



## Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: Monday, March 26, 2018  
Location: Town Hall, 221 Main Street  
Time: 6:30 PM – 7:01 PM  
Members Present: Chairman James Wood; James Underwood; Marty McNamara, Town Administrator; Stephen Madaus, Town Counsel; April C. Steward, Administrative Assistant to the Board

The meeting commenced at 6:30 PM.

Financial Warrants were signed in agreement.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Appointment to Historic Commission: David Cole. *Jamie Underwood made a motion to appoint David Cole to the Historic Commission; Mike May seconded; voted all in favor.*

**Finance Committee and School Administration meeting to discuss FY19 Budget:** David Butler began the discussion expressing concerns about the dramatic increase in the school budget. If it was to remain at what it is right now it would be over a \$1.00 increase in the tax rate for FY19. On the town side of the budget the only increases have been in pensions, retirement, and contractual obligations. The Superintendent and Bob Conry both came up to join in on the conversation. They did not agree with FinCom's assessment. They believe that the Elementary School has been underfunded. The Superintendent explained that the funding for the school dropped in FY14. If that hadn't happened and if they maintained a modest increase in the subsequent school years they would not have such a substantial ask this year. He also wanted to point out that the Town Surveys that were completed pointed toward the residents wanting to see better technology in the schools and lower class sizes. David Butler explained the reason the school committee cut the FY14 elementary budget was because the population decreased by over 10 percent. As a result of the decrease in population there was a decrease in staff and the cuts that were made were strictly staff reduction cuts, not in program cuts. Now that the population is increasing, he understands that it is now swinging the other way, but it isn't fair to say that the reason that there are budget problems now is due to cuts made in FY14. Bob Conry stated that the reality is the region budget has put a tremendous amount of pressure on Boylston because there has been modest increases in the regional budget and there has been a greater percentage of students from Boylston attending the high school. From a tax perspective he said we probably did the right thing by decreasing the staff at the elementary school but now we are in a position that makes the increase appear really large. If had left them in employment, they would be asking for less. The investments they are looking for this year are an additional teacher, based on anticipated enrollments, and an additional teacher for special needs students that could possibly keep one student in the school system rather than sending them out of district for services. One student has been identified in the elementary school that clearly needs service. If they go out of district it will cost the town \$80,000. If we hire a teacher and a paraprofessional it will cost the town \$85,000.00. Superintendent Zanghi said there are two other students that are in a similar position, and there are town students who are already out of district. Once a student is older and out of district, we cannot get them back. Discussion ensued on the cost of sending students out of district vs. the benefit of keeping them in house. Lorie wanted to talk about the school choice funds and how it has been being used to offset budgetary items. Discussion ensued regarding the anticipation of new commercial tax revenue that will be coming on the next several years. Jamie Underwood said there still needs to be some monies cut out of the budget. He asked why the after school program line item carries over \$100,000 every year. Bob said that the students are charged a fee to cover the cost of the custodian's fees and the cost of utilities. It is a revolving account that is used to fund the program. The Superintendent wanted to know what the ask from the town

would be? What number does the BOS want the school to get to? The BOS is asking that if there is anything that the school can defer until the next fiscal it would be very helpful. The school has agreed to go back and go over their numbers again.

### **Report of the Town Administrator to the Board of Selectmen:**

Once again, April held down the fort while I was away. So much of what I report was due to her efforts.

- ***Update on Purchase of land along Rte. 140:*** I spoke to Mr. Ernie Foster from the Worcester Sportsman's Club on Friday, and I expect he will be signing the P&S for the sale of their property in the next day or two.

I will be reaching out to the Fullers this week to make sure they have no issues with the P&S for their property.

