

September 11, 2017

Selectmen's Meeting

7:00PM

Present: Don Chabon, Chuck Cardillo, Danielle Fillio

Don called the meeting to order.

Don read through the Select Board Meeting schedule as follows: September 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM and October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM.

Don mentioned that the Town was having some problems with the webpage. Danielle said that current updates from the beginning of August indicate that they were public but they are not showing to the public for some reason. She is working with the IT department and the website hosts.

Danielle continued that the Town has entered into a contract with Tom Sharpe at Mungy Studios and he is currently working on providing us an updated website. By the end of the week we should have a draft form. Town resident Laura Beasley has offered to take pictures around town for the new site and things are moving forward.

The first item on the agenda is the continuation of the public hearing on the Special Permit for David and Sarah Lebwohl for property located at 24 Mahkeenac Shores. Due to the lack of the ability to have a super majority vote as previously stated Don moved to continue the hearing to September 20, 2017 at 9AM. Chuck seconded, the vote was unanimous.

Robert Curtiss, 26 Mahkeenac Shore Road said that as an abutter it is difficult for them to make morning meetings. Danielle suggested putting it off until Monday night the 25<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

Don rephrased the motion as due to the lack of the ability to have a super majority vote as previously stated Don moved to continue the hearing to September 25, 2017 at 7PM. Chuck seconded, the vote was unanimous.

The next item was the continuation of Public Hearing on Special Permit for Raynor and Ranne Warner for property located at 19 Birch Lane owned by H and E Reinholt, LLC .

Don moved that due to the lack of the ability to have a super majority vote as previously stated Don moved to continue the hearing to September 25, 2017 at 7PM. Chuck seconded, the vote was unanimous.

Next the Board entered a joint meeting with the Finance Committee.

Jay Bikofsky called the joint session to order. Jay first recognized that it was the 16 years anniversary of the World Trade Center bombings and asked everyone to take a moment of silence. Jay stated that he had circulated a revised set of minutes for the July 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. He asked for comments on the minutes and asked for a motion to approve. The minutes were approved by six with two abstentions

Jay welcomed Steve Shatz as a new member.

Jay asked Danielle about a matter with the reserve fund that dealt with an environmental use.

Danielle stated that they have a reserve fund transfer for \$ 3,747.50 for a diesel spill on Glendale Middle Road that the Town cleaned up but who caused the spill was unknown. Town insurance does not cover it but it needs to be paid. Chuck said that there were four area spills and R.W. was called in for the cleanup as they have a hazmat clean-up.

Steve moved to approve the transfer; the vote was unanimous by the finance committee.

Don moved to accept the \$3,747.50 transfer. Chuck seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Jay continued with an update on the bridge repair and replacement. The Finance committee had originally had in the minutes that the 183 Culvert was deterioration and was an immediate concern and priority item. Therefore monies allocated for the Averic Bridge repairs were moved to the culvert repair. This was at that time approved. Jay asked about the status of that project. Danielle said that it is out to bid with a potential opening date of September 28th. The culvert piping had been ordered by the Town as it takes four weeks for fabrication. Once this is complete, work will commence in October and there will be a one lane closure on Route 183 South. The contracted paving with Lane Construction will be pushed back until the completion of the culvert repair which will be October.

Danielle said that the Averic Bridges are on hold and Lenny is going to apply for a small bridge repair for each, for \$500,000, as was done with the Larrywaug Bridge. The Town already has \$500,000 from the small bridge program for Larrywaug Bridge and Lenny is currently applying for a STRAP grant for 1 million dollars to fund more of the project. Steve asked about applying for a PWED Grant, which is an unlimited amount, and Danielle said that Lenny said it would not qualify. Steve asked if there were any other grants available for the other bridges. BCD Bridge has been temporarily fixed and the South Hill Road bid was just awarded to D.F. Land Landscaping and it should be mostly completed this fall.

Jay questioned where things stood with establishing Grant applications and Steve said that a year ago there was discussion from all departments and they had received information from all of the departments aside from the Fire Department. Chuck said that they just received a grant for \$5,000 for forestry fire gear and that they have been applying for grants but have not been successful. Steve said that the Highway Department and the Facilities Manager have applied for grants.

Jay asked that they receive status reports of the grant process from the departments who apply for grants and Steve agreed.

