

Board of Selectmen
Minutes

Date: March 25, 2015

Members Present: Mike McCallum and Janet Flinkstrom

Time: 7:09 p.m.

2) Motion to approve minutes of February 25, 2015 as recorded.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Mike McCallum Vote: Unan

Question raised by Lillian Whitney that Janet was not at meeting so how could she sign. It was explained to Lillian that Janet was there on the Feb. 25th meeting and yes, she could approve.

3) Warrant #W37P approve and sign Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$53,060.01 subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom Vote: Unan

4) Warrant #38B approve and sign Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$48,380.77 subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom Vote: Unan

Request to approve and sign on Intercept Services Agreement: Bob Hanson elaborated on this & the changes made to agreement. Townsend will now charge fee just for showing up whether Ashby receives payment from patient or not. MM asked if Fire Chief recommends signing this & answer was yes.

5) Selectmen approve and sign on Townsend Back-up Paramedic Intercept Services Agreement.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom Vote: Unan

Request to approve and sign on Comstar Write-offs: Question from Lillian Whitney - Is this putting us over budget? Bob Hanson tried to explain to her there is no budget expense line on this. These are part of revenues & we cannot predict who will not pay their ambulance bill. LW said she will get back to Bob on this.

6) Selectmen approve and sign on Comstar Write-offs for \$8,634.99 for 2013 and 2014, subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom Vote: Unan

Explanation of Water System Project (Mike McCallum): MM said this was questioned at the last Selectmen's Meeting on 2/25/15 when the BOS signed a contract with Weston & Sampson Engineering to continue with the Water Project that was funded a year ago at Annual Town Meeting, 2014. Steve Ingerson was concerned that nobody knew about it and nobody knew how it was funded and that we were in fact giving away, using Town money to fund water for private businesses and we had no way to recoup the money. Showed email from DEP approving capacity for subject "commercial properties" which included the Ashby Market, the Post Office property and the Church.

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Projector slide show explanation of water project. Showed the Town Meeting handouts that were available at the last Town Meeting explaining the system & how it would be funded. We have to do this due to the Consent Order signed by the previous Board of Selectmen. Large fines \$1,000/day could be charged.

Several options were considered: drilling new well, using Library well, and tying into Fitchburg or Townsend's water. Showed hookup fees would be charged of \$9,000 and then monthly fees.

Bill Arnold spoke to the accusation that the Ashby Market was going to get water for "free" as Steve Ingerson stated on his website and Bill said that was absolutely false. He said MM called him and explained there would be a \$9,000 hookup fee and monthly fee. The "rubbish" published by Mr. Ingerson borders on liable and slander; all of these statements are false and they create a conjecture that there is a conspiracy theory and he does not like his name being dragged into something like that.

Lillian Whitney asked why the Town Hall and the Police Station were included in this project when they are already hooked up to the School's water. MM explained to her that this was not true. The Town Hall and Police Station have their own well and are not tied into the school yet. LW stated she knows those building are tied into the school well. LW questioned where the well was for the Police Station and Town Hall. Answer was it may be by the tennis courts.

Harald Scheid asked if he could ask a question. He would have liked to ask this question to Steve in person but, he is not at the meeting tonight. Spoke on accusations made on Selectman Ingerson's website in regards to land Harald purchased on New Ipswich Rd. and the connection to the Town well. HS said it would have been nice if Mr. Ingerson had called him before publishing these liable statements on his website. Mr. Scheid would like to have a retraction of the false statements on Selectman Ingerson's website or at least a public apology from Mr. Ingerson. HS asked MM to explain the process the Town went through before Harald purchased the land. MM explained why this property was not a good choice for the Town well issue.

Since we are discussing the website; reference was made by MM to allegation from Mr. Ingerson's website in regards to him being responsible for what happened with the Fire Truck several years back. He cleared up the misinformation from Mr. Ingerson's website that he was in fact, not on the Board of Selectmen in 2006, 2007 or 2008 when the Fire Truck incident occurred. There are a lot of inaccuracies on Ingerson's website but that is not up to any of us here. MM offered to anyone who has questions about this website to call him at 5591 and he will offer what he knows about the information. He knows what actually happened in most of the cases but he cannot tell us where all of the other information is coming from that is on Ingerson's website.

