

Minutes
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Monday, February 2, 2004
Police Station Community Meeting Room
7:00 p.m.

Chairman Brian Ashe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Brian Ashe and John Papale.

Also Present: Town Administrator Susan Wright

Absent: Hal Haberman

Acceptance of Minutes:

The minutes of the January 20, 2004 Regular Meeting and the January 20, 2004 Executive Session were accepted as presented.

Visitor Comment: There was no one present for the Visitor Comment Session.

Meeting with the Storrs Library: Present for a discussion about the library budget for FY05 was Library Director Carl Sturgis and Library Trustees President Larry Egan. They requested that the Board of Selectmen increase the FY05 library budget by \$3,316 to cover the increase for the C/W MARS Account and by \$5,000 to start a program of ongoing building maintenance. The \$5,000 would be used for partial painting of the exterior and that a similar amount would be sought for several years until the entire outside of the building was painted. The Board asked what other funds were available to the library and grants were discussed. The idea of applying to the Capital Planning Committee for some of the listed items in their Capital Repair Review was suggested. After much discussion, the Board noted that the Library was scheduled to go before the Appropriations Committee on February 11, 2004 and that a decision might not be made before then. The Board also noted that more details on State Aid might be necessary before agreeing to further increases. The Board was mindful of the directive from the Appropriations Committee to come in at level funding.

Old Business:

1. ***FY05 Budget Update:*** Ms. Wright updated the Board on the details of the estimated "Cherry Sheet" proposed in the Governor's Budget (House 1). If the numbers in the estimated state aid are realized the town could be looking at an increase of \$430,000 over what we currently estimated for state aid in FY05 (a 10% decrease). Also the Board discussed the recommendation that the Board of Health Director be approved for an FY05 budget that reflects 30.4 hours per week rather than the 23.67 currently being worked by Ms. Hirshhorn. The importance of the Health Director position, the increasing demand for services, the constantly changing issues in Public Health and the current Director's incredible dedication working above and beyond her funded hours all support the necessity of bringing this position back to up to 30 hours per week. After some discussion the Board approved increasing the recommended FY05 Health Department by \$8,936.46 to fund the Director's hours.

New Business:

1. ***Police Department Promotional Process:*** The Board gave approval to Acting Chief of Police Robert Danio to begin the process to prepare another promotional list to replace the one that expires on February 5, 2004.

2. **Interim “Emergency Management Director”:** The Board appointed Fire Chief Eric Madison as Interim “Emergency Management Director”. Chief Madison is agreeable provided that the Board give some thought to the what they want from the Emergency Management Director and what type of resources they are willing to commit to getting the job done.
3. **Fleet Safety Policy:** The Board adopted the revised Fleet Safety Policy, replacing the old Vehicle Use Policy adopted on December 16, 2002 with the new policy. It will be distributed to all departments having employees that drive town vehicles.
4. **Reserve Fund Transfer:** The Board approved a Reserve Fund Request for \$1,500 to go into the Highway Superintendent Salary Account to pay the acting Superintendent.

Town Administrator Report: The Board reviewed the Town Administrator report. Information on the Senior Work Off Abatement Program, the Charter, and FEMA reimbursement for storm related costs was discussed. The Board appointed the Town Administrator, as Safety Coordinator for the MIIA Program and Brian Ashe will represent the Board on the School Department Compliance Audit Committee. The Board discussed Town Counsel’s agreement to have the hourly rate of \$150 stay level for three fiscal years and his concern that if the retainer drops below \$140 per hour in FY05, he would like the chance to review the retainer amount in FY06 and FY07. There was discussion about how to keep tight controls on access to Town Counsel and it was proposed that the Town Administrator come back to the Board with some mechanism for internal control.

Correspondence:

1. Capital Planning Committee Report: The report was received and it was noted that the Capital Planning Committee is scheduled to meet with the Board on March 1, 2004.
2. Town Accountant Financial Report: The Board reviewed the Town Accountant’s Quarterly financial report.
3. Letter from Phillip Roth: The Board noted a letter from Mr. Roth regarding the Town Clerk’s Office and the response sent by the Town Clerk
4. Letter from Marcia Conrad, Bay Path: The Board noted a letter support Robert Danio’s candidacy for Chief of Police.
5. Letter from Dr. William Knaus regarding Arlington Road: The Board noted the letter from Dr. Knaus and the response from the Acting Superintendent of Streets.

Seeing no further business in open session, the motion was made and seconded to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and collective bargaining issues. It was noted that the Board would not return to open session. A roll call vote was taken and recorded as such:

Mr. Ashe	yes
Dr. Papale	yes

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Wright
Town Administrator