

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Working Session
Topsfield Town Library
Minutes of August 29, 2012

Chairman Eldon Goodhue called the meeting to order at 11AM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Goodhue, were Martha Morrison, Dick Gandt, Laura Powers and Ken Vogel. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder and Board Secretary Donna Rich were in attendance. Other persons present during all or part of the meeting were Cable/Web Committee Chairman William Whiting and cable coordinator Ryan Jarvis.

Presentation on the Cable and Web Opportunities: Chairman of the Cable TV/Web Committee Bill Whiting provided a historical overview of the Cable TV/Web Committee. Mr. Whiting then turned the presentation over to Cable Coordinator Ryan Jarvis. Ryan described the Town's need to upgrade from VHS/DVD to a digital format so as to be compatible with surrounding Towns. With the purchasing of new equipment the digital format issue was resolved, however it created an additional problem of too many users over the same network (rickety old bridge scenario was used). Ryan explained that with this consumer technology issue there required some technical skills to search for a solution. The Cable TV/Web Committee looked to "social media" options: Facebook, YouTube and Meetup.com with examples shown to the Board. During the wrap up discussion, topics touched on were: the multiple web sites that have been developed by town departments and the need of "branding" the Town to ONE web site. Also, the creation of a new IT/Web/Cable position was explained and would require further conversation and research before a final decision was made by the Board. Mr. Whiting explained that funding for the position could be supported for a year and a half with the funds received from the Cable companies.

At 12:30 PM, through a sense of the Board, Chairman Goodhue made a motion to adjourn and Selectman Vogel seconded the motion; so voted: 5-0.

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

Approved as written at the October 9, 2012 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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