

Board of Selectmen Meeting: January 14, 2016
Present: Murphy, Freiman, Gibbs, Searle & Morgan
Also Present: Larsen (Jop arrived at approximately 9:20)
Minutes Approved: January 19, 2016
Warrants Approved: None

Meeting called to order at 7:30 am.

1. Citizen Speak

None.

2. Discussion of Town Bylaw changes to be considered at the February 1, 2016 Special Town Meeting related to transition to a Board of Selectmen – Town Manager form of government

Mr. Murphy introduced this topic and Ms. Freiman initiated a review and discussion of the proposed amendments to the new Town Bylaw Article 6A – Financial planning and Budget Provisions to be considered at the February 1, 2016 Special Town Meeting. The Board discussed various edits suggested by (i) Ray Miyares, Town Counsel and (ii) a group of Town Meeting members (Heather Sawitsky, David Himmelberger, Don McCauley, Suzy Littlefield and Terri Tsagaris). Ms. Freiman will incorporate the various agreed edits in a revised draft.

Mr. Larsen suggested the Board consider modifying the proposed language to bring focus on the Town-wide Financial Plan earlier in the annual budget cycle, e.g., concurrent with the development and rollout of the budget guidelines. The Board was amenable to this suggestion and Mr. Larsen committed to draft the relevant amendments to the bylaw language for the Board's consideration at its next meeting.

The Board discussed Section 11.13 – Notice of Request for Other Appropriations, specifically whether the Town Manager or Board of Selectmen should be responsible for determining whether such requests are appropriate. It was agreed that the Board should consult with the Town Government Study Committee to better understand their thinking as it relates to this section.

Upon a motion by Ms. Gibbs and seconded by Ms. Freiman, the Board voted (5-0) to approve the draft language of Article 2A, subject to review of the final language and resolution of the above points. (This vote was subsequently rescinded.)

Ms. Freiman led a review and discussion of the proposed amendments to Article 2B.

With regard to questions regarding the appointment and supervision of the Town Engineer, the Board agreed to consult with the Town Government Study Committee, to better understand the logic of their original proposal.

Mr. Larsen expressed concerns regarding the integrity of the Board's vote on any of the bylaw amendments, prior to availability of a more accurate draft of the complete language, inclusive of the numerous edits. On the basis of this concern, Mr. Morgan suggested the Board rescind its earlier vote.

Upon a motion by Ms. Gibbs and seconded by Ms. Freiman the Board voted (5-0) to rescind its earlier vote regarding the language of Article 2A.

Ms. Freiman initiated a review and discussion of the proposed amendments to Articles 2C and 2D. The Board agreed to several minor changes.

Ms. Freiman will prepare revised drafts of the all of the proposed bylaw amendments, incorporating the Board's agreed changes. Mr. Larsen will assist with the language regarding the revised timetable for preparation and presentation of the Town-wide Financial Plan. The Board intends to vote to approve the final language of the bylaw proposals at its next meeting on January 19th. In the meantime, Ms. Freiman or Mr. Murphy will forward the revised drafts to the Advisory Committee.

3. Other Matters

Mr. Murphy reported that the Advisory Committee will be meeting on Saturday morning to consider the proposed bylaw changes to be presented at the February 1st Special Town Meeting. He also reported that he attended a meeting of Linden Square neighbors hosted by representatives of Federal Realty, and that the meeting was positive.

Mr. Morgan reported that the Community Preservation Commission (CPC) is supportive of the Selectmen's proposal to request Town Meeting's acceptance of M.G.L. c.44B, Section 3(b1/2), to supplement funds raised through the real estate tax surcharge. The CPC would like to meet with the Selectmen in the near future to discuss the plans for the North 40 conservation easement and other matters.

At 9:50 the meeting was adjourned.