

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Working Session
Minutes of March 3, 2011

Chairman Dick Gandt called the meeting to order at 4:01PM. Board members present, in addition to Chairman Gandt, were Martha Morrison, Nancy Luther, Eldon Goodhue and Laura Powers. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder and Board Secretary Donna Rich were in attendance. A resident present during all or part of the meeting was Jeanine Cunniff.

Chairman Gandt began by stating that he would like to address a few additional items within the agenda, ie. Fire District with Ipswich, "capital creep" items, the Zoning Board Articles, and the ordering of the articles within the Warrant.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant: Chairman Gandt distributed a list of warrant articles titles and the cost related to those items. In addition, articles were identified if they had been a part of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process (X), the Water Department (W) and/or "capital creep" (Y) items.

Highway Dump/Sander/Wing/Plow Truck: A Capital Improvement Program item in which Chairman Gandt would like to investigate the potential of an "outright" purchase instead of the lease program that has been presented. Ms. Wilder will look into the matter.

Library Slate Roof Repair: Selectman Morrison asked if the Gould Fund could fund half of the repair; Selectman Goodhue as the liaison to the Library will research and report at the a future meeting.

Fire Station Apron and Training Room Floor: Chairman Gandt noted that these items were not approved in the CIP process and that it should be the responsibility of the department to fund the cost of items of this nature that could fall under a maintenance repair line item.

Town Hall Lighting and Boiler Replacement: Selectman Morrison stated that National Grid has agreed to reopen the Town's replacement of new lighting fixtures under their program which would ultimately save 30% of the electricity used for this lighting in Town Hall. Ms. Wilder has yet to receive the proposal from National Grid. Selectman Morrison spoke of the boiler replacement and reaping a 45% decrease in expenses incurred on a yearly basis by changing over to gas.

Permitting Software: Selectman Luther noted that the language in the Warrant should be more descriptive. Ms. Wilder noted final number would not be available until early April, after Munis provides a demonstration of the software.

Elementary School Curriculum Development Materials: After a discussion it was agreed to remove the article due to the nature of the request with the thought being that it should be funded in the schools operating budget.

Facilities Planning Town Building Assessment: Ms. Wilder reported that the potential exposure is \$8,500 per building, looking at three buildings, Town Hall, Police and Fire, for a total of \$25,500.

Fire Rapid Response Vehicle T1: After a discussion it was agreed to remove the article.

Zoning Articles: There was a discussion regarding the validity of the articles presented.

Citizens Petition –Change Date of Annual Town Meeting: There was a discussion regarding a venue where the details of this article could be communicated to the citizens. Selectman Luther expressed that the League of Women Voters Candidate Night would be a good opportunity.

Fire District: Chairman Gandt led a discussion regarding details known to date on a proposal from Ipswich Town Manager to study the formation of a Topsfield/Ipswich Fire District.

Order of Articles: Chairman Gandt requested that the members review the order of articles and make comments where applicable. Chairman Gandt suggests the Citizens Petition be moved up in the order. Selectman Luther requested that #49-Employee Exit Compensation and #50-Home Rule Petition on the Purchase of Health Insurance Policies be moved up in the order. Selectman Powers offered to look into the Memorial Day Committee Amendment Article to determine the goal of the article.

Finance Committee Request: Ms. Wilder reported that the Chairman of the Finance Committee has requested a meeting with the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Gandt polled the Board; Monday, March 7th at 7PM was the consensus of the Board.

At 6:10 PM Selectman Morrison made a motion to adjourn and Selectman Luther seconded the motion; so voted: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the May 23, 2011 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

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.
