

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 19, 2019
7:00 PM
TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Don Chabon, Chuck Cardillo, Terry Flynn and Danielle Fillio

Call to Order:

Don called the meeting to order.

Announcements:

Don said that the next meeting is February 25th at 7PM followed by March 6th at 9AM, March 18th at 7PM, March 27th at 9AM and April 8th at 7PM. The Baby Town Meeting is May 13th, the ATM is May 20th and Elections are on May 21st. Don noted that Bob Jones resigned from the ZBA leaving an opening.

Status Reports:

Don said that the auditor's final review was completed and the financial position in Town continues to be excellent.

Bids and contracts are being evaluated for the Church Street paving and the Highway garage with tentative time lines. For Church Street paving for the end of March for one week and tentative construction to begin in early May on the highway garage with a completion by October.

Don said that the Traffic Study engineer met with the State and the State is interested in the two intersections. Danielle noted that the main stretch of Main Street is under the Town's jurisdiction and State funds cannot be used where angled parking is. The State does understand why the Town needs the angled parking and are allowing for that to be broken out. It is also understood that there is no intention of moving any of the monuments.

Concerning the Fire Department; a report from Chief Haywood stated that they currently have 14 experienced and enthusiastic and dedicated fire fighters who have been responding to day and night calls in adequate numbers. Although the number of members is lower than they had previously, turn out for each event has been typically higher. Ideally they would like to see a roster of 20 active fire fighters who live and work in Town and there is an ongoing effort to recruit and retain new and former Stockbridge based fire fighters. Don noted that the fire department has requested a search committee to be formed to find a permanent chief.

On short term rentals, Don noted that the Bylaw review committee was not interested in taking on the appointing of a committee and suggested that the Selectmen form the committee. Don again suggested that the three Selectmen each appoint a member. Chuck suggested that the public be notified of the openings and to use the interested parties in their selection process. Don suggested that they still make three suggestions and include Marie Raftery.

Don said that Michael Nathan asked to come before the Board and as the SBA is in litigation with the Town, they need to find out what Michael wants to discuss beforehand. Terry said that he would speak with Michael.

Minutes: Don moved to approve the minutes for January 7th, January 16th and January 28th. Terry seconded; all were in favor.

Agenda:

Review and approve Selectmen budget:

Danielle began by stating that the Selectmen's budget was not level funded this year. Under salaries she was asking for a salary raise of \$1,500 (removing it from the clerical salary) plus cost of living for Theresa for the additional duties for Town Report. Danielle had also added \$50,000 to the litigation budget. The rest is level funded.

Chuck asked if \$100,000 would be enough in litigation as the Town has for potential suits pending (SBA has filed two and Conservation potentially has another for a denied driveway). Danielle stated that they will be hitting this fiscal year and are already over budget and that hopefully \$100,000 will be enough for next year. Don asked if insurance would cover any of the suits and Danielle said some depending on the nature of the lawsuit.

Don moved to approve the Selectmen's budget as presented. Terri seconded; all were in favor. Danielle asked Don if he wanted to create a new line for Economic Development or put it in the Selectmen's budget. Don said he was including it where he had tourism. He stated that one of the Town's issues with bond rating is that the economy is heavily tourism and too dependent on it. Don said that he started by asking some people to look at economic development, outside of tourism. Don said that he suggested \$15,000 for starting. Don said that Laura Beasley has a number of people who are interested in being involved. Terry questioned if the planner position would also look at this. Chuck suggested bumping the budget line up to \$25,000. Danielle said that they could do an economic development plan with the planner simultaneously with the bylaw revisions; they need to coincide together. It was decided to keep it in the Selectmen's budget and keep it at \$15,000.

Chuck made a motion to have an economic development line for \$15,000 in the Selectmen's budget. Terry seconded; all were in approval.

Next discussed was Town Counsel retainer with a 2.5% increase. Don moved that the board approve the Town Counsel budget. Terri seconded; all were in favor.

Review draft and discussion of warrant articles:

Don noted the following upcoming warrant articles: a short term rental bylaw, recommendations from the planner, government reorganization: the compactor reporting to the highway department as opposed to the Board of Health. Danielle added \$100,000 out of stabilization set aside for the smaller of the two Averic Bridges, the Sewer Department is buying a pickup truck out of surplus, the CPC articles, \$10,000 for the Rest of the River (GE legal fees), the Fire Department will need money for OSHA upgrades (possibility of reallocation \$67,000 of funds already there for that purpose), take \$600,000 of free cash and creating a new stabilization account called Bridge and Road Maintenance and Repair.

Adjournment:

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