

Board of Selectmen Meeting: March 16, 2016
Present: Murphy, Freiman, Gibbs, Searle, Morgan
Also Present: Larsen, Jop
Minutes Approved: April 1, 2016

Warrants Approved: #2016-036 in the amount 5,317,240.43

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

1. Citizen Speak

Don McCauley, former selectmen approached the Board. Mr. McCauley acknowledged yesterday's election noting the great amount of work the Board of Selectmen and Town Government Study Committee put into the effort. He expressed his pleasure regarding the voter turnout and hoped that this movement will energize residents to be more actively involved in town government activities. He noted that they look forward to working with the Board on these issues.

Ms. Freiman congratulated Police Chief Cunningham, who was awarded the Peace Now Award from the Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence.

2. Collective Bargaining Update

Ms. Jop noted that they have reached a settlement with the Superior Officers, although, they have not had a chance to have the Memorandum of Agreement signed. They hope to have that signed and finalized by the following meeting Monday, March 21st.

3. Executive Director's Update

Mr. Larsen informed the Board of notification from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), that the Town has once again received a certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting. He credited the Finance Director, Sheryl Strother, and her team.

Town Clerk Salary

Mr. Larsen noted the Town Clerk is the only paid elected official in town. Her position is not part of the salary plan and is dealt with as a separate article at Town Meeting. The recommendation from Human Resources calls for a 2.5% increase, which would bring her annual salary to \$87,874.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Gibbs and seconded by Ms. Freiman the Board voted (5-0) to approve the Town Clerk's Salary for FY17 at \$87,874.

4. Route 9/ Kingsbury Street Intersection

Deputy Chief Pilecki, Michael Zehner, Planning Director, Mike Pakstis, DPW Director, and Mike Regan, traffic consultant joined the Board. Mr. Murphy briefly reviewed discussions with MassDOT regarding their work on Route 9, which they anticipate to begin in 2017. They have opened up the possibility of redesigning the intersection at Route 9 and Kingsbury Street in order to improve safety. MassDOT

provided an initial design, although the Town had some concerns. MassDOT has subsequently agreed to consider alternative designs. Mr. Larsen noted they have received comment and feedback regarding the proposed reconfiguration of the intersection that was previously presented to the Board. A meeting was held with MassDOT to discuss comments and questions on the design and it was apparent that they were not amenable to implementing the design with less than 3 through lanes on each side of the roadway, which is not the community preference. Another idea discussed was simply signaling the two U-turns as a way of improving safety while preserving some of the existing operational performance of the intersection and avoiding the elimination of the median. MassDOT agreed to work on a concept design for this idea. Mr. Regan presented an analysis of this idea and details on how it would function. Mr. Larsen noted the Town's estimated portion of the cost for this project is \$546,000 with a bit of contingency which would bring that cost up in the \$600,000 range.

John Maconga of 1 Audubon Road approached the Board. Mr. Maconga questioned how the sequencing of the light at the eastbound U-turn would operate in the evening. He suggested the option of flashing yellow or flashing red lights and noted that some signage may be appropriate as cars coming around won't see the light until they are already approaching the light. Mr. Regan responded to his questions.

5. 900 Worcester Request for Proposals (RFP)

Deb Carpenter joined the Board. Ms. Carpenter noted that she was standing in for Andy Wrobel who was out of town. She reviewed the purpose of the revised RFP and reviewed the main focuses. She reviewed changes that were made to the RFP. She noted after the Board has had time to review the document, they will provide a final copy of the RFP for the Board's review with a goal of issuing the final RFP on March 31, 2016.

6. Preparations for Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Murphy noted the Moderator's meeting was this morning and that all work has been assigned. There is some uncertainty regarding appropriation requests as it relates to the intersection. Ms. Jop reviewed the upcoming bid schedule for the Tolles Parsons and the Police Station. She noted that motions will be mailed out to Town Meeting Members on the 22nd. Any information that didn't make it into the motions in time for the mailing will be available at Town Meeting. Ms. Jop reviewed current outstanding motions and work to be done. The Board briefly reviewed the agenda for Annual Town Meeting.

7. Old/New Business

Mr. Murphy noted the Board needs to begin to initiate the process of looking for replacement for Mr. Larsen. They discussed drafting an RFP for a consultant and questioned how quickly this could be done. Mr. Morgan noted that he would first like to have a discussion regarding how to go forward after the election, and to consider what it is they are recruiting for, as he has a lot of uncertainty. Mr. Murphy noted that he and Ms. Freiman will meet with Mr. Larsen and Town Counsel regarding the legal ramifications of the vote. He will report back to the Board on the 28th and schedule off-site time to look at a host of issues.

Mr. Murphy noted that he would like to get an update from Chief Cunningham regarding his role as the President of the International Association of Police Chiefs. He would like to have a similar discussion with Fire Chief DeLorie, who has been asked to take on another term as the President of the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association.

The Board was polled all aye to go into executive session to discuss the acquisition of real property.

The Board of Selectmen's meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Documents Presented:

- Kingsbury Route 9 Intersection Analysis