



Town of Abington

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2020
6:30 p.m. – Cotter Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Connolly, Tim Chapin, James Connolly, Ken Coyle, Kevin DiMarzio and Rick LaFond, Town Manager

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence for Rory Murphy who recently passed away. Chairman Connolly read a tribute to Mr. Murphy – the “Mayor of Abington”. LaFond stated that the DPW Director has been asked to repair or replace the bench the on Washington Street frequented by Murphy. Coyle stated that Abington Celebrates will be donating a plaque in his honor to affix to the bench.

Public Announcements

Kevin DiMarzio – Saturday February 29, 2020 – Rotary sponsored Pasta dinner at the Senior Center. Also, that on March 7, 2020 – Jeff Combs Foundation Caring Hearts Dinner \$35 per person/\$300 for a table.

Jim Connolly announced early voting dates and times (Monday February 24 – Friday February 28). Monday to Thursday 8:30 am to 7:00 pm and Friday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. He noted that there have been 130 votes processed as of Monday.

Ken Coyle announced a Community Participation meeting sponsored by Abington Celebrates will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 5 at Police Department Community. The intent is to invite citizens and citizen groups to discuss participation in the Flag Day celebration.

Tim Chapin – Saint Patrick’s Day Parade (March 15) will hold fundraising raffle at Polish Club February 29, 2020.

Tom Connolly – MIAA scheduled games for Girls/Boys Basketball/Hockey.

At this time, Tom Connolly announced that he will not be seeking re-election to the Board of Selectmen and urged citizens to get involved in the decision making processes of the Town.

BOS Legal Services Subcommittee – Mr. LaFond reviewed discussions of previous meeting of the Subcommittee charged with interviewing and making a recommendation to the full board. The subcommittee consisted of Tim Chapin, Jim Connolly and LaFond. The recommendation is to continue

Town Counsel services with KP Law and to retain Clifford & Kenney for labor counsel services. Discussion ensued relating to each firm accepting their participation in both areas of our legal requirements. Discussed transition of previous legal issues/strategies over a period of time.

Motion made by Ken Coyle, seconded by Tim Chapin to accept the recommendation of the subcommittee to continue Town Counsel services with KP Law and to retain Clifford & Kenney for labor counsel services.

VOTE: 5/0/0 Unanimous

Motion carries to approve the subcommittee recommendation for legal services as noted above.

Police M&O Analysis (Rick LaFond) – LaFond reported that he confirmed with MRI that the scope of services developed by Mr. DiMarzio and Mr. Coyle would continue to include a survey of current officers and former officers in accordance with their methodology, and, that MRI has requested significant information from the department in order to begin their analysis. Tour of Police Station scheduled for February 26, 2020. Mr. DiMarzio questioned if staff/employees will be surveyed. Mr. LