

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

Robert A. Dean _____

Cheryl L. Dukes _____

Kevin P. Fox _____

Attendees: Bob Dean, Cheryl L. Dukes, Kevin Fox, Mike McCusker, Rob Riggan (Shelburne Falls Cable), Stacy Kontrabecki, Dena Willmore

Bob opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m..

Appointments

6:30 p.m., Sewer Commissioners – Bob opened the Sewer Commissioners Meeting at 6:30 p.m..

- i. **2012 Rate** – The proposed rate is \$.0405, a very minor change. Bob moved we sign the abatement letter to the Shelburne Sewer Commissioners and the Sewer Commissioners Warrant; Cheryl seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor. Andrea said this is the last of the borrowing for the upgrade of the Treatment Plant.
- ii. **Damage Abatements** – Andrea said if something renders a property uninhabitable due to natural disaster, fire, if you don't hit the minimum bill, take one-twelfth for each month it was uninhabited. Falls below minimum due to circumstances due to natural circumstances. Kevin asked if an application has been developed. Andrea said not yet. Kevin said you would have to pay the bill then apply for the abatement; then get a refund. Kevin moved we approve the Wastewater Treatment Facility abatement policy for natural disaster resulting in property being rendered uninhabitable when an application process is completed; Cheryl seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.
- iii. **Tighe & Bond Contract** – Andrea said the language changes have been done and it is set to go. Dan needs no additional funds to do this for the Operations and Maintenance Manual. Kevin moved we approve the contract for professional engineering services by Tighe & Bond, not to exceed \$9,700; Bob seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.
- iv. **Change Order #1 for Conway Street Sewer Emergency Repair** – Andrea said this is the emergency repair done after exposure of the sewer main. This is a wrap-up item and comes in below the estimate. Kevin moved we approve the two Change Orders from Pereira Construction Company, Inc., the first one is for \$3032.22, and the second one is \$5361, for the emergency sewer repair work on Conway Street; Cheryl seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.

Dena Willmore entered the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Bob moved to exit the Sewer Commissioners Meeting at 7:02 p.m.; Kevin seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.

4. c. **Master Capital Plan/Road Reconstruction and Funding** – Andrea talked with the Hubbardston Town Administrator to look at the big picture; Andrea did a spreadsheet for fifteen years out – with a lot of guess work – should we be looking at cruisers and trucks, voting equipment, copier, technology, what capital projects to consider and revenue assumptions.

Discussion about compilation and understanding of the spreadsheet. Andrea mentioned we now have a new FEMA Specialist – our third. Andrea and Steve to meet with the new Specialist.

Dena Willmore left the meeting at 7:33 p.m.. Stacy Kontrabecki and Mike McCusker entered the meeting at 7:34 p.m..

7:30 p.m., Stacy Kontrabecki, Mike McCusker Re: Town Trees – Andrea said the Energy Committee has a grant from WMECO for low maintenance plantings in the area around the new village trees on State Street. Stacy talked about tree bladders to water the new trees. Mike said what trees do we really feel are important? Stacy said she would like to apply for urban trees, maintaining heritage trees; it's a 50/50 grant. In kind is accepted. Andrea said our Tree Warden is an elected position; it is care and control of public shade trees in the right of way, to preserve life and property. Bob said the Tree Warden looks at public safety. Mike said Steve Howland bought an Elm tree for Elm Street, to be placed next to the Elm Street sign. Kevin said forming a tree committee would be an interesting idea. Bob said write a proposal and charge. Stacy said we should start small. Stacy and Mike left the meeting at 8:12 p.m..

3. a. **Selectmen Meeting Minutes: December 13, 2011, January 20, 2012** – Kevin moved we sign the December 13, 2011 and January 10, 2012 meeting minutes; Cheryl seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.

b. **Temporary Liquor Application – Buckland Riders, Inc.** – Bob moved we approve the one-day liquor license for the Buckland Riders, Inc.; Kevin seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.

c. **Town Hall Use – Democratic Town Committee** – Kevin moved we approve the Town Hall use application for the February 25, 2012 Democratic Town Committee meeting, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.; Cheryl seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.

d. **March 6, 2012 Primary Election Warrant** – Kevin moved we sign the March 6, 2012 Primary Election Warrant; Cheryl seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.

4. a. **Annual Town Meeting Warrant Discussion** – Andrea mentioned the municipal lighting plant. Kevin said we agreed to do that. Andrea said what about Wired West. Bob said put it on the draft. Andrea said you will need a Special Town Meeting for the veterans line item, highway fuel due to storm, some Fiscal Year 2011 bills that came in August. Discussion about when to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

c. **Fiscal Year 2013 Budget** – Andrea gave the board a draft of the Selectmens budget. Bob suggested going out to bid for elevator maintenance, and Andrea will check with the FRCOG Procurement Officer. Discussion about Town email boxes for boards and committees. Increase is \$3,640.00, mainly due to veterans increase. Kevin asked about a stabilization account for the veterans item. Andrea said it is under the levy; we get 75% reimbursement after eighteen months. Cheryl said she felt the Emergency Director salary should be funded. Andrea said the present Emergency Director requested no salary. Cheryl said see if he is still wants to be in the position.

d. **Blackboard Connect Notification Procedures** – Andrea did the corrections as recommended. Kevin moved we approve the Blackboard Connect notification procedures; Cheryl seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.

e. **Franklin County Regional Emergency Planning Committee** – Andrea is checking with Henry.

f. **Update Anti-Idling** – Andrea said yes, we have a policy; will remind departments.

5. **Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting** – a. **Wind Projects** – Bob said he has been contacted by folks about potential wind projects who want a moratorium put on them. Just raising the questions. Work with other towns and share legal costs. Good possibility for update of the by-laws. Kevin said it is a Town Meeting vote but you can't have it forever. Andrea said we will have an end result you can work with. Cheryl said people approved me asking of the Town of Buckland could be designated as a wind-friendly town. Kevin said it sounds like a citizen petition article. Andrea said the Planning

Board is looking at a by-law. b. **School Committee Resignation** – Bob said we have a letter of resignation from Jon Wyman to resign his position from the School Committee effective June 1, 2012. Bob moved we accept the resignation; Kevin seconded. Kevin said I thank Jon. Bob said Jon always had the Town’s interest at heart. **VOTED** unanimously in favor. Bob moved to add the unexpired position to the Annual Town Election ballot; Kevin seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor. Kevin said check with Jim or Steve for the speed limit sign on Conway Road; maybe it was knocked down. Needs some potholes filled, too.

6. **Public Comment** – None.

7. **Volunteer Recognition** – Jon Wyman!

8. **Announcements** – Town Clerk announcements regarding street listing, dog licenses, rabies clinic.

9. **Upcoming Buckland Public Meetings**

Board of Selectmen

February 28, 2012, 6:30 p.m. Town Hall

At 9:27 p.m., Bob moved to adjourn; Kevin seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m..