

Selectmen's minutes of meeting June 17, 2019

Members present: Mark Newman, Brian O'Rourke, George Riley, Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Dolores reviewed the year end transfer request from the police department. She contacted the Road Superintendent for permission to transfer \$4,630.68 from the Highway Conservation Consultation Account. Brad granted permission as he does not have plans for the account by the end of this fiscal year.

Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to transfer \$4,630.68 from Conservation Consultation to the Police Salary Account.

Motion by Brian, second by George, passed unanimously to reappoint Steve Harasyko to the Conservation Commission.

Selectmen's updates:

Mark continues to work on Broadband.

Brian continues to work on Cold Spring Road. He has received a counter offer on the repair and cleanup which is unacceptable.

George has been working on the school budget. He received an email from the school's administrator Mr. Jesner with a proposal that they would forgo the 5% increase in the health care coverage. School Comm. member Nick DellaGiustina present clarified that the school does not have the same health care provider as the town and did not know until recently that there was not increase. He stated that they have looked into the same provider as the town's and have found them to be a third hire in cost than the provider they have. They received their quote with the lower premium after the annual town meeting. The Selectmen responded that they wanted a substantial reduction and that the 5% was not a true reduction. The 5% would have just been transferred into their E & D fund at the end of the fiscal year. The selectmen are looking for a good faith effort in a reduction. George reiterated that it is the school committee's job to review the budget and make reductions. They have 2 choices, leave the budget as revised with the recorded vote that the selectmen unanimously does not support it and the finance committee's vote is 1 in favor with 3 opposed, or they can review and reduce the budget and have a positive vote from the selectmen and finance committee. School Committee member Jennifer Hibbins explained that they did review some areas of the budget. One was the lunchroom staff. They need both employees. The food is prepared on site and cannot do this with one employee. They reviewed the bus routes and had concerns with both towns having no sidewalks for kids to walk to bus stops. Another concern was the younger kids being on the bus for an unreasonable amount of time. They will contact Dufore to see if they can get a better rate.

Brian expressed that there hasn't been any communication between the selectmen and Eric Jesner. He is very happy with the dialogue tonight. We have heard some things tonight for the

first time. Nick reviewed that the population has gone up which means more enrollment. The state will discontinue funding the preschool program in the next fiscal year which means the budget will go up. They are also receiving a new student with special needs that will cost approx. \$120,000 a year, no state funding, we will have to increase the budget for this also. Brian stated that we are still waiting to hear from Mr. Jesner. The school committee is going to discuss the original agreement from when the region was formed that required they hold their school committee meetings in both towns alternately. Mark and George are taking a tour of the school this Thursday.

Brian stated that at the annual town meeting when the school budget was voted down and Nick and Mr. Jesner left immediately it send a bad message.

The school committee meets the first Monday of each month. Brian suggested that one of the members attend the selectmen's meeting to provide updates.

Reviewed the deadline for the special town meeting to deal with the school budget.

We will have the special town meeting on Monday, July 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. with the revised budget we have already received.

Future agenda items:

Special Town Meeting Warrant

Jennifer Hibbins to be appointed to the Cultural Council

Elaine O'Brien resigning

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

Kathy Burrows asked for clarification on the IT Grant. George responded that it is the Community Compact IT Grant. It has not been funded yet. He found this out after the email blast went out to all department heads. He still wants feedback so that if the grant is funded he can move forward with it.

Brian reviewed the ad for the Public Safety Officer position. George would like it clarified that the resumes will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen, Ralph Morrison agreed. We will run the ad for two weeks and post it to the town's website.

Mail reviewed

Warrants reviewed and signed

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Mark Newman

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley