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LUNENBURG TOWN
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 3/13/12

The Board of Selectmen met in the Joseph F. Bilotta Meeting Room, Town Hall as scheduled with David Matthews, Steven M. deBettencourt, Paula Bertram, Tom Alonzo, Carl "Ernie" Sund and Town Manager Kerry Speidel present. Regular Meeting opened at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting began with public comment from the board. Mr. Sund read a letter he had written to Ms. Speidel concerning the disruptive behavior of people who attended the Planning Board meeting on 3/8/12. He felt that the board was not given the proper time to clearly discuss the issue at hand and in his letter he suggested that the meeting be rescheduled and any votes taken be disqualified until a properly conducted meeting can take place. Discussion among the board members occurred with the consensus being that the meeting did not need to be rescheduled unless the Planning Board felt the need to do so.

Ms. Bertram commented on the Girl Scouts celebrating 100 years saying that they celebrated on March 9th with "World Thinking Day" and then on March 11th there were approximately 200 Girl Scouts, past and present, that gathered at the Lunenburg High School track at 3PM to participate in a "World Wide Promise Circle".

Dave Prokowiew ,733 West Street, said that he was at the 3/8/12 Planning Board meeting which Mr. Sund attended and he felt that the Planning Board members invited the interaction from the people who were in attendance. He said that if they got a little out of hand it is because they are very passionate about their cause.

Mike Mackin, 26 Cortland Circle, read a letter which he had emailed to the Lunenburg Finance Committee and to the BOS which he had written in support of the proposed Proposition 2 ½ override for the Town of Lunenburg.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

APPOINTMENTS

7:10 PM Report from Engineer on Townsend Harbor Road/Mulpus Rd – DPW Director Jack Rodriquenz updated the BOS on the progress of the Townsend Harbor Rd/Mulpus Rd situation. Mr. Jesse Johnson, Engineer from David Ross & Associates, spoke and said that they sent out a survey crew to find documentation on property lines and deed research. He presented composites sketches on possible solutions to realigning this intersection and explained each scenario to the board.

There were many questions from the board members in reference to cost, aesthetics, traffic counts and "T" stop concerns. Board members agreed that a "3" stop scenario would not be feasible. Mr. Johnson said that there was no cost to the project yet, it all depends on the number of stops that are made at the intersection and that putting a cost to the project would be the next step. Mr. Matthews commented that this was a good starting point for this project.

Dave Passios, 56 Whiting Street, asked about the possibility of having sensors put into the roadway along with a sign 200' down the road reading "Stopped Traffic" instead of reconfiguring the whole intersection.

Bob Saiia, 32 Sandy Cove Road, expressed concerns with the proposed stop signs and said that there must be an easier solution to the reconfigurations at this intersection.

Ms. Bertram will check with the Hickory Hills Landowners Association as to how much involvement they would like to have in the project, in terms of regular mowing maintenance.

Mr. Matthews said that there was enough information now to put some costs together for designing a "1"or "2" stop intersection. MRPC (Montachusett Regional Planning Commission) will be asked to do a traffic count at this intersection also.

7:30PM Earth Removal Permit Application, Powell Stone & Gravel – Mr. Matthews read into the record the Notice of Hearing concerning the application submitted by Powell Stone & Gravel for an Earth Removal Permit for 151 Leominster Shirley Rd. Lunenburg MA. Mr. Jesse Johnson, Engineer from David Ross & Associates, spoke on behalf of Powell Stone & Gravel in asking for this permit. He said that the application is necessary for creating grades on the site plan that are already approved by the Lunenburg Conservation Commission and the Lunenburg Planning Board. He estimated that 50,000 cubic yards of surplus would need to be removed from the site. All of the site plan approvals have been submitted to the BOS .

Steve Powell from Powell Stone and Gravel spoke and said that the project would probably be completed this year. He also stated that at this location there will be material coming in and out for the next several years. The material in question is just surplus that needs to be removed to bring the grade down.

Perry Jewel, 20 Sunset Lane, congratulated Mr. Powell and his entire operation on the great business that they run. His concern was with barriers being put in place to keep run off from entering Lake Shirley down stream.

Mr. Alonzo made a motion to approve the Earth Removal Application for 151 Leominster Shirley Rd. Ms. Bertram seconded the motion. All board members were in favor, motion carried.

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. Summer Street Improvement Project – Ms. Speidel stated that there was an engineer/public information session held in January for this project and that there are three different alternatives for improvements to Summer Street. She believes that the board was leaning towards the alternative that had the center turning lane but that there was no vote taken at by the board. The project cannot be advanced any further until the board decides on which alternative they would like to pursue and also until there is additional funding received for the project. Ms. Speidel would like the board to consider presenting a warrant article at Town Meeting to appropriate Lunenburg's share of the 20% design fee from the Zoning Incentive Stabilization Fund. She stated that MRPC, through its TIP, will fund construction with grant funding, but they have not been successful with getting grant funding for the design of the project. Ms. Speidel said that Senator Jennifer Flanagan will work to amend the State Transportation Bond Bill to include 20% of the design funds for this project at the appropriate time. This bond bill will not come up until FY14 and it is good for five years. The cities of Leominster and Fitchburg are already covered for their share of the design.

Mr. Matthews stated that it is a significant amount of money but just paving the road again would cost considerably more money. He feels that going ahead with this project is a step towards a long term solution. DPW Director Jack Rodriquenz said that repaving was not an option. The problems with the substructure of the road and the antiquated drainage problems are ongoing and he encourages the board to go with Ms. Speidel's suggestion.

This warrant article will be added to Town Meeting, no motion was needed.

2. FY2013 Budget & Override – Ms. Speidel had prepared a slide show presentation on the subject of the FY013 Budget & Override and she reviewed each section with the board. All inforr
Ms. Speidel stated that she wanted to be perfectly clear that the $2.2 M overr
the Finance Committees. This override is permanent and hopefully will susta
After the slide presentation Mr. Alonzo commented that this was an excellent presentation and very accurate.
Mr. Sund thanked the Town Manager for providing all the information and questioned if the override is passed, why was funding for the IT Department and land use offices not being restored. Ms. Speidel answered by saying there is a computerized work order system in place for IT requests. It is very accurate and the number of requests that come in do not support the IT position. In regards to the BOH/Conservation position she has a gut feeling. She has surveyed neighboring communities that are comparable in size, that have one full time person, in particular the Town of Littleton, that serve both of those departments and it works quite well. She would also like to see uniformity to hours in those offices.

Ms. Bertram thanked the Town Manager for the presentation and stated that she did a fantastic job. She is concerned with the loss of the BOS Chief Administrative Assistant and she feels that with monies being restored to the BOS, a Human Resource person should be reinstated or perhaps restore that position in a new role. She also said that she is happy to see another position reinstated to the DPW department. Ms. Bertram asked that the Town Manager to retouch on the issue of restoring funds to the Senior Center and Library.

Ms. Speidel responded that first of all the Chief Administrative Assistant position would be restored at a different classification with a significantly lower salary. It would be converted with the primary duties being in Human Resources and special projects. She said that the restoration to the Senior Center and Library would essentially be restoring the 10% cut.

Mr. deBettencourt questioned the funding for a Recording Secretary in the land use offices and he was also concerned with who would be left in the IT Department. Ms. Speidel responded that the IT Director is full time, there would be an assistant at 1/3 time, and the schools have additional IT personnel. In regards to the Recording Secretary, Ms. Speidel said that she has had conversations with both Chairpersons of BOH and Conservation about the cuts in general but no specific conversation with them about the Recording Secretary.

Dave Shea, Board of Health member spoke in saying that the BOH was shocked with the budget recommendations. He is worried that they will not be able to provide a good level of service with the proposed cuts. His concern is that he doesn't think the person they will have, will bring that kind of experience with them.

Perry Jewel, Vice Chairman Board of Health, voiced that he is troubled that even with the $2.2M override, there are no funds being set aside to restore the reduction at the BOH and Conservation Board. He went on to plead his case that the BOH needs a viable assistant. He said that there are many more things the BOH could be doing but they can't do it with 31% less in department resources.

Mr. Alonzo, Mr. Matthews and Ms. Bertram all made individual pleas to the Townspeople to support the Override.

Mr. Matthews stated that he did not think that they were ready to vote on the Override this week but he would like to get it done by next week.

Bob Saiia, 32 Sandy Cove Road, made a request to get the word out elsewhere besides the website, and to simplify the dollars and cents of what the Override will actually mean to each household.

Mike Mackin, 26 Cortland Circle, gave a website address for the Lunenburg Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility for the public to go to for more information on the Override.

3. BOS Policies & Procedures – None

4. Minutes/Warrants/Action File Issues –

Minutes: 1/3/12 BOS *signed*

Warrants – Accounts Payable w54 (2/13/12) $909,673.98, Payroll Deduction Warrant w55 (3/14/12) 326,026.02, Payroll Warrant $660,245.95 w19p12 (3/12), License from BOS meeting 3/6/12 *signed*

Action File Issues – Mr. Alonzo was concerned that the Lunenburg Library's answering machine has the wrong hours of operation on it. Also the Library website does not have the Library Board of Trustees listed and that it would be a good thing to have listed.

5. Committee Report – Mr. Sund reported that the Cable Committee met last evening and approved a change to its Bylaws which were submitted [illegible] ant

Bylaw change

Mr. Matthews said the High Sc[illegible] ednesday and that the last meeting was cancelled due to weather. Also [illegible] tation last week and will be meeting with the Lunenburg Finance Committee on Thursday night.

6. Department Reports - None

7. Town Manager Reports: None

OLD BUSINESS - None

APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS – None

Mr. Matthews asked if there was any more Public Comments from the Board or the Public
Dave Prokowiew 733 West St. asked the Town Manger about the section of the FY2013 budget presentation concerning the increase in the Police/Fire IOD, (Injured on Duty) he didn't think she covered it. Ms. Speidel said it was similar to Workman's Comp except it's for Police and Fire. There is a higher risk in these fields so it is a separate insurance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – **M.G. L. Chapter 39, Section 23B (3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position. Also to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; to actually conduct collective bargaining and contract negotiations with non-union personnel.**

Being no further business board voted unanimously to adjourn Regular Session at 9:25PM and opened Executive Session by roll call vote; Mr. Alonzo aye, Mr. deBettencourt aye, Ms. Bertram aye, Mr. aye, and Mr. Matthews aye in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 39 Section 23 B (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigation position. Also, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; to actually conduct collective bargaining and contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

March 20, 2012
April 3, 2012
April 10, 2012
April 17, 2012

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Doherty, Recording Secretary
Board of Selectmen