



Town of West Newbury Board of Selectmen

Monday, March 5, 2018 @ 6pm.
381 Main Street, Town Office Building
www.wnewbury.org

Meeting Minutes

Chairman David Archibald called the meeting to order at 6:03PM. In attendance were Selectmen David Archibald, Chairman, Glenn A. Kemper and Joseph H. Anderson, Jr. Others in attendance were Town Counsel Mike McCarron, and Executive Administrator Mary Winglass.

Selectman Anderson moved to go into executive session under MGL Chapter 30A §21(a) 6: To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. Second by Selectman Kemper with a unanimous roll call vote: Archibald – aye, Anderson – aye, Kemper – aye.

Open Session: Chairman Archibald reconvened the open session at 7:09 PM in the First-Floor Hearing Room. *This meeting is being broadcasted on local cable TV and recorded for rebroadcast on the local cable channels and on the internet.*

Regular Business

I. Pentucket Regional School District: FY'19 Budget

Jeff Mulqueen, Superintendent with Greg Labreque, Business Manager for Pentucket Regional School district discussed the proposed FY'19 Budget with their main focus is resourcing the curriculum and managed the operation budget within the means of the Town. The Board discussed multiple maintenance line items. The School Committee is meeting March 6, 2018 to discuss the budget.

Resident, concerned with correcting the previous short fall of 3%. Labreque stated that 70% of the budget includes salaries and insurance. He stated that the problem going forward is due to the Special Education increases. The Town has no control of the Special Education budget because it is enforced by the State.

Resident, questioned how school choice effects the budget. Mulqueen stated that school choice does have a financial negative affect on the budget but believes that there are no more school choice seats at the elementary level for the following school year. He also shared that school choice is voted annually by the school committee.

A resident shared that Senator Tarr stated that there will be a whole new funding from casinos that is supposed to go towards education.

Documentation Reviewed: FY 19 Budget Summary for Towns, Pentucket FY19 Budget Narrative dated January 23, 2018.

II. West Newbury Garden Club: Plant/Bake Sale at the Training Field

The Garden Club requested a sign on Ferry Ln, and one on the training field. The Board stated that they do not have the authority to authorize signs on Ferry Ln and she would need to request approval from Park and Recreation.

Selectman Kemper motioned to approve the Garden Club special event request for May 19, 2018. Seconded by Selectman Anderson, and it carried 3-0-0.

Selectman Anderson motioned to approve the requested sign with a size of 32sq ft in accordance with the town bylaw. Seconded by Chairman Archibald and it carried 3-1-0. Kemper is not in favor of the request as he feels that it is unfair to the rest of the taxpayers that are denied putting a sign on the training field.

Documentation Reviewed: Garden Club special event guidelines, request for signs on Town Property dated 2/27/2018

III. Application for Short Term Rentals: 15 Norino Drive

This agenda item was not discussed.

IV. Town Communications/Social Media Policy

The Board discussed the following steps in having a social media policy: Town Manager be the communications spokesperson to have the ultimate judgment as to what is publicly communicated, having a social media policy to protect the Town which can be edited overtime, designate official town media sites, and to be on multiple platforms such as the internet. They reviewed a social media policy from KP Law as a possible template for the Town. The Board and Mary Winglass discussed defining her job description.

V. FY'18 proposed Warrants/Budget

The Board along with Brad Beaudoin, Finance Committee discussed the stabilization fund along with the goal to keep the property tax at 2% or less. He also discussed the Police Union Contract changes. They discussed various aspects of the police budget such as hiring more fulltime employees to therefore not have so much overtime cost, expenses, replacement vehicles. The Board agreed to invite Police Chief Reed for the next agenda to discuss the budget. Beaudoin stated that the budget for snow and ice removal is not accurate and therefore can create deficit on that line item. McCarron stated that there is a state law where that number cannot be lowered. He also said that he feels that the Community Center should be removed from the

budget, and that there is plenty of money in their budget to build their base for their engineer assessment request. The Board agreed to invite the Community Center Committee at the March 19, 2017 meeting to discuss their spending.

It was discussed that the change requests from the Planning, Inspection, and Conservation be put on hold until Angus Jennings reviews the employee job descriptions and does a comparison job salary analysis.

There is an article request for \$5,000 under recreation for Action Cove, which is for special engineered mulch for the playground which would be reoccurring.

It was discussed that the Bicentennial Committees article is controversial, but they plan to have their numbers soon. They briefly discussed the Brown Spring Pond Article. The CIC would like to include sunsets for multiple articles and will submit those to the Selectmen.

Chairman Archibald stated that Mike Gootee has requested to edit the request for solar panels for the new water tower and replace it with conduit to connect to the grid. The Board agreed to Gootee's article change request.

