



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
1/31/11
Televised

Present: Rick Pinciario, Carol Traynor, Earl Baumgardner
Others: Carol McLeod, Thomas Nucci, Eileen Hurley, Deb Ketchen, Mark Sofia
Minutes by: J. Penney

Call To Order at Town Hall

Called meeting to order at Town Hall at 7:00 PM.

Approve Agenda

Motion made by Selectman Baumgardner and seconded by Selectman Traynor to approve agenda. Vote (3:0)

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Selectman Baumgardner and seconded by Selectman Traynor to approve minutes of 12/27/10 and 1/3/11. Vote (3:0)

Appointments

Mike Rostkowski-North Coastal

Battis Rd. landfill

Four homes located at end of Battis Rd that had levels of arsenic not meeting DEP standard as there has been a change in the arsenic standards. They have treated homes affected. They installed at 31, 27, and 29 Battis Rd. They will be testing the water quality for effectiveness. 33 Battis Rd has been installed and tested successfully. Status report is due to DEP this week-Rostkowski will describe all that has been done so far at the site. Then a scope of work would be developed for the landfill. It's a technical process to determine source of the arsenic. This will start immediately to satisfy DEP. The snow is slowing things down. His plan is to install a couple of bedrock wells, but may be able to use the homes as data points. Once well is installed, it will require additional sampling. They have collected 4 rounds quarterly and now will test twice a year. He will test wells quarterly for arsenic at point of entry at the homes. Rostkowski is working with Adage Technologies which sells treatment systems. He would like to offer those systems at cost to the homeowner. Pinciario asks him to put something together for BOH, BOS and DPW director to look at to distribute. Rostkowski says DEP has guides on treatment for homes. They have discovered additional 14 homes in Merrimac that have naturally occurring arsenic in the wells unrelated to the landfill. Installation of the up gradient well is a first priority. He will also collect soil samples to determine if arsenic is present. He would like to get all sample points on one plan. Eventually the hope is to nail down the source of the arsenic. The will have to revisit the comp site assessment eventually and continue with long term maintenance of the landfill. He would like to link the Town of Merrimac to the Town of Wilmington for use of compost at the landfill. It would be at no cost to the town. It's done through a permit through DEP. If we brought it in the town would have to use their personnel to distribute and maintain. It can be stockpiled onsite. Wilmington trucks it in-they have to dispose of it anyway at a cost-so giving it away is beneficial to them. All the paperwork is in the permit- it doesn't put additional effort on BOH admin. Only thing needs to be developed would be an acceptance policy.

Bob Sinibaldi

Permitting Fee Schedule

Sinibaldi says proposed fees bring the town more in line with surrounding communities. Inspectional Services brought in \$64,000, with new fees it would have been approx. \$90,000. He says it's a service, if you're using it, you should have to pay for it. Traynor says if fees are put in place there would be a decrease in line items. Funds would go into revolving account instead of local services. Pinciario doesn't disagree with the concept. An across the board 65% increase in fees. Sinibaldi says it may require some fine tuning. With adjusted fees Sinibaldi feels it puts us in average to high average in comparison. Baumgardner asks if we can look at the type of reason a person is doing work. Sinibaldi feels all should be treated the same. Permit fees are related to how many inspections need to be done for the type of project. Baumgardner wonders if it would better response time. Sinibaldi needs to know if there are issues with the response time so he can address it. He would like to have the fees in effect as soon as possible and set revolving account up for FY12. They intend to review fees often to make changes as needed. Baumgardner asks if he thinks the fees will discourage people from getting a permit. He doesn't think so. He suggests having something that says if you get caught without a permit, it would be double.

Motion made by Selectman Baumgardner and seconded by Selectman Traynor to accept changes in permit and inspection fees as submitted by Building Commissioner effective Feb. 1. Vote (3:0)

Pinciario discusses snow loads on school roofs. Sinibaldi spoke to Greg Hadden at Donaghue and Sweetsir Schools regarding snow loads. Buildings were built for less snow than what is on roofs. Sinibaldi sent a letter that he wanted to see the snow taken off the roof. Hadden agreed roof should be shoveled but the question came down to who was going to pay for it. Hadden was going to talk to the superintendent. Sinibaldi feels that the school shouldn't be open if we get more snow. Pinciario discussed the school is refusing to pay for it. Sinibaldi has the authority to close the building. Baumgardner says that the building should be closed.

Motion made by selectman Baumgardner to authorize the building commissioner close the school if the snow removal does not take place in the time specified

The structural engineer will not be out until later this week and was to analyze a depression in the roof. Baumgardner asks if the school dept has historically taken snow off the roof. Sinibaldi doesn't know. Conversations were had weeks ago regarding snow loads with school dept members. Traynor says the regional agreement refers to the lease but we don't have it. Regional agreement says that maintenance is the schools responsibility. The lease would eliminate any gray areas. Traynor says we are in charge of the buildings in town. Baumgardner doesn't want to continuously take on these expenses. Pinciario agrees the snow needs to come off the roof. Last Friday Pinciario asked the super for the 5 years of prior records for the schools maintenance. Sinibaldi puts the cost at around 4000-5500-it needs to be done properly. He will look into what companies are out there. Sinibaldi asks permission to get with Greg Hadden as he had someone lined up.

