

Select Board

Minutes

June 10, 2014

7 pm, Leverett Town Hall, Present: School Com, Finance Com, Energy Com. Rich, Peter, Julie, Margie, Lisa, John K., JoAnn Mully, Heather Hutchinson, Cat Brooks, Mike Kociela, Bob Mahler, Ann Ross

Fire Dept. Study Com. (Judy Weinthal, Stewart Olson, Barb Tiner, Dean Alfange, and John Moruzzi present)

Judy addressed the meeting by stating that the committee felt that they could not proceed without 2 things: knowing the retirement status of the Chief, and knowing if the town will allow the retention of fire fighters after they turn 65.

Judy referred to an article she distributed about 2 months ago from Rockport, MA. The Town of Rockport authorized senior fire fighters to stay on the dept. past 65 yrs. old. They must have an annual physical and are on restricted duty; they may not go into active fires. Judy will call the Town of Rockport to get the wording of their motion. John stated the towns of Conway, Sunderland and Hatfield all have dealt with the over 65 issue. The committee restated their desire to have a full-time presence in town. Aligning with Shutesbury and/or Sunderland in the creation of a full-time person would make sense. Also discussed was the possibility of requesting an act of the legislature to address the over 65 issue by passing legislation allowing fire fighters over 65 to continue to work as long as they no longer continue to contribute to the state retirement system.

The Select Board agreed that the situation needs to be resolved and urged the committee to prepare for ATM for support of the idea of a full-time position as it may require and 2 ½ override.

The Select Board will pursue legislative action although they cautioned that it may take a long time. Margie will let the Town of Sunderland know that we are working toward a full-time fire fighter position.

School Committee with other boards to discuss Energy Issues at the school

After receiving an enormous bill for heating oil and after a consultant from WMECO reviewed the school's energy usage; the Select Board requested that all boards and interested parties meet to discuss the issue. Rich reviewed the consultant's report. It was agreed by all that the situation was unacceptable. Ann Ross thought the problem was a result of miscommunication between Town Hall and the School; the Select Board blames an untrained/unqualified maintenance staff hired by the school. It was agreed that the systems shared by the school, library and public safety complex are complicated and must be maintained and overseen by a qualified individual; and that the best way to proceed is to consolidate the facilities management for all Town buildings in a single Town office. Rich, Bob Mahler, and John Kuczek will meet soon to create a plan of action for FY15 including crating a facilities job description and communication protocols.

Finance Committee

Motion: To appoint Tom Hankinson the Finance Committee (vote of the Select Board and other Finance Committee members). Brazeau, Shivley, d'Ericco, Delano, Powers, Woodard, and Nagy, unanimously in favor.

Business:

The minutes of May 27 were accepted as written.

The board asked Margie to write a letter to McGovern regarding another airplane noise complaint.

Motion: To grant the generator bids to Cummins New England (the only bidder) for \$34,400. Vote: 3-0 in favor.

FROCG Highway bids and thank you's were signed.

The board will not sign the FRCOG Acct. contract until some questions about the increase cost for their services are answered.

In response to a letter sent from Franklin County Tech. School Electrical program Margie will contact them to let them know Leverett could use their services at the old Highway garage and for the internet connections in individual's homes when the time comes.

Motion: To go into executive session, and not return to regular session, for the purpose of discussion as it relates to collective bargaining. Brazeau, aye; d'Ericco, aye, Shively, aye. (9:27 pm)