



## Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: Monday, November 6, 2017  
Location: Tahanto Regional Middle High School, 1001 Main Street  
Time: 6:00 PM – 6:50 PM  
Members Present: Chairman James Wood; Michael May; James Underwood; Marty McNamara, Town Administrator; Stephen Madaus, Town Counsel; April C. Steward, Administrative Assistant to the Board

The meeting commenced at 6:00 PM.

Financial Warrants were signed in agreement.

### **Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles for Discussion. Joint Meeting with FinCom:**

- Article 1 land swap recommendation. *Karen motioned to approve article one; seconded and voted all in favor. Jim will read the Article*
- *Karen McGahie motioned to approved Article 2, 3, and 4 as one blanket approval; seconded and voted all in favor*
- Mike will read Article 2
- Jamie will read Article 3
- Jamie will read Article 4
- Mike will read Article 5
- *Eric Brose motioned to approve the use of treasury funds for the purpose of land acquisition stated in Article 6; seconded and voted all in favor for the use if the treasury funds but want it on record that they are neutral on the article itself.*
- There was discussion on Article 6. The town is trying to make it possible for a four way light to be installed at the entrance to the FedEx building that is currently under construction. As of now, FedEx is planning on installing a three way light on Rte. 140 as part of their project. If the town can create a new road to intersect with the light, FedEx will incorporate the cost of the four way light into their project. If the land to create the new access road is not available and the town decides in the future to make the intersection a four way intersection we will be paying 100% of the expense. The purchase of the three parcels in this Article would make it possible to extend Cross St all the way to Rte. 140 and make it a part of the new intersection that would be controlled by a traffic light. The language used in the Article lists everyway that the land could be acquired, including the taking by eminent domain. There has been push back about that possibility and the BOS discussed whether or not that phrase should be removed from the Article. Jim motioned to withdraw “or by taking by eminent domain” from Article 6; Mike seconded; voted all in favor. Jim is going to read the Article.
- Article 7 is going to be passed over. Jim will motion to Passover the Article.
- Mike will read Article 8. Planning Board will need to move to amend.
- Mike will read Article 9
- Remaining Articles will be read by the Planning Board
- The Planning Board was meeting at the same time that this meeting was occurring to discuss what they would be doing with Articles 10 through 13
  - It was suggested that Article 10 may be passed over by the Planning Board, this board does not know what the Planning Board is going to decide to do.
  - Article 11 will be moved
  - Article 12 and 13 may be passed over if the Planning Board decides to not give a favorable recommendation. Again, this is being decided in a concurrent meeting.

### **Tax Revenue Generated From New Commercial Development**

- The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee would like to set forth a recommended guideline to go out to all the department heads when it comes time to submit budgets for FY19. We would like to take the bulk of the funds generated from the tax revenue generated from new commercial development and use it to reduce the tax rate for the town. This is an advisory recommendation that would go out to the departments. The agreed upon recommendation from the two boards is a 70/30 split, 30% going toward new growth costs for the town and 70% going to offset the tax rate for the town. From the BOS *Jamie Underwood made the motion to accept the 70/30 recommendation; Mike May seconded; voted all in favor. From FinCom Karen McGahie made a motion to split the new commercial tax revenue 70/30, the seventy being for tax rate reduction; seconded; voted all in favor.*

### **Senior Tax Rebate Committee Reinstatement**

- Currently the Committee has been inactive and the Town Administrator would like to see this program become active once again. He would like to see the following offices appointed
  - Council on Aging Coordinator, Ex Officio
  - Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen, Ex Officio
  - Human Resources Assistant, Ex Officio
  - Assessor's Clerk, Ex Officio
  - Town Treasurer/Collector, Ex Officio
  - Town Administrator, Ex Officio
- BOA has an overlay balance of over \$210,000 and the MA Legislature has just increased the amount to \$1,500.00 that a senior can get off of their taxes. We are planning on asking at the May Town Meeting to increase the program limit to \$1,500.00 and we would like to open up ten slots in the program. *Mike May made a motion to appoint the positions listed above; Jamie seconded; voted all in favor.*

### **Planning Board Concerns**

- The Board of Selectmen expressed their concern about inaction by the Planning Board at their meetings. They are a five member board, you have one member who votes, two who abstain and the chair who refuses to cast a vote unless it is in a tie breaker situation. The problem is the board refuses to act, and they are the ones who wrote the articles. They came to their own hearing and then refused to vote and give recommendations. Mike May expressed his concerns with the board's performance or lack thereof to Town Counsel.

*Jamie Underwood motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mike May seconded; voted all in favor.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*April C. Steward*, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

### **Meeting Materials**

Agenda  
STM Warrant

On file in Board of Selectmen's Office  
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