

Town of Shirley

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



7 KEADY WAY – SHIRLEY, MASSACHUSETTS - 01464-2812

David N. Swain, Chair

Kendra J. Dumont, Vice Chair

Robert E. Prescott, Jr., Clerk

TEL: (978) 425-2600, x200

Fax: (978) 425-2602

Selectmen@shirley-ma.gov

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES March 30, 2015 7:00pm TOWN OFFICES

The Board of Selectmen convened its meeting on Monday, March 30, 2015 at the Town Offices, Meeting Rooms A & B, Chairman David N. Swain presiding, with Selectmen Kendra J. Dumont, Robert E. Prescott, Jr., Town Administrator Patrice Garvin in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Swain called to Order the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 7:00pm

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Town Administrator Garvin gave her weekly report, noting that due to the State Representative and Senator Eldridge attending the Selectmen's Meeting this evening.

TA updated the Board on where they were on the Regional Dispatch. She stated that she has drafted an MOU to begin the discussion. However, there upfront costs that need to be determined and who and how that is broken out between the Towns, which is not the MOU. The MOU is in draft form and is basic language regarding what the goals are for Regional Dispatch. There is a meeting scheduled for April 2nd. At that meeting Verizon, Belltronics and IMC will be in attendance. All three will be reviewing potential costs, installation and logistics on how to get the two Towns to the point of a Regional Dispatch. Due to this, a new target date has been set for October 1st. Once the MOU is more defined, I will bring it to the Board for discussion.

Garvin has included for the Selectmen a debt report created by the Town Treasurer. She noted this is a long term debt with a column showing the budgeted amounts for FY16. Short term debt will be added.

The Sewer Committee submitted their final FY16 budget, see attached.

A public forum for the Master Plan has been scheduled for May 8th at 6pm in the Middle School Cafeteria. An agenda is attached. The Town will be working on sending out notices, press releases and flyers to get the word out about this important meeting.

TREASURY WARRANTS

Payroll warrant # 0140	\$ 5,510.81
Payroll warrant # 6140	\$ 34,994.85
Payroll warrant # 9140	\$ 1,907.66
Payable warrant# 2405	\$ 16,282.22

Selectman Prescott moved to accept the following Treasury Warrants as presented. Selectman Prescott Seconded. Robert E. Prescott vote Aye, David N. Swain vote Aye, and Kendra J. Dumont vote Aye..

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Tabled

OLD BUSINESS

1. Energy Committee Update - Tabled

NEW BUSINESS

2. Senator Eldridge & Representative Benson

Chairman Swain communicated to the both the Senator and Representative that the Town once again has lost MCI. To the Town, this is a 25% cut in state aid. He would like to see that Prison Mitigation money be slid into a PILOT. He noted that no other community has received a 25% cut, noting that the State is not fulfilling the Contract with the Town regarding MCI. Swain further noted his deep concern with the money for Schools, noting that it is not equitable between the Schools and the Charter Schools.

Selectman Prescott agreed with Swain's concerns, and emphasized that the most valuable piece of property in Shirley, due to its location near Route 2 is MCI. Prescott asked that for the Senator and Representative's help in moving the MCI money to a different avenue. He further noted his concern for the School Kindergarten Grant cut as well as the Regional Transportation Cut.

Selectman Dumont commented that the Regional School Concept is over 60 years old and archaic.

Representative Benson stated that the Legislation is pursuing legal avenues for the Regional Transportation as well as the reimbursement to Chapter 70. With respect to the Prison Mitigation monies, in the past, Representative Benson has filed an amendment to get the monies back in the towns impacted. This year, her colleague, a Republican, will file the amendment for the Prison Mitigation monies. She cautioned that this will be an uphill battle, noting the shortfall in the State's budget for FY16.

Senator Eldridge spoke about the budget process for FY16. He noted that the state will be facing a substantial gap between ongoing revenue and the cost of maintaining current services and commitments. He stated that there is a good chance in this Administration will support the Prison Mitigation Fund. The Senator stated that he completely agrees with Representative Benson, there was a very little increase in Local Aid and Education Funding.

Chairman Swain reiterated that the loss of MCI is a huge hit to the Town of Shirley.

During the budget process, Senator Eldridge's priorities will be:

- Protecting local aid to cities and towns, including Chapter 70, Chapter 90, SPED circuit breaker, lottery aid and prioritizing full funding for regional school transportation.
- Working closely with his colleagues and Governor Baker to dramatically improve public transportation across Massachusetts, including the MBTA, RTAs, bus service, and roads and bridges.
- Maintaining funding for vital social safety net services, including programs to help the homeless, low income families, at-risk children, those with disabilities, and the elderly.
- Advocating for significant investments in capital infrastructure, including transportation, water, higher education, libraries, and public schools.
- Protecting the environment, including water infrastructure, such that 1 percent of the budget is dedicated to the environment.

Town Administrator Patrice Garvin asked about the Health Care Costs, noting that the concessions the Town Employees gave last year, only to see a 10% increase this year. She asked what can the state do about these rising costs? Representative Benson understands the concern and stated that the GIC has a shortfall in that account as well. Senator Eldridge noted that the Health Care Cost Control needs to be stronger.

3. 7:30 Joint Public Hearing with FinCom: FY16 ATM Warrant

Town Administrator Garvin gave a power point presentation, (*see attached*), and reviewed with the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as follows:

Article 1: Accept Annual Town Report

Same as last year

Article 2: Prior Year Bills

DPW Cemetery Water bill \$37.00

Article 3: Supplemental Appropriation of Funds for fiscal Year 2015

Nothing has changed since last discussion on the ATM Warrant

Article 4: Accept Salary Classification Plan, FY2016 Wage Scale

Personnel Board will be holding a meeting on April 6th regarding Salary and Wage Scale

Article 5: Elected Officials' Compensation

Proposed reduction of the Town Clerk Discussion under the Operating Budget
Proposed reduction of the Town Collector Discussion under the Operating Budget

Article 6: Appropriate Omnibus Operating Budget for FY2016

Town Administrator asked the Selectmen to move the Agenda item on proposed reductions into this part of the power point presentation.

She reported the FY16 deficit is \$484K, which does not include the snow and ice deficit and only 5% proposed increase in the School Assessment.

However, deficit with the snow and ice and the 10.8% increase in the School Assessment puts the Town of Shirley's deficit just over \$1M.

Garvin stated that the Priorities for the Town are Schools and Public Safety.

Any proposed reductions should have little to no impact on services to the residents.

Proposed reductions to 20 hours: Executive Secretary to the Police Department
 Assistant Town Accountant
 Building Inspector
 Inspection Office Manager & BOH Office Manager

Total Savings \$54,221.70

Proposed reductions to 32 Hours: Town Clerk
 Town Collector
 Town Accountant
 Assistant Treasurer/Collector
 Assessor
 Assistant Assessor
 DPW Assistant
 Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

Total Savings \$70,371.23

Garvin noted that this was based on a Hard Close on Fridays and the hours of Town Offices would be Monday – Thursday 8am – 4:30pm

Chairman Swain noted that this is tough decision and he is not necessarily in favor of these reductions, but he does not know what other options there are to manage the budget. He noted an option for an override, but believes that the Town has no taste for an override. As stated, if the school comes in over 5%, services will have to be reduced as well.

Selectman Dumont stated that this is bad enough looking at these cuts, but if the school comes in over 5%, the town will become a community with just a school in it.

Swain commented that the Town side of General Government before the reductions came in at 2%, stating the Town is making severe cuts at just 2%. He is asking the Schools to do the same thing.

Selectman Prescott stated that in doing business, this is a troubling problem, as revenue is flat. This is not an easy thing and will not go away.

Joyce Reishultz, Chairman of the School Committee, stated that the Town cannot continue on as is, and as a community must stand up at Town Meeting and request an override. She further suggested that the town do a small override each year, as many other towns do.

Selectman Dumont remarked that the 10.8% increase in the school's assessment is grossly inflated. She further noted that there was an attempt to change the zoning in Mixed Use to promote business and revenue on Lancaster and Great Road, but failed at the Special Town Meeting.

Reishultz noted that an Override should not be cast aside.

Selectman Prescott commented that the economy has not gotten better, and he believes that having an override has not been cast aside, but rather there needs to be a plan put in place for an override, otherwise it will not pass. He further stated that there are different ways to raise revenue.

Reishultz added that the if an override is planned out well, it will be successful.

Article 7: Appropriate Sewer Commissioner's Budget for FY2016

Article 8: Appropriate Ambulance Department Budget for FY2016

Garvin sated that there is an increase in the indirect costs of \$40,000 to offset the costs for the ambulance plan, however if the plan does not pass at Town Meeting, that number will have to be reduced.

Article 9: Appropriate Curbside Solid Waste/Recycling Budget for FY2016

A new Contract was awarded to J. Harvey. The requested amount is \$135K added to the appropriated \$150K, totaling \$285K; should be enough for the FY16 budget.

Article 10: Approve Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan & Capital Budget for FY2016

Nothing has changed.

Article 11: Repurpose Previous Capital Funds

Repurposing \$14,147.75 to use towards Capital Items and the Capital Plan

Article 12: Appropriate Capital Item for FY2016

DPW ZTRAC Mower - \$18,700

Item will be offset by monies repurposed in the previous article. The remaining balance will be paid from Capital Stabilization fund. No borrowing is being requested.

Exterior Repairs to Town Offices \$10,000

This will be funded through the Capital Stabilization Fund, no borrowing is being requested.

Police Dept. Equipment \$10,000

This will be funded through the Capital Stabilization Fund, no borrowing is being requested.

Pick-up Truck \$52,150

This item is replacing the Service 1 Truck. The existing DPW truck will be repurposed for a Fire Department brush truck, borrowing is being requested.

Protective Gear \$65,850

All fire protective gear needs to be replaced due to expiration of equipment. This will be funded through the Capital Stabilization Fund. No borrowing is requested.

IT-Town Wide Virtual Servers \$90,926

This will be funded through the Capital Stabilization. Borrowing is being requested.

Ambulance \$190,000

This will be funded through the Capital Stabilization Fund. Borrowing is being requested.

Article 13: Re-establish departmental Revolving Funds

Nothing has changed from last year.

Article 14: Additional Property Tax Exemption

Request from the Board of Assessors

Article 15: Transfer to the General Stabilization Fund

Article 16: Transfer to the Capital Stabilization Fund

Article 17: Discontinue a Portion of Town Meeting Road

Request from Attorney Ray Lyons who represents George Caruso.

Article 18: Insert Article 1.8 "Electronic Copies" of Plans

Request from the Planning Board.

Article 19 Solar Tax Agreement

Currently a place holder, pending negotiations with National Grid.

4. Budget Discussion

Refer to Agenda item 4.

5. Proposed Reductions

Refer to Agenda item 4.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be April 6th at 7:00pm.

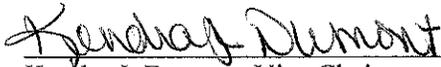
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, *Motion and Seconded to adjourn at 8:23 p.m., Robert E. Prescott vote Aye , Kendra J. Dumont vote Aye, and David N. Swain, vote Aye .*

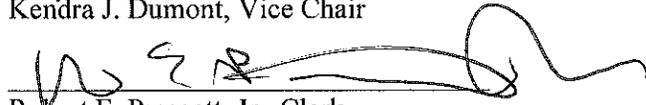
Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Rocco, Executive Assistant

Date Accepted: April 27, 2015

David N. Swain, Chair



Kendra J. Dumont, Vice Chair



Robert E. Prescott, Jr., Clerk

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law,' G.L. 39, § 23B, the approval of these minutes by the Board constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Board as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.