

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Working Session
Town Hall Conference Room
Minutes of February 3, 2016

Chairman Powers called the meeting to order at 5:15PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Laura Powers, were Selectmen Martha Morrison, and Eldon Goodhue (left at 6:30PM). Boyd Jackson was absent. Steve Lais attended remotely by conference call due to his geographic distance. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Kellie Hebert and Board Executive Assistant Donna Rich were in attendance. Other persons present during all or part of the meeting were Building Inspector Glenn Clohecy, Fire Chief Ron Giovannacci, Captain Jen Collins-Brown, 24/7 Fire Study Committee member Phil McManus and resident Dick Gandt.

Chairman Powers announced that with a quorum of the Board in attendance, Selectman Lais would be remotely attending the meeting due to his geographic distance.

Chairman Powers announced that the Board would go into Executive Session regarding litigation Topsfield Animal Shelter v. Zoning Board of Appeals and would return to open session.

At 5:16PM, Selectman Morrison made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the litigation Topsfield Animal Shelter v. Zoning Board of Appeals; seconded by Selectman Goodhue. In a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Chairman Powers, Selectman Morrison, Selectman Lais (remotely), and Selectman Goodhue.

At 5:55PM the Board returned to Open Session.

Masconomet Regional High School Scholarship: Selectman Morrison made a motion to allocate two scholarships contingent upon receiving additional funding, seconded by Selectman Goodhue; in a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Chairman Powers, Selectman Morrison, Selectman Lais (remotely), and Selectman Goodhue.

24/7 Fire Study-Next Steps: Chairman Powers reported on her encounter at the Massachusetts Municipal Association annual meeting with a vendor that was capable of performing a Risk Assessment for the Public Safety departments in town. There was a discussion relative to the timeline and appropriation of funding for the study. Selectman Lais stated his opinion of placing an Article on the 2016 Warrant to rescind the Strong Chief status, that was a recommendation written in the 24/7 Fire Report. Selectman Morrison noted that Chairman of the Fire Study Committee George Hall reported that the committee had identified a lot issues that would be best explored by professionals, and an outside vendor would be advisable. Fire Study Committee member Phil McManus expressed his concern for the committee not being able to present the report at a televised meeting and reported that the committee could have more data to present. It was questioned if the report was not complete, and this was not reported to be the case. The Fire Chief commented that it was normal practice for a Risk Assessment Study be performed prior to the hiring of his replacement.

At 6:40PM, Selectman Morrison made a motion to adjourn and Selectman Lais seconded the motion; so voted in a roll call vote as follows: Chairman Powers: yes, Selectman Morrison, yes, Selectman Lais (remotely): yes.

Respectfully submitted,

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Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Per the Open Meeting Law, the documents that were either distributed to the BOS before the meeting in a packet, or at the meeting were:

1. Agenda

Approved as written at the, 2016 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

<p>Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law,' G.L. 39, § 23B, the approval of these minutes by the Board constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Board as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.</p>
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