

Voted and approved 6-29-2010

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Present: David McDougall, Chairman
Doug Blanchard, Vice Chairman
Michael Phelan
Jess Dods
Ann Roy

Also Present: Diana Schindler, Town Administrator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Call to Order

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

JOINT MEETING WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE

7:00 P.M. SCHOOL COMMITTEE RE: Budget

Present: Finance Committee members, Robert Blanchette, John Martin, Tammy Tefft, Nancy LaBombard, Jim Flemming, School Committee members, Kim Schott and John Fitzpatrick, and Craig Jurgenson, Superintendent, Cindy Landers, David Keilson, Town Accountant

Mr. Jurgenson stated they asked Ms. Landers and Mr. Collins to understand where they are in this year's budget and to preparing a level service budget. They are ready to do what needs to be done.

Chairman McDougall stated there was a dept head meeting today and there was a letter that was signed by them. This letter puts things into perspective. It addresses wages, based on a meeting that was held this morning. Selectwoman Roy and Chairman McDougall read the letter aloud. Many departments are currently working below staff level than ten years ago.

At this point it is a revenue problem and not an expense problem. Ms. Schindler said the state projects \$47,000 of meals tax. They stated that is a general projection.

MOTION: to put the meals tax on the annual town meeting warrant. (PHELAN, ROY)
Voted and approved 5-0

There was a discussion regarding the regional bus contract and how to save money.

Selectman Phelan stated they need to conserve the free cash. If and when something comes up we have no where to go. Selectwoman Roy stated thru this whole budget process we are trying to Not to lay anyone off, but services it will have to be a choice level fund service or personnel. The discussion continued about furloughs, layoffs, health insurance and how to deal with union and non union personnel.

Mr. Jurgenson asked the board to give them a number and they will try to get to it. He just received this information tonight. He will take it back to the committee tomorrow night.

The board asked the Finance Committee to meet with them to discuss the wages next Tuesday. The board will be meeting on April 6th. Chairman McDougall stated he would like to increase the communication with the dept heads. Ms. Schindler recommended to meet with the Finance Committee and to have the department heads brought back in to talk about the final budget have them in on the 20th. Selectman Phelan stated if they are going to talk about wages the dept heads should be there. They are hoping they will engage them in a discussion. Ms. Schindler recommended the Select Board to have a discussion amongst themselves prior to the board opening up the discussion. Ms. Schindler asked if the dept heads are coming to participate or are they coming in as citizens.

Tape was shut off and turned back on.

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I. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Schindler stated she told them last week that she was going to maintain an on going project report.

Ms. Schindler stated when she showed this report to the dept heads they reacted nervously regarding the ongoing operation maintenance cost of some of those things. She further stated she had a productive dept head meeting and will meet next Tuesday.

Ms. Schindler stated the only thing they are managing is the cable license renewal; they had a cable committee that did a great job. It has taken her some time to fully understand the contract and programming amongst other things. There are many things she would like to address in the contract. Town counsel has reviewed it. April 20 is the public hearing for residents to talk to charter and to the select board regarding the cable.

II. BOARD OF SELECTMEN UPDATES

Upcoming Events/Meetings

III. OLD BUSINESS

Goral property

Jim Bischoff, a member of the Recreational Needs Committee came to the board to speak with them regarding the Goral property.

Mr. Bischoff stated he feels sympathy for the board and the dept heads. He stated he loves the idea of thinking out of the box and suggested putting it out on the website to hear what people have to say.

Mr. Bischoff said he had not heard about the Goral land and the RNC have not spoken about it. He can only speak about it as the athletic part. The Labrie field is only going to replace what they had. If there is any growth they will find a shortage. It would be nice to have, not sure if it is needed.

The RNC are not scheduled to meet in the future but they can meet again to discuss this.

Mr. Bischoff stated years ago they were looking for land and there was nothing available, pieces of property don't come along often. The Goral property is a pristine piece of land.

Ms. Schindler said she received an email who works for the American Farm land Trust and she offered to bring in material of the community costs of develop vs open space preservation. She will reproduce and give them to board next week.

MOTION: to ask CPC to fund appraisal to see how much this property is worth.
(Blanchard, no second)

Selectman Blanchard spoke with the owners who informed them they cannot pay more than the appraisal.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Master plan

Selectman Dods stated he is the rep to the master planning committee and there have been 139 surveys completed and the case of fire, water, police and highway they have higher than 80% approval rating with the level of services.

Richard Ahart

Selectwoman Roy read aloud the article from the Gazette who had a story on Richard Ahart who received a cample house award on March 19th.
Selectman Phelan asked to have a letter of congratulations sent to him.

Annual Town Report Dedication

MOTION: To have the dedication of the annual town report to the name
(PHELAN, DODS) Voted and approved 5-0

Parade Committee

Ms. Schindler stated she spoke with the head of the veterans and Steve Hyde and they are hoping to get the parade unit and hoping the first cohesive unit parade will be Memorial Day.

V. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE AND SIGNATURES

Nothing at this time

VI. MINUTES OF MEETINGS, APPROVAL & SIGNATURES

Bill Warrant #W10-39 \$210,218.45

MOTION: to approve and sign bill warrant #W10-39 in the amount of
\$219,218.45. (BLANCHARD, ROY) Voted and approved 5-0

Minutes 01/26/10, 02/09/10, 03/09/10

MOTION: To approve minutes of January 26, 2010 as written. (PHELAN,
BLANCHARD) Voted and approved 5-0

MOTION: To approve minutes of February 9, 2010 as written. (PHELAN,
BLANCHARD) Voted and approved 5-0

MOTION: To approve minutes of March 9 2010 as written. (PHELAN,
BLANCHARD) Voted and approved 5-0

VII. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC

There was further discussion regarding proposition 2 ½, override, priorities, and policies between the Select Board.

Chairman McDougall said their position as a select person he is looking for ways to fund things to make sure police, fire and highway are funded appropriately.

Selectman Phelan stated they are not under obligation to the dept for a 2 ½ they are obligation under citizen, the dept are their employee of the town and they are the leaders, their responsibility is to the citizens, he doesn't think they have an obligation to do a 2 ½ he does not think it is a best interest.

Jeann Piere Crevier, Chairman of Board of Health, stated they are elected leaders who have an obligation to lead people not to be pushed by anyone or anyone group they have an obligation to the town and to lead the town. There is no understanding of what is going on of the financial situation of the town. The discussions today with the dept heads are talking about they are tired of being squeezed to do the same job and bigger with less and that's happened it is not being related to the public.

What are we doing here.... the law was passed so they could not raise your taxes more than 2 ½ there was also provisions to put in overrides knowing that it may not work. It is not working in this town. Anyone that thinks its working does not know what is going on in this town. It is a good idea to try to bring to people to let them know we have problems even if they vote it down when we keep avoiding people. Sometimes we have to say what we don't like so they understand where we are, that needs to be done. If we are falling behind everywhere we need the 2 ½ forever. If we keep going to bottom of hole we will be buried and if we keep lying by not speaking saying things are great, we really don't need it. We should be standing up and doing that is what leaders do.

EXECUTIVE SESSION M.G.L. CHAPTER 39, §23B #3 Nothing at this time

MOTION: To adjourn meeting. (PHELAN, DODS)

Voted and approved 5-0

Respectfully submitted
Regina Shea-Sullivan