

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

Also present: Laura Lee Bertram, Treasurer and Collector; Finance Committee Members Darryl Williams, Sean Barry, Fran Gougeon, Shawn Robinson and Paul Fisher; Edwina Palmisano; Christopher Smith, Michael Paszek; Fire Chief Stephen Gaughan; Kerry Flaherty, Board of Health Chair and Council on Aging Chair.

Chairman Moriarty called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Public Forum – no one present

Approval of Minutes

Referring to the 3/7/17 Minutes, page 1, reference to discussion regarding Housing Authority Membership, Selectman Jaworski believes “Mr. Robert Wilkes” should be “Mr. John Wilkes”. Motion made by Selectman Jaworski and seconded by Chairman Moriarty to approve the minutes as amended. Vote: unanimous

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Chairman Moriarty read the Articles. Mr. Christopher Smith inquired about the intent previously expressed by officials to return money to the Stabilization Fund. Chairman Moriarty stated it still is a goal.

6:25 p.m. Motion made by Selectman Jaworski and seconded by Chairman Moriarty to convene in Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 30A, Sec. 21 (a), #2, to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiating a contract with non-union personnel.

6:41 p.m. Returned to Open Session

FY2018 Budget Discussion - Joint Meeting with Finance Committee

Referring to a plan to reconcile FY17, Treasurer, Laura Lee Bertram confirmed she has an appointment on Thursday to work with consultant David Leary. At the recommendation of Mr. Leary and the Treasurer from Easthampton, she has set up depositories for payroll, only. This will be separate from accounts payables.

Reviewed requests from Departments which reflect an increase in budget operations.

Fire Chief Gaughan reiterated his budget represents an increase in hours for the Deputy Chief and hire summer staff. The current fiscal year salary and wages reflect one time funds owed to retired Fire Chief William Belden. Chief Gaughan is proposing to retain a portion of those funds for the Deputy Chief and summer employment.

Mrs. Flaherty asked the Finance Committee and Selectmen to support the additional increases for the COA Director, administrative assistant, as well as, van drivers. Increase in expenses is for postage and dues.

Referring to the Board of Health, a decrease in expenses of \$1400.00, they are recommending moving the funds to Salary & Wages to support some of the recommended increase for the Health Agent.

Discussion at length regarding additional administrative support for several offices and cost to fund the positions. Before adding funds for additional staff, Selectmen and Finance are in favor of hiring a consultant to assess offices in Town Hall and look at how operations are managed. Intention is to draw clarity from the assessment as to whether an increase in staffing is warranted and what areas need improvement.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission FY17 District Local Technical Assistance Program

Motion made by Selectman Jaworski and seconded by Chairman Moriarty to approve and sign the Community Commitment Agreement with PVPC. Vote: unanimous

DPW – Weight Limit Waiver

Motion made by Chairman Moriarty and seconded by Selectman Jaworski to grant the Weight Limit Waiver for Linseed Road, pursuant to the Town By-Laws, Article Four, Section 4.10, to Duffy Willard Trucking of Florence. Vote: unanimous

With no further business, a motion was made by Selectman Jaworski and seconded by Chairman Moriarty to adjourn the meeting. Vote: unanimous

9:00 p.m. Adjourned

Respectfully,

Marlene Michonski
Town Administrator