Janet Flinkstrom said that now that we are talking about the website she has a problem about what was said about her on the website. JF spoke about accusations made on Ingerson's website about her owning land on Richardson Rd. Again misinformation from Mr. Ingerson had to be corrected. The house he claimed was torn down is in fact still on the property and was never torn down. She has pictures as proof and the four walls of the original structure since before 63 years ago are still there. If anyone wants to call her to discuss this property she is happy to discuss and show her proof.

Point of Order brought up by LW that this was not on the agenda. JF said we were talking about some of the things that were put up on line and she only just read Ingerson's website and there was not time

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to put it on the agenda so it is under any other business. JF says they will do all of the appointments first & JF and MM state they will discuss this again and repeat the information at the end of the meeting. She feels many people have been personally slandered on this website.

- 7) Selectmen appoint Peter Niall as Building Inspector for a one-year term from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom Vote: Unan

- 8) Selectmen appoint Richard Hanks as Building Inspector Alternate for a one-year term from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom Vote: Unan

LW asked if CORI checks were done on all Inspectors being appointed. BH states it is not a requirement.

- 9) Selectmen appoint Paul Lessard as Electrical Inspector for a one-year term from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom Vote: Unan

- 10) Selectmen appoint Harry Parviainen as Assistant Electrical Inspector for a one-year term from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom Vote: Unan

- 11) Selectmen approve the Building Inspector's appointment of Richard Kapenas as Plumbing and Gas Inspector one-year term from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 and Gary Williams as Plumbing Inspector Alternate for a one-year term from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom Vote: Unan

- 12) Selectmen appoint Catherine Foster to the Board of Registrars for a three-year term ending March 31, 2018.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom Vote: Unan

- 13) Selectmen appoint Krishnabai as Alternate to the Board of Registrars for a one-year term ending March 31, 2016.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom Vote: Unan

- 14) Selectmen accept the resignation of Pamela Sagar as Accounting Clerk/Administrative Assistant to the Police Department effective March 25, 2015.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom Vote: Unan

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LW questioned why this keeps coming up and they keep hiring new people. JF explained this employee resigned & the employee does not have to state why they are resigning. She was not let go; she resigned & if LW wants to know why JF suggested LW call her.

For the record: the Chairman stated Any Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman is to be combined with Public Comments per Bob Hanson's suggestion.

Kate Stacy, Town Treasurer said this was in response to statement #4 from Steve Ingerson's website which claimed employees in Town have mandatory direct deposit. This is untrue, there has never been a policy like that and she explained how payroll actually works. She typically hands out the checks on Thursdays after the Selectmen's meeting when warrants have been signed. On warrant 17P the checks were held because Steve refused to sign that payroll warrant. She could not hand out the payroll checks until Saturday after the Special Friday Selectmen's meeting was held. The words "NO CHECK" on Steve's website appears on our listing because the Town does not assign check numbers since we do not print these checks. Harper's Payroll company prints the checks. Had Steve come to her office or anyone else's they could have explained to him how the payroll works. MM stated that so on our system they do not have check numbers listed but, on Harper's payroll system they do have check numbers. KS confirmed this is correct.

The Town Treasurer also addressed Steve's website #5 statement which claimed her office had unprotected money. The Treasurer had two letters including one from Bartholomew and they are very reputable and they were not happy about this allegation. Had Steve come to her she would have shown him the letter that states this is incorrect. She corrected his accusations in regards to funds that are invested by the Town not being protected and insured which they are. Bob Hanson, Town Administrator also read a letter from Melanson and Heath, our auditors, which corrected this false statement and stated the investments are insured. KS wishes Steve had come to her first before slandering her or anyone else on his website.

Harold Scheid, speaking in his capacity as the Town's Tax Assessor again spoke in regards to accusations made by Steve Ingerson's website of special treatment given to some residents in Town. HS stated again that had Mr. Ingerson come to him he could have explained about assessments and how they are done and any of the matters on Steve's website could have been easily addressed. He explained about one property in particular that Steve put up on his website. An explanation as to the example given on the website as far as the value of the home was given. HS stated that had Mr. Ingerson done the decent thing and asked him; instead of maligning his office, he could have explained about the abatement that was given for this property and that the house is still being renovated. MM reminded everyone about the Recall election and explained how it works.

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

15) Motion to Adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

Motion: Mike McCallum

Seconded: Steve Ingerson

Vote: Unan

Signed by: _____

Dates Minutes Approved by Board of Selectmen: _____