Documentation Reviewed: FY 19 Budget as of 3/1/18, Budget rationale from Gould

VI. Update on the Page School

The issues that needed to be addressed to reopen the school are the following: Fix the asbestos issue, repair after the water damage, and repair issue with openings in ceilings when the drop ceilings were taken down. The school also needs to purchase a new generator, but it does not influence reopening the school.

The Board has received a report from engineer, Fitz Myer which concluded that the holes do not propose a safety hazard. The abatement process is continuing. All the fire protection and safety has been signed off.

Gary Bill, DPW, stated that while the abatement process is going on the School Board can work on cleaning the finished repaired areas to therefore not delay the reopening process.

There is an article for the town meeting to purchase a new generator. While the plan is to put a new transfer switch and new generator in the Summer, the school is still safe with the generator that is currently in place. The abatement assessment process will be estimated on Tuesday March 6, 2018. The School Board is happy to move forward and getting the building ready so there is no delay in opening the school.

Jack Foley, stated on live stream it is difficult to hear the Board members. He also questioned what plan the abatement is referring to. Mr. Bill responded that the abatement is working off of the insurance plan.

Resident, concerned with letter of occupancy as well requested more clarification on what needs to be done. Selectman Kemper stated that permits from certain departments such as Police, Fire, etc. deem that the building is safe then the sign-offs will take place, not an occupancy permit.

The Town and School Board are on the same page as to the issues that need to be addressed to reopen the school.

Resident, questioned the generator article funds and if that is causing issues with occupancy to the school. Selectman Kemper clarified the generator process and that it has nothing to do with reopening the school.

Resident, questioned abatement. Mr. Bill clarified that the areas being abated are the new office, a small section in another area, as well an area at the old entrance. Selectman Kemper also shared that it was requested that certain furniture and rugs be cleaned.

Ashley Davis questioned if it is better that kids be moved over April vacation. Selectman Kemper stated that if the school is ready then he believes it will be least disruptive that the kids could get in the school as soon as possible.

Andy Murphy, School Committee, stated that they have not discussed a re-occupancy date.

Mitch Salkovitz questioned if the abatement is strictly coming from the district. Selectman Selectman Kemper explained that abatement process, and that it got slightly delayed since they were supposed come in last Tuesday but were delayed to Thursday.

Previously it was discussed that there were would be an open house meeting including multiple town officials, but the Board feels that is no longer necessary. The reopening date will be announced by the Superintendent.

VII. Page School Communications

This agenda item was not discussed.

VIII. Severe Weather Policy

The Board discussed having the Governor's Office Policy be part of the Town's Severe Weather policy. The Board agreed to discuss this matter in detail at a future date.

IX. Letter from Barbara Haack: Spring Cleanup

Selectman Anderson motioned that the Spring Cleanup for West Newbury be April 21, and 22 2018. Seconded by Selectman Kemper and it carried 3-0-0.

Documentation Reviewed: Letter from Barbara Haack received 2/20/18

X. Arthur Wallace: Appointment to the Energy Advisory Committee

Selectman Anderson motioned to approve Arthur Wallace to the Energy Advisory Committee through a term ending June 30, 2018. Seconded by Selectman Kemper and it carried 3-0-0.

Documentation Reviewed: Arthur Wallace request for Energy Advisory Committee dated 2/20/18

XI. Street Opening Permit: 4 Dole Place

Selectman Kemper motioned to approve the street opening perming for 4 Dole Place with the stipulations on the application. Seconded by Selectman Anderson and it carried 3-0-0.

Documentation Reviewed: Application for street opening permit received 2/12/18

XII. Payroll and Invoice Warrants

Selectman Kemper motioned to accept the invoice warrants. Seconded by Selectman Anderson, and it carried 3-0-0.

Selectman Anderson motioned to approve the payroll warrant. Seconded by Chairman Archibald, and it carried 3-0-1. Selectman Kemper abstained.

XIII. Follow up meeting assignments

- Multiple budget items
- Request the Bicentennial Committee for specific information for each proposed event for 2019.

XIV. Placing items for future agendas

- Invite the Police Chief to discuss the budget at the following meeting.
- Communication discussion for an April meeting.
- Severe weather policy
- Park and Recreation new appointed member

XV. Pregnancy Fairness Law

Town Counsel, Mike McCarron briefly discussed the state Pregnancy Fairness Act.

Selectman Anderson motioned to approve the MCAD Pregnancy Fairness Act. Second by Selectman Kemper and it carried 3-0-0.

Selectman Kemper motioned to adjourn at 10:42pm. Second by Selectman Anderson and it carried 3-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Dawidowicz, Recording Secretary