. This puts the Budget under the levy limit by (13,248).

4/18/17, pg. 3

Defending his budget requests, Fire Chief Gaughan feels the recommended budget is underservicing the town. Speaking to the increase for the Deputy Chief would staff the ambulance. Citing the benefit to hiring an intern for approximately \$1200, the position would be responsible for logging permits.

Reference to \$12,000 funded from School Choice to the DPW Director's salary for shared facilities maintenance services should be reflected as "Available Funds" since it is not funded from taxation. Request for input from the DPW Director for the next meeting regarding estimated \$30,000 in overtime for Water and Sewer.

Reviewed recommended capital projects. Pending availability of free cash, Selectmen and Finance Committee identified top seven priorities.

- Town Hall Server/Infrastructure Replacement
- Ambulance Paramedic Equipment
- Omasta Well Pump, Electrical
- Highway Garage Pole Barn Trusses & Roof
- Feasibility Study/Council on Aging, Museum/Cable TV Studio
- Front Steps Railing Project
- Technology Accounting Software for School Dept.

Meeting concluded at 9:05 p.m. with a motion to adjourn by Mr. Moriarty seconded by Mr. Jaworski. Vote: unanimous

Respectfully,

Marlene Michonski
Town Administrator