Jay asked Danielle about the budget process and she said that Jim had a few other items he would like as a part of the next budget process. She suggested that this would be a good time to discuss options. Neil Holden asked what would happen if there was a 10% budget cut and how they would adjust. Jay said that from his prospective it might be a better idea to see the budgets first. Neil said that he is just asking the question of what departments would do if 10% were to be cut. Jim said that his fear was that things would be cut that we all would not want. Jay said that he would feel better to get an estimated

budget first. Steve said that the problem is that for years the Town underspent and ended up with issues such as with the maintenance of the infrastructure. Steve did not agree with the idea.

Diane Heady- Ruess questioned if they underspent, where the money was being spent. She felt that the 10% idea was a valid question. It was discussed that we are talking about special articles and operating budget.

Jay proposed that in the budget discussions with the departments that it is stressed to exercise restraint. He would like to get a sense from the committee that after they get a draft; they look to where it might be cut further, but not to set a 10% cut immediately.

Steve agreed to start with the budget process and see where it leads. Discussion continued and Jay restated that we will begin the budget process and see what we come up with.

Jim McMenemy referenced last year's budget process and the assistance of Mark Webber. He questioned if this would be beneficial again. Jay referred the question to Danielle as she worked directly with him. Danielle said that it was very helpful to have Mark to bounce things off of but the majority, 90%, of the budget, she did herself. Mark was extremely helpful but Danielle feels that she can do this herself this year. Jim Balfanz offered his confidence in Danielle's ability.

Jay said that a prior meeting, members raised the thought that it might be appropriate to hire a wage and salary union negotiation contract consultant. Danielle said that they voted to set aside \$7,500 for that purpose. Steve said that the next steps would be up to the Board of Selectmen. Don said that Danielle had been looking at assistance. Danielle said that Ray could provide them with recommendations or they could do an RFP. Steve suggested the Board not to limit themselves to Berkshire County for a qualified management labor lawyer. Everyone agreed to go through Ray for suggestions.

Don stated that last year they were looking at performance based salary increments as opposed to standard and they were looking into HR services and are following up on it. They remain in the discussion phases. Danielle said that the first part was implemented. Jay said that they may raise this idea to Ray also.

Neil Holden asked what the process is as far as checking on follow through of items approved at the Town Meetings such as security cameras and the drainage for the Town Offices. Chuck said that the process is discussed at Wednesday morning meetings with department updates. Neil also offered his time to fill the empty Finance Board member seat on the CPC. Steve asked that the decision be deferred to another meeting as the CPC will not meet again until January. Other members would like to give some thought on being a member before appointing anyone.

Jim McMenemy also asked about the card entry system that was approved a few years ago and not implemented. As they were special article funds the funds remain available. Jim Balfanz suggested that there be a review process at Selectmen's meeting to check on items such as these that have not been fulfilled and get an explanation so that citizens know what is going on; these are big money items

Next, Steve asked for an update on the highway garage costs. Danielle said that currently the town is waiting for a contract to be signed for asbestos removal. This was not anticipated but there is about \$35,000 of asbestos to be removed. Currently Town Counsel and Berkshire Engineering are working on a contract to get that done. We have gone out to bid for the demo and the bid opening was originally scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup>, but it has been postponed. It is hoped to get the asbestos result before this, but currently we do not know what the demo is going to come in at.

Jim Balfanz asked where things stood in regards to the new plan and Danielle said that plans have not yet been presented. Don said that the plan is to use a prefab building style. Jim also asked about the relocation of the Talbot Center which is also going to be demolished. Danielle said that they are working on storage of the contents and the relocation of the new building has not been determined. Mary Boyce asked why it would not be moved and Chuck said it would be less expensive to build new. Jim Balfanz suggested that all contents be available to Town residents and when it comes time to demolish, dispose of what remains instead of trying to store it.

Everyone agreed that Lenny needs to come in and give timelines and how the equipment will be protected in the winter as it does not sound like there will be a building. Steve asked if it was still the plan to use State notes to finance the new building. Jay said that it was the original concept of the Finance Committee but the Board of Selectmen had not discussed it yet.

With no further items, Steve moved to adjourn the Finance meeting and Jay seconded.

Don moved to adjourn the Select Board meeting, Chuck seconded and the vote was unanimous.

