

TOWN OF ABINGTON

Office of
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351
(781) 982-2100
FAX (781) 982-2138

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2019
6:30 p.m. – Cotter Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Chapin, Jim Connolly, Ken Coyle, Kevin DiMarzio

- Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Coyle – acting Chairman

Discussion/Review of PEG Access Revolving Fund (Annual Warrant – Article 21)

Ms. Lisa Bezanson (Treasurer of Cable Access Committee) noted there will be a directors training session at the Police Station on Wednesday at 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Ms. Bezanson read the Cable Committee's attorneys recommendations to change the fund name from PEG Access and Cable Related Special Revenue Fund to PEG Access and Cable Related Enterprise Fund to ensure that all funds are used for cable related items and no funds would go to the General Account fund. Mr. LaFond stated that a motion will be made at Town Meeting to amend the budget to include the Enterprise Account. Mr. Coyle questioned if Town Council approves. Mr. LaFond stated this is not a legal issue and is a mechanism for distribution of account funds. Ms. Bezanson stated previous issues related to mismanagement of funds have been resolved with formation of the new PEG committee.

Motion made by Tim Chapin, seconded by Jim Connolly to recommend approval of Article 21 as amended to state PEG Access and Cable Related Enterprise Fund.

VOTE: 4/0/0 Unanimous

Motion carries to recommend approval of Article 21 as amended.

At this time the BOS members welcomed new member Kevin DiMarzio and thanked Bob Manning for his past service.

Route 18 Construction Update – Guests present – Chris Evasius, Donny Dailey, Tom Akins, Joe Gioioso, and Ed Moschella

Slide show presentation reviewing completed projects; project status; traffic impacts and mitigation; contact information; continuing projects (relocation of utilities/drainage preparation both 50% complete); road widening to be completed in 2020; partial demolishing of buildings to be done this summer; Pond Street construction to be done on weekends. Mr. Evasius stated there will be more/better updates in the future. Mr. Chapin stated that an email program be done to provide updates especially when services/businesses will be affected by construction. Mr. Evasius stated there will be more emails and postings on a website (to be developed). Mr. Evasius stated updates will be provided every Friday. State Representative Alyson Sullivan (617) 722-2014 and Senator John Keenan (617) 722-1494 urged the public to contact them regarding construction issues.

Fire Chief Nuttall reviewed issues at Route 18 Fire Station – barriers/walls causing traffic jams; off duty personnel not able to access parking area; construction equipment should be 200 feet away from building; availability/use of fire apparatus in cold weather.

Surplus School Building Committee update on Center and North School buildings (Attachment A) – Ms. Pam Howe presented an update on the Committee's recommendations. Discussed splitting Center School area to keep Murphy Field as open space for Town use and demolish the school building. Chief Nuttall reviewed issues at Center School – damages done by sprinkler system; building being vandalized; cost of maintaining building. Chief Nuttall noted there is currently interest in using North School for a new Fire Station. Mr. Coyle noted the Town needs more Senior housing and the Center School property could be a possibility for that project. Use of land for a Youth Center was mentioned. Mr. Coyle noted there is space available at the Frolio School for youth activities. It was noted the Council on Ageing had no interest in using the land for Senior Housing. Maintenance of housing discussed – would be responsibility of the Housing Authority. Possible use of CPA funds discussed. Mr. Chapin stated a study be done to see what can be done with the building and property both at the Center and North School. Mr. LaFond noted a procurement process would need to be done and determination of funding source for a study would be needed. Mr. Connolly questioned amount of disrepair at North School. Chief Nuttall noted entrance of building is falling down but has not been posted as hazardous at this time. Chief Nuttall noted demolition costs would be high due to asbestos in the building. Mr. Chapin agreed with demolishing North School right away. Mr. Coyle noted funding for this project would need to be determined. Mr. LaFond stated a study is needed and decisions rendered. Cost estimated will go to next Town Meeting for funding approval. Consensus of the BOS was to demolish both school buildings. Mr. DiMarzio noted both buildings should be demolished at the same time. Mr. LaFond noted possibility of bid process being done separately for each building.

- Public Comment – Priscilla Alden resident noted ongoing maintenance and liability issues at Center School are very costly and feels that decisions for use of property should be determined quickly.

Motion made by Tim Chapin, seconded by Jim Connolly to direct Town Manager to start demolition process for both schools buildings.

VOTE: 4/0/0 Unanimous

Motion carries to direct Town Manager to start demolition process for both school buildings.

Special Warrant Articles

Article 10 – Transfer of funds from free cash and HVAC warrant to Stabilization Account (\$426,000).

Motion made by Tim Chapin, seconded by Jim Connolly to recommend approval of Article 10.

VOTE: 4/0/0 Unanimous

Motion carries to recommend approval of Article 10.

Article 11 – Transfer of funds from free cash to OPEB Trust Fund (\$80,000)

Motion made by Tim Chapin, seconded by Jim Connolly to recommend approval of Article 11.

VOTE: 4/0/0 Unanimous

Motion carries to recommend approval of Article 11.

Article 12 – Dog Park Project – Reviewed bids accepted; additional funds to be acquired; funds raised by volunteers. Mr. LaFond noted this article will be withdrawn from Warrant at town meeting.

- Resident comments – issues of maintaining surrounding residential properties/streets/sidewalks.

Motion made by Tim Chapin, seconded by Jim Connolly to recommend passing over Article 12.

VOTE: 4/0/0 Unanimous

Motion carries to recommend passing over Article 12.

Annual Warrant Articles

Article 15 – Rescind bylaw statue and revert to State statue. Approval by Finance Committee reviewed.

Motion made by Tim Chapin, seconded by Jim Connolly to defer recommendation of Article 15 to the Finance Committee.

VOTE: 4/0/0 Unanimous

Motion carries to recommend deferring recommendation of Article 15 to the Finance Committee.

Article 16 – Amend Town bylaw Chapter 44 Town deleting section 44-2. Approval by Finance Committee reviewed.

Motion made by Tim Chapin, seconded by Jim Connolly to defer recommendation of Article 16 to the Finance Committee.

VOTE: 4/0/0 Unanimous

Motion carries to recommend deferring recommendation of Article 16 to the Finance Committee.

Town Manager Report (Attachment B) – Hancock intersection – eligible for federal highway funding.

FY20/20 Budget – Finance Committee/Town Manager recommendations complete and consensus reached.

Marijuana Application – Application package from vendor received. To be reviewed by Planning Board. Will need State approval if approved by the Town. Board of Selectmen will need to approve host community agreement.

Mr. LaFond noted the Police Department is holding a Kraft Family Blood Donor Drive this Saturday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm (Attachment C).

Mr. Coyle requested an executive session meeting of the BOS next week to review/discuss pending litigation issues.

Mr. Coyle requested that bids for legal services be on the next BOS agenda.

Motion and unanimous roll call vote to enter executive session to discuss collective bargaining contracts and not to return to open session.