

**MINUTES  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
GRIFFIN ROOM, TOWN HALL  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014  
7:00 P.M.**

**SELECTMEN PRESENT:** Ballantine, Hughes, LaMantia, McManus

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Assistant Town Administrator Julie Quintero-Schulz, Wil Remillard, Sheila House, Melissa Clayton, Chris Joyce, Robbin Kelley, Allin Thompson, Danette Gonsalves, Sandy Cummings, Carole Ridley, Lou Urbano, Sally Urbano, Joann Rys, Peggy Rose, Cindy Eldredge, and others.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** at 7:12 p.m. by Chairman Ballantine.

**WEEKLY BRIEFING**

Veterans' Agent Wil Remillard stated that he feels that he has been blindsided having received verbal notification that he has to vacate the Veterans' Services office which has been in place for 25 years with less than one week's notice and relocate to the Community Center. He stated that the office at Town Hall was designed specifically in 1989 as the Veteran's Office. Mr. Remillard pointed out that when he knows a handicapped veteran is coming, he can see them from his window and will go outside when they arrive to sign necessary paperwork. He stated that the closest disability parking at the Community Center is 261 feet away and at Town Hall it is only 60 feet. He stated that the office provides a unique privacy in a public building. He also noted the convenience of access to the Assessors Department and Town Clerk which he needs as well. He suggested if there is room needed for the second floor departments that the Selectmen's meetings be moved to the Community Center and their meeting room be used for the departments. He said at the very least they should have ample time for the move. Mr. Clark stated the Albro House was considered for Veterans' Services but the building needs work and this was going to be part of a more functioning Community Services Department centered at the Community Center. He pointed out that we currently don't charge rent and have found another location where we didn't have to charge rent. He noted that we did need to improve our operations on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and something has to give and this location is not blatantly out in the public but you do have to go through a receptionist. Mr. McManus noted that the plan that was given to the Board does not discuss moving the Veterans' Agent's office. Chairman Ballantine asked Mr. Remillard if there is a way to make the proposed location ideal for him. Mr. Remillard said that someone suggested making a direct door to the outside there but he doesn't know if that's possible. Chairman Ballantine said he didn't want to give up on this until we explore whether we can make the space something Mr. Remillard is more comfortable with. Mr. Remillard stated that not all the Veterans are seniors and it is hard enough to get younger veterans in their 20's and 30's to come in for assistance at all as they are very proud and very independent and being asked to come to the Council on Aging would probably be a turn off for them. Mr. Hughes asked for clarification on the first floor plan for this office as the Board was not given one and Mr. Clark noted that the building inspectors would be going in that office. Mr. Clark said they could certainly grant another week to Mr. Remillard. Mr. LaMantia noted that some of the rooms at the Community

Center already have doors to the outside. Chairman Ballantine asked Mr. Clark and Ms. Quintero-Schulz to walk through the space again with Mr. Remillard before any press release is made.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approve Minutes – September 29, 2014 Regular Session
- B. Approve application for bass fishing tournament on Long Pond by Next Level Bass Fishing for November 2, 2014
- C. Authorize Chair to sign Massachusetts Environmental Trust FY15 General Grants Application Documents
- D. Authorize Town Administrator to sign Community Innovation Challenge Grant for Regional Unified Communications System Project

Mr. McManus moved approval of the Consent Agenda and the recommended actions thereon. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS** *(Not earlier than 7:00 P.M.)*

- A. Annual Meetings:
  - 1. Voter Information Committee

Chris Joyce delivered the annual report of the Voter Information Committee.

- 2. Youth Services Committee

Melissa Clayton delivered the annual report of the Youth Services Committee.

- 3. Cemetery Commission

Cindy Eldredge delivered the annual report of the Cemetery Commission.

- B. Joint Meeting with Water Commissioners – Special Legislation to Establish a Water and Wastewater Commission – *John Giorgio – discussion and possible vote*

Mr. Thompson said that the Water Commission is generally in agreement but has some concerns. He stated that since we have moved to an Enterprise Fund we have been working to upgrade the assets of the department including wells, hydrants, meters, etc. and if the Enterprise Fund is abolished they don't want to have to beg to maintain services in the future. He said the Enterprise Fund should be protected. Mr. Giorgio explained that the way the legislation is written, we would start with 2 separate funds but the legislation would permit the Commission to combine them together. He stated that it would allow Town Meeting to abolish one or more of the funds after 5 years and it might make more sense for the community financially. Mr. McManus asked if there is a way to write the special legislation that the Enterprise Fund stays separate for a period of 15 years. Mr. Giorgio said there is nothing in the law that says you have to have a separate Enterprise Fund and Town Meeting could vote to establish a consolidated Enterprise Fund. He stressed that it would be up to Town Meeting to make that decision and define the scope of the Enterprise

Fund. He commented that it would take away flexibility and we don't know what the Town's financial situation will be in the future.

Mr. Thompson noted that the Water and Wastewater Commission would be allowed to delegate statutory authority to any committee and there must be a lot of thought put into how that committee would be put together as it will have a lot of responsibility. He said there should be a work session with Mr. Giorgio to dissect Chapter 40, Section 39.

Mr. Giorgio responded that in terms of delegation to a committee, it is important for the Board of Selectmen to be the policy making function for this committee. He stated that they are going to be creating a whole new division with a division director and this division director should handle the day to day minutia and report to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen as policy maker. Mr. Giorgio discussed the concept of sewer districts which he noted have to be created by Town Meeting. He stated that the Board of Health has broad powers to order individuals to connect to the sewer system and if the Board of Health doesn't do that the new commission can order that. Mr. Giorgio took questions from the Board and agreed to come back for a workshop of Chapter 40, Section 39M.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Selectmen's Draft Budget Message – *review and possible vote***

Mr. Hughes moved to accept the 2016 Budget Message as presented. Mr. McManus seconded the motion. Mr. Hughes noted that the word "annually" should be removed after the word "megawatts." The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Contract Award under Disaster Relief Appropriations Act in the amount of \$400,000 (Hurricane Sandy grant) – *discussion and possible vote***

At Mr. Clark's recommendation, Mr. McManus moved to approve the grant for \$400,000. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

### **B. Additional Scope of Work for Muddy Creek Restoration Bridge Project Design – *discussion and possible vote***

At Mr. Clark's recommendation, Mr. Hughes moved to approve the CDR McGuire change order in the amount of \$124,902 less the \$2,600 for the wetlands flagging which will be done under a separate agreement. Mr. LaMantia seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## **SELECTMEN'S REPORT**

### **A. Board of Selectmen meetings start times – *discussion and possible vote***

The Board agreed to move to a 6:30 p.m. start time beginning in November.

It was agreed that Mr. LaMantia would be the liaison to the By-Law Charter Review Committee.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McManus moved to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Steidel  
Recording Secretary