

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Working Session
Town Hall Conference Room
Minutes of March 16, 2015

Chairman Dick Gandt called the meeting to order at 5:15PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Dick Gandt, were Martha Morrison and Eldon Goodhue. Laura Powers and Steve Lais were absent. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Kellie Hebert and Board Secretary Donna Rich were in attendance. Other persons present during all or part of the meeting were Elementary School Assistant Superintendent of Operations Steve Greenberg and Police Chief Evan Haglund.

2015 Annual & Special Town Meeting Warrant: Chairman Gandt explained the purpose of the meeting was to obtain a clear understanding of the funding of the articles presented for the 2015 Annual Warrant. Chief Haglund explained the proposed Bylaw for Canvassers & Solicitors he had requested be in the 2015 Warrant. Primarily the Bylaw would allow the Police Department the capability of performing background checks on those individuals that now only have to register their name at the Police Station when they wish to go "door-to-door" selling items to the residents of Topsfield. In addition, the Chief explained to the Board that they could amend the Rules & Regulations to implement a permit fee, which the clerical staff at the Police Station would monitor and administer. After some discussion, the Board agreed to remove the requested Bylaw for Canvassers & Solicitors from this year's Warrant. Ms. Hebert explained short-term borrowing as a funding source for several of the Elementary School items. Elementary School Assistant Superintendent of Operations Steve Greenberg explained that these items have been requested since 2007 and placed on hold, however, now they are at crucial points and need to be addressed. Ms. Hebert added that the schools were last painted in 1998 and now require restoration along with painting, which allows the work to qualify as an eligible borrowing project. Chairman Gandt asked Mr. Greenberg for a review of the Elementary School budget. After which the Board had a brief discussion on the Masconomet Regional School District budget. Some articles that were explained further were the Home Rule Petition for additional package store licenses, the Fire 24/7 Citizen Petition and the Town Employee Employment Separation. Ms. Hebert explained that 10 "senior" employees are expected to retire in FY16 and with a reserve balance of \$75,000 it has been estimated that an addition \$105,000 would be required to cover the costs of the individuals at their retirement.

At 6:45 PM, Selectmen Goodhue made a motion to adjourn and Selectman Morrison seconded the motion; so voted: 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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
2. List of Warrant Articles dated 3/16/15

Approved as written at the April 27, 2015 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.