

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Minutes

Date: September 25, 2013

Members Present: Janet Flinkstrom, Mike McCallum and Steve Ingerson
Time: 7:12 p.m.

Request for Selectmen to approve minutes of June 6, 2013, as recorded.
Not voted on. SI would not sign

Request for Selectmen to approve minutes of June 19, 2013, as recorded.
Not voted on. SI would not sign

2) Motion to approve minutes of September 11, 2013 as recorded.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steven Ingerson Vote: Unan

3) Warrant #W11P approve and sign Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$54,441.10 subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steven Ingerson Vote: Unan
MM Abstain from line with
Jean Lindquist

4) Warrant #W12B approve and sign Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$43,905.12 subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steven Ingerson Vote: Unan
MM Abstain from line with
Dave Durling

Water Feasibility Study Kick-off meeting (Alan Pease) Presenters: William Nunnery, PE, Weston & Sampson
Chantell Fleck, MRPC Regional Planner

Explanation of what the program is about. MRPC will contribute \$4,750.00 and Town of Ashby will also contribute \$4,750.00 for the feasibility study.

Mr. Nunnery showed an aerial map and explained what they would be looking for and working with the study.

MM Question: How big?

Mr. Nunnery Answer: Would cover 70 homes or buildings in the corridor.

They will be looking into availability of water grouping with Townsend and Fitchburg.

Will investigate funding options. USDA does help with grants of 50% and town should be eligible. HUD programs may be available. Looking for available sources of water in the area.

Guidelines for the selling of water (only if the town wants to get into this). There is no well exploration included in this study. All documents will be turned over to MRPC for their examination. There will not be a recommendation in this report. December 12, 2013 is the dead line. MM states nothing new has transpired that needs to be conveyed to Mr. Nunnery.

Question JF: Can the present well be used?

Answer: Probably not as it would require way too much money to bring up to code.

Lillian Whitney questioned whether the town had voted to allow the money to be spent. She read off of the town meeting warrant. She insisted that a sewer study was being done with this. She

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was assured this was not the case. The sewer study was already done back in 2010. Alan Pease tried to explain this to her. JF also tried to explain this to her. The sewer has already been done and is not included in this study.

- 5) Motion to sign and approve a One Day Liquor License to the Fitchburg Rod and Gun Club on September 28, 2013 for a Benefit. (License #399)

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steven Ingerson Vote: Unan

Request for the acceptance of James Russell's resignation. Thank-you from Chairman on James's time working for the town.

- 6) Motion to accept the resignation of James Russell as Part-time Seasonal Cemetery Maintenance Laborer, Effective 9/13/13.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steven Ingerson Vote: Unan

Selectmen's discussion on Procedure for access to Town Counsel for all town officials and employees.

SI asked who had drafted this. JF stated Town Administrator updated the policy.

He asked if there was an issue with the old policy that made it necessary to change policy.

MM explained the issue came up when SI contacted the counsel without the BOS and Town Administrator's knowledge. JF went on to explain why the policy should be updated.

SI believes Mr. Hanson has been holding back all kinds of information from him. He asked for the laws on obtaining the information not a policy. MM stated SI specifically requested Bob to get a letter from Town Counsel regarding the laws that say W-2s are not public documents even though the Town Administrator already told SI this. SI presented a copy of laws given by our Town Counsel to him. JF asked if he had a copy of the Public Records Law that she got from the Attorney General's office. JF tried to explain to him what this policy was about. It was not about the "laws" SI states that he feels JF and MM trying to prevent him from doing his own contacting. He feels they are trying to "control him". He is looking for info and is being told that "some documents cannot be found". MM gave a rebuttal to comments and statements that were made by SI. MM states that multiple documents have been ready for SI to come and view and he has yet to come in and view any of them. MM says Bob has supplied documents regarding two Fire Trucks, Police Station and legal bills SI requested and SI has not come in to view them. SI feels that the other members are trying to "make it difficult" for him. MM states that as a taxpayer he doesn't want to continue to pay for something; he gave the example of the letter from Town Counsel regarding the W-2s, that SI will not believe even after all the laws have been presented to him.

- 7) Motion to approve the policy for access to Town Counsel.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom Vote: JF/MM - Aye
SI - Nay

- 8) Motion to approve and have Chairman sign on DLTA Consultant Agreement with Weston and Sampson.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steven Ingerson Vote: Unan

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Request for Selectmen's appointment of Lillian Whitney to the 250th Start-up Celebration Committee. LW asked for a postponement on this. She still wants to be on the Finance Committee. Postponement granted.

Any other business not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman:

LW brought up an issue that she believes the employee benefits line was over budgeted by \$30,000 for health insurance and the fact that she was denied a copy of the list of employees' names and what type of insurance they have when she asked for this. LW said the Town Accountant only provided a copy of an invoice of what has been paid to date. MM states that most of the money in this line is for the health insurance. MM and JF tried to explain this to her; that the Town cannot predict what insurance plan requests an eligible employee may have or if their situation changes, and they are eligible and need to join the insurance. MM gave an example if someone's spouse is laid off and loses their insurance and the employee that was not on the Town's insurance now needs to be because their spouse lost insurance. MM and JF tried to explain the need to budget for unexpected additions or changes but, to no avail. MM stated otherwise there would be a need to go for a Reserve Fund Transfer to pay for an insurance change.

LW finally accepted the fact that she was in error.

9) Motion to rescind the policy made at the last meeting on having warrant numbers and figures on the agenda.

Motion: Mike McCallum
Motion was not seconded

Seconded:

Vote:

SI was asked if the warrant amounts changed before the meeting would he not sign. His answer was yes. He will not sign if the figure is not on the agenda and will not sign under Any Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated. MM read an email from SI in regards to having a draft of the agenda (without the warrant figures) sent to him on Thursday before the agenda can actually be posted on Monday with the final warrant figures. SI explained why he wants the agenda so early in order to prepare for the meeting. JF told him that he needs to understand that if a bill or payroll comes in after the warrant is set and the agenda is posted it will be dealt with under "any other business" and the Attorney General's Office said this was ok. Attorney General's Office said the warrant numbers and amounts do not have to be on the agenda.

Assistant to the Board of Selectmen's Report:
Read by MM

Public comments (if any):

10) Motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Motion: Mike McCallum

Seconded: Steven Ingerson

Vote: Unan

Signed by: _____

Dates Minutes Approved by Board of Selectmen: _____