

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 7, 2018
9:00 AM
TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Don Chabon, Chuck Cardillo, Terry Flynn and Theresa Zanetti

Call to Order:

Don called the meeting to order.

Don made announcements that the November Elections turnout was 1,128 of the possible 1,650 voters. He also stated that Danielle is out recuperating from a medical procedure and will return shortly. Don noted that the Highway garage is down to be followed by construction, the Route 183 Culvert and road resurfacing was complete and construction was underway behind the Town Offices.

Do stated that the winter parking ban will be in effect beginning November 15th through March 15th. The Town Offices will be closed on Monday November 12th in observance of Veterans' Day. There has also been one inquire on marijuana retail.

Don read a statement which follows:

"We need to announce that it appears the Town has been the victim of a scam. This involved the receipt of supplies in the Fire Department where, over a period of time, an excessive amount of material was received for which an excessive price was billed/paid for a loss probably in the range of five figures. As Chairman, I have asked Town Council to conduct an internal inquiry to determine the exact extent of the loss as well as the circumstances surrounding this event. We expect to receive their report before our 11/19 meeting. Once that information is known, we will assess the damage, take whatever corrective action is necessary and advise the community accordingly. Until that inquiry is complete there will be no further official comment on the subject."

Don continued that this had been turned over to Town Counsel and will be back with a report by the 19th.

Don listed the agenda for the next meeting which included status reports.

Don next awarded bids for surplus vehicles that per Conservation Commission request were needed to be removed from the Geraldine Foot Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary abutting the Transfer Station.

I move that we award the 1952 Army Utility Trailer to Village Truck Sales in the amount of \$190.00.

I move that we award the 1991 MAC truck to Meadow Farm in the amount of \$1,558.00.

I move that we award the 1973 Austin Grader to David Krutiak in the amount of \$2,255.00.

I move that we award the 1989 Pierce Arrow Pumper to Meadow Farm in the amount of \$3,156.00.

I move that we award the 1970 AM General Truck to Bill Harvey in the amount of \$901.32.

I move that we award the 1968 Keiser Dump Truck to Bill Harvey in the amount of \$857.93.

Chuck seconded; all were in favor.

Other items will be picked up as the garage is built. Len added that they will scrap the stuff.

Appointments were next made:

Chief Fennelly recommended Officer Travis Derby to fill a full time opening as of December 1st. Officer Derby would have a start time of early December. Officer Fennelly gave an overview of Officer Derby's resume and presented him to the Board. All welcomed him.

Don moved that they extend a conditional offer employment to Travis Derby based on the Chiefs recommendations. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.

For the Cultural Council Don moved that they re-appoint Mary Flourney, Jessi Meagher, Rebecca Weinman and Patrick White to the Cultural Council for 3 year terms.

Don also moved that they appoint Lionel Delevinge and Julie Edmonds to the cultural council for 3 year terms. Terry seconded; all were in approval.

For the Planning Board following the resignation of Eugene Talbot, the Board received appointment requests from three citizens and all applicants were qualified. Don asked Terry and Chuck for their comments. Chuck moved to nominated Christine Rasmussen. Terry had no comment. Don commented that he would like to see the Planning Board to be neutral and not polarized with the bylaw review process and on the subject of development; they seem to be quite polarized and have a weighted balance towards substantially restricted development. He felt that Christine represents that would reflect increased participation. Don seconded and Terry abstained. The vote was two yes and one abstained. Terry also commented that the Planning Board was not as polarized as thought; not necessarily pro or anti-development. Terry said that he was not addressing the appointment but would like to not characterize themselves or others. The Board extended congratulations to Christine.

The Traffic Study was next discussed and Police Chief Darrel Fennelly and Highway Superintendent Len Tisdale joined the table. Don said the question now was how they should proceed. Chuck stated that he felt they had a good study and said that they could accept the plan as is or make a few minor changes. The Town could proceed by then presenting the plan to the State or let the State do their plan. Terry disagreed and said that they were not bound to do any of the study or all of the study. He felt that the study was misleading to suggest such a high accident rate at the intersection. He did not feel that the Town should spend more money than we need to, to address the situation; to start with a round-about which would then become a rotary to handle the traffic; it would then be too late. He suggested that the three-way stop caused indecisiveness for drivers and it should be changed back to two-way with possible electronic warnings and tighten up the intersection. He also felt that line painting could also help with travel. He does not want to see the Town become "cookie cutter" with proposed bump-outs and suggested keeping the bike lanes as they are. He would like to keep the historical nature of the Town; "the reality of Rockwell's Main Street painting"; "a quieter Town, a simpler town". Terry did agree that making the Vine Street and Rt. 7 intersection a T-intersection was very sensible. Over all he felt that doing simpler things like line painting and other quick fixes would be best. Don noted to Lenny that there were things in the study that struck him as easy, quick fixes that could be done. He asked Len and

Darrell to look the study over to see what items could be done now at little expense. Chuck questioned if the Town went ahead with limited fixes, what might the State do? Would the State accept that or proceed on their own. Terry did not believe that the State would come in.

Don suggested that the Board write a letter to the Red Lion Inn and Austen Riggs requesting that their employees park off street in their private parking lots. He also suggested a walk through with Len and Darrell; followed by a public input session with the consultant previous to bringing in Mass DOT.

Chuck questioned the usage of the drive behind the Fire Station and noted that the traffic study suggestions to make it a road actually moves the Fire House or takes more land. Terry said that he objected to closing the back road and Chuck stated that it was not a safe situation. Darrell said that he did not fault people for using it as a short cut as it is so difficult to enter and leave Vine Street. Don asked Darrell, Len and Chuck to look at the situation, the report and make a recommendation.

It was decided that a walkthrough with the consultant would happen first for a better understanding, followed by a public input session. Chuck stated that some of the items in the study are State mandatory, the bump outs and crosswalks are out of the Town's hands. Terry disagreed and said it would be if the Town does a major work. Chuck said that the study showed that we were not up to code, they now know about it and we wouldn't be doing our job if we did not address them. Terry did not feel that was correct. Chuck added that if they are not ADA approved and something happens, the Town would be liable. It was decided that a walkthrough with the consultant would happen first for a better understanding, followed by a public input session.

Nick Nadorff questioned that speed limits were not addressed. He felt that a separate meeting would be necessary to address all the points. He also addressed the walkway, committed to do, from Town to the affordable housing that was funded in 2006. He said that he was available to talk about both issues. Len replied that the walkway was under Complete Streets and they were meeting this morning to discuss the project. Terry questioned if the original funds, which were raised and appropriated for, if it could be moved to free cash. The Town would need to vote to move the funds.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Don made a motion to adjourn. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.