

SELECTMEN MINUTES
Room 3
HARWICH COMMUNITY CENTER
MONDAY, May 2, 2016
6:00 P.M.

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Brown, Cebula, Hughes, LaMantia, MacAskill

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Assistant Town Administrator Charleen Greenhalgh, Michael Lach & John Idman (HCT), Attorney Jannell Austin, Kopelman & Paige and Dana DeCosta.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 6:04 p.m. by Chairman Hughes.

PRE TOWN MEETING

Budget: Mr. Clark provided a brief update on the budget. There has been approximately \$100 in changes. The one-liners have been updated to reflect these changes, which includes Article 3 (Elected Officials Salaries). As these amounts are already included in the town operating budget and the water budget, they are no longer reflected on the one-liners.

Article 4: Selectwoman Cebula made a motion to reconsider Article 4, seconded by Selectman MacAskill, so voted unanimously. Selectwoman Cebula made a motion to approve the Article 4 Operating Budget at \$32,547,577, seconded by Selectman MacAskill, so voted unanimously.

Articles 43 and 44: The actually Home Rule Charter language has been added to the motion to allow for the Selectmen to request Special Legislation to allow for \$1500 for senior exemptions. The Board table the discussion until Town Counsel could be present.

Article 60: Selectman MacAskill made a motion to reconsider Article 60, seconded by Selectwoman Cebula, so voted unanimously. Selectwoman Cebula made a motion to approve Article 60 (Stabilization Fund) in the amount of \$1,728,500, seconded by Selectman LaMantia, so voted unanimously.

Article 61: Selectwoman Cebula made a motion to reconsider Article 61, seconded by Selectman LaMantia. Selectwoman Cebula made a motion to Indefinitely Postpone Article 61 (OPEB Fund), seconded by Selectman MacAskill; so voted unanimously.

Sutphin Property: Mr. Clark referred to his memo of May 2, 2016. Prior to the pre-town meeting motion meeting on April 27, 2016 and during the review of funding sources for the Sutphin acquisition, an issue with the funding source was realized. At the May 6, 2014 Special Town Meeting, appropriation was made towards the purchase of two parcels of Sutphin property for conservation purposes. The funding source identified in the article was twofold, the first \$220,000 from Community Preservation Act funding with \$73,000 coming from the Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT). The HCT provided the funds to the Town in October 2014 and a check was prepared in the same month assuming that a closing would occur timely. Due to issues on the Sutphin side, the closing was delayed for an extended period and is only now coming to fruition. Our Finance

Director has indicated that the \$73,000 from the HCT that should have been put into a gift account was left in the General Fund. At the conclusion of FY15, the \$73,000 was converted to free cash. The Town has an obligation to replace the \$73,000 from HCT. Due to the length of time related to the closing and a desire to complete the Sutphin acquisition, HCT has agreed to come up with \$73,000 towards the Sutphin closing and is willing to wait for reimbursement of the original \$73,000.

Mr. Clark will be asking the Board of Selectmen to vote to commit to placing an article on the next available Town Meeting, whether it be a Fall Special or next May's Annual to reimburse HCT \$73,000 since the original gift was inadvertently included in free cash. The 2016 Annual Town Meeting calls for a large addition in funds to the Town's stabilization account, included in the sum was the \$73,000. He will ask that at the next Town Meeting \$73,000 from stabilization be used to reimburse HCT. The gift was originally submitted under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53A that called for the funds to be used consistent with the original article for acquisition of the Sutphin property. Reimbursement is legally warranted under this General Law.

The Board agreed in concept; however they felt that this should be an agenda item on the May 9, 2016 meeting.

Allen Harbor: There was a document in the signature file that Selectman MacAskill was not familiar with relative to Allen Harbor, he asked that this be placed on the May 9 agenda.

Articles 43 and 44: Attorney Austin explained that there had been conversations with the DOR regarding the additional \$500 dollars for Senior Exemptions. The DOR has indicated that a community cannot go beyond the allowable \$1,000 exemption. Article 43 provides the necessary language to seek Home Rule Special Legislation to allow for the additional \$500. Article 44 provides the necessary funding mechanism for the additional \$500 in the event that the Special Legislation is completed during FY17. Selectwoman Cebula made a motion to reconsider both Articles 43 and 44, seconded by Selectman LaMantia, so voted unanimously. Selectwoman Cebula made a motion to approved Articles 43 and 44, seconded by Selectman MacAskill, so voted unanimously.

Article 32: Finance Committee Chair Dana DeCosta spoke briefly with the Board about the difference in vote for Article 32 (CPA funds for the West Harwich School). The Board did not wish to change its position.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Hughes adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charleen Greenhalgh
Assistant Town Administrator