Motion made by Selectman Baumgardner and seconded by Selectman Traynor to have snow removed from Sweetsir School roof. Vote (3:0)

Baumgardner doesn't mind if Hadden facilitates it but wants Sinibaldi to be in charge of it. They will not worry about the finances right now; take care of the safety issue. If they can't get it done by Wednesday, he should tell the super the building will be closed.

Motion made by Selectman Baumgardner and seconded by Selectman Traynor to pay for snow removal at Sweetsir School. Vote (3:0)

Merri Village

Housing Authority

Bob Mazzone, Anthony Pretti and Steve True

He says he's had a good working relationship with the town in the past. Their plow broke down and they couldn't make a pass at Merri Village. In the past he says the town has made a pass but this time they didn't. He said it stopped maybe 3-4 years ago. He was hoping to appeal the board to make sure a pass is made. Pinciario will talk to the DPW director. He goes over improvements to lighting, water main. In the packet is a cost analysis. He would like to mutually share some expenses. He says it's important for them to be a part of the community. He included graphs to show maintenance costs. He contracts out maintenance to veterans. Veterans of Haverhill will take over 2 duplexes in Merrimac. He will keep the board apprised. He would like to give regular updates to selectmen. He would like to work with municipalities. Pinciario says we received a couple of letters regarding units from residents. He asks about overall maintenance. Mazzone is trying to deal with snow right now. His maintenance is reactive at this point. A lot of the veteran workers only contract for a year. He cannot hire regular maintenance position. Rent is based on income. The tenants pay 30% of their adjusted income. He says they do their best to maintain. He would like to develop a relationship and cost centers with Merrimac. Pretti says as the newest member of the board Mazzone has really brought him up to speed and is an honest man. True says that Mazzone has done a great job. Merrimac housing authority board meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Correspondence

Pinciario talks of the meeting on Friday between McLeod, him, Paul Livingston, and Amy Poscik over the invoices from Donaghue School. It was intimated by the super that the school comm. determined that Merrimac should be financially responsible for all expenses. He requested copies of the minutes from meetings regarding votes on financial commitment from the school. Nothing has been received in the BOS office as yet. He also requested insurance documents related to their insurance claim. It has not been received. Superintendent said it was up to the BOS and school committee to determine who pays what. McLeod says that super hired their own asbestos removal firm. We went to the Dept of Revenue for portion of the building that we determined we would pay for. Get letter to school committee to meet prior to fin comm. Meeting at 6:30 here on 2/10.

Baumgardner brings up recycling/trash issues-Jen Penney has been working with Mark George to resolve issues that she feels are due to combination of things including the snow.

Get copies of Attorney Parry's correspondence to McLeod.

Motion made by Selectman Traynor and seconded by Selectman Baumgardner to file correspondence. Vote (3:0)

New Business

Finance Director's report

Appointments are needed to committee for owner project manager for SOI's for schools. The BOS needs to vote as to whom to put on the committee. Meetings would probably be once to set ground rules then meet again once or twice.

Motion made by Selectman Baumgardner and seconded by Selectman Traynor to appoint Dave Creesy, Bob Sinibaldi, Earl Baumgardner, Jane Broz, and Amy Poscik to the committee to choose project manager and designer for the project at Donaghue School. Vote (3:0)

Police chief ad was posted this weekend. McLeod spoke to the chief about the ad for the patrolman and he will be in touch with the BOS with the process he plans to follow. Have chief in to discuss his process-have Chief Flynn come in at 8:15 on 2/7.

Sandy Venner would like to know if BOS will review capital requests prior to the capital planning meeting-BOS says yes. 4 depts. have put in capital requests. She will forward all request to BOS. Budget hearing this week is DPW and ZBA. Dept head meeting tomorrow. MIIA awarded dividends to Merrimac. The Town received a \$10,000 grant for fire safety-it will go into the fire gift account

Motion made by Selectman Baumgardner and seconded by Selectman Traynor to accept grant of \$10,000 from Liberty Mutual for the Fire Dept. Vote (3:0)

Commitments for the Ridgefield Rd. Ask Carolyn how commissioners worded motions for assessments for commitment.

Request for approval of copier lease from Cameron office products for Fire Dept.

Motion made by Selectman Baumgardner and seconded by Selectman Traynor to approve contract for 36 months lease with free parts and labor Bizhub 223 through Cameron Office Products. Vote (3:0)

DPW invite to DEP meeting Wednesday. BOS can't make it. Will check if it will be rescheduled because of storm. Letter to light commissioners. Will hold off.

Motion made by Selectman Baumgardner and seconded by Selectman Traynor to go into Executive Session at 9:18pm for potential litigation, personnel, and contract negotiations. Vote (3:0) will come out to adjourn.

Motion made by Selectman Baumgardner and seconded by Selectman Traynor to come out of Executive Session at 10:03PM and adjourn. Vote (3:0)

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