

Board of Selectmen Meeting: June 4, 2015 at Municipal Light Plant Gathering Room, 8 Municipal Way
Present: Searle, Gibbs, Murphy, Freiman, Morgan
Also Present: Larsen
Minutes Approved: June 8, 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.

1. Citizen Speak

None.

2. Town Government Study Committee Recommendations

Ms. Gibbs provided a brief update on the activities of the Town Government Study Committee (TGSC). The Board discussed the merits of the proposed Land Use consolidation, the related staffing requirements, the time commitment required of the new Land Use Director, and the implications to the current departmental budgets.

The consensus of the Board was as follows:

- The proposed consolidation of the land use departments would be beneficial.
- While there is merit to the Land Use Director being positioned as an Assistant Town Manager residing within the Town Manager's office, the person in this position would need to dedicate more than half of their time to land use matters, particularly during an initial implementation phase. In addition, it would be beneficial for the Land Use Director to have an office in the basement of Town Hall, in order to be actively engaged with his/her staff.
- Consolidation of the land use functions will require a comprehensive implementation plan and significant IT support.

The Board also discussed the administrative staff efficiencies associated with the Land Use consolidation, as well as the potential synergies to be derived from better staff coordination of the higher-level planning processes. Otherwise, the Board views the consolidation as having little impact on the direct responsibilities and activities of the related Boards.

The Board briefly discussed the merits of a "big bang" vs. phased implementation of the TGSC recommendations. Mr. Larsen suggested the possibility of the Town Manager being hired in an initial phase and the land use consolidation being done in a subsequent phase. Positioning top management before proceeding with the land use consolidation would enable the Town Manager to be held more accountable for the success of this project. During the hiring process for the new Town Manager, he/she could be questioned as to how they would propose to handle the envisioned consolidation.

At 7:20 pm, the Board adjourned temporarily and proceeded to the Inter-Board meeting.