- ***MassDOT Update:*** I participated in a conference call with Mass DOT, and the Town of Shrewsbury on Wednesday regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> leg of the FedEx Intersection. Things are moving along well. There were 2 matters the board should be aware of:
  - There were questions about the need for borings on the Fuller property. Attorney Donahue advised that the cost of doing borings is not included in the scope of the Scannell Service Agreement. It was finally decided that 2-3 test pits would be dug to determine the type of soils that were used to fill the property. Depending on what is discovered, boring could be required at a later time. Attorney Donahue agreed to have the cost of the test pits covered by Scannell.
  - The other item is that Attorney Donahue asked that an article be placed on the Town Meeting Agenda regarding the town accepting the road as a Public Way. There are certainly some issues with us doing that as the road has not even been built, and the timeline for Planning Board approval and BOS approval is very limited. Council is working with Attorney Donahue on this matter.
- ***TA Search Committee Update:*** The TA Search Committee held their first round of interviews on Thursday evening. They have 2 additional interview sessions scheduled. Mike wanted to talk a little about the challenges of the TA Search process. Jamie Underwood agreed and said that they decided as a board to use towns' people to be the TA Search Committee. They have on that committee a person who runs a successful business in town, a very respected former educator on the board, and a gentleman who does this for a living on the board. Their criteria is to go out and find the best candidates and then to bring them to us. If we don't allow them to do the process and try to intervene, you will never have a group from town volunteer to do this again. That is why it would have been best to use an outside firm because you are either going to piss off the people on the search committee that we appointed or you can let the process run through, see what they come to us with, and then decide at that point and he doesn't think we should discuss anything until then. Mike said he agreed until Jamie got to the no discussion part. Mike wondered if the boards' documentation and work align with what the objectives were from the BOS. As he looked through the summary sheet that they were using for setting the initial evaluation he feels there was a failure for the committee in coming back and communicating with the BOS and collaborate. Mike is concerned at this point. He believes that the process needs to be finished. He has reviewed all 45 of the resumes and feels that the BOS had a right to see them. Mike wanted to know if there was a problem with the process. Stephen felt that the BOS should not have had access to the resumes. Marty stated that three of the committee members were on the TA Search Committee six years ago and were familiar with the process. They had copies of the job description and the newspaper ad. They knew the parameters that the town was looking for. They have made their choices and they will present to the board the three candidates at the next BOS meeting. They are not recommending that you hire any of the three, they are recommending that you interview them. Many towns reopen a search after the initial process. Jamie felt you should be very careful if you reopen the search because you now would need a new committee, which is what the other two members wanted to do instead of going with an outside firm. Mike did not feel that anyone was interested in spending \$20 to \$30 thousand to hire an outside firm. Jamie feels that you don't have any of the external publicity that you would get with an external firm. Marty still feels that with a town this size even if you went to an outside firm you would

still hear from people who did not get asked to an interview. Mike expressed a desire to have had the opportunity to have a sit down with the committee before they made their final interview decisions. It was stated the board had deliberated about this already and this is the process that they chose. Stephen also stated that surrounding towns have already demonstrated that it is tough to find people who are interested in this profession for various reasons. West Boylston and Sturbridge had to open their searches multiple times. Mike is really wanting to see longevity and community depth in the next Town Administrator. They need to wait and see who comes in to the BOS for interviews.

- **Lindsay Katz:** Lindsay Katz gave birth on Thursday night, and has left her position. With that position open, and needing some time to determine how we will proceed, I would recommend to the board that the HR duties be given to April for the time being and you pay her a stipend of \$150.00 per week while she performs those duties. *Jamie Underwood made a motion to pay April Steward \$150.00/week to handle the HR functions as needed for the time being; Mike May seconded; voted all in favor.*
- **Building Inspector Stipend:** On another personnel matter, as you know the Building Inspector has been spending a great deal of time doing inspections at the FedEx project. He does not receive any extra pay for this time. I would recommend to the board that they approve an \$8,000 to \$10,000 bonus to the building inspector. These funds would come from the funds that Scannell gave to the town for this purpose. *Mike May seconded; voted all in favor. Mike May made a motion to approve an \$8,000.00 bonus to the building inspector, and a bonus payment of \$1,000.00 each to the plumbing inspector, the electrical inspector, and the gas inspector; Jamie Underwood seconded; voted all in favor.*
- **Charter Communications at Cheryl's Way:** Since our last meeting there appears to be some movement on the part of Charter Communications providing service to the residents at Cheryl's Way. At least they have visited and we believe made some appointments with the residents. We will continue to follow this and advise you of the progress.
- **ARCO Meeting at Town Hall:** There is a meeting tomorrow morning with ARCO the contractor on the FedEx Building. They want to discuss wrapping up the project, and get any information they need to make the closing as smooth as possible.

**Review/Approve Tighe & Bond Professional Engineering Services Stormwater Assistance Proposal for the required 2018 Annual Report and Record Keeping:** Signed by Town Counsel and the Chair of the BOS.

**FY19 Warrant Review:** The articles on the warrant were reviewed and discussed. It was discussed to move Article 15 to the Special Town Meeting in the fall. They would also like to defer Article 19. Change the wording in Article 22 from State to statutory. The BOS would like some clarification on Article 24. Article 27 may be taken out, but we will see. The zoning by-laws were out of order on the draft copy. Stephen will work with April to straighten it out. Additional language will be made available in the Town Clerk's office to keep the warrant down in size.

Chairman Wood wanted to discuss the chipping issue by the DCR up on the state land on Paul X Tivnan Drive. He is not in favor and would like to send them a letter. Mike May made a motion to send them a letter; Jamie Underwood seconded; voted all in favor. A letter will be drafted and Representative Naughton; Lt. Governor Polito, and Senator Chandler will all be cc'd on the letter.

Stephen Madaus wanted to let the BOS know that he did not foresee any issues with the two P&S agreements.

*At 8:23 PM Mike May motioned to adjourn; Jamie Underwood seconded; voted all in favor.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
April C. Steward, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen  
Selectmen's Mtg 03.26.18

**Meeting Materials**

Agenda

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

TA Report

Draft Warrant

On file in Board of Selectmen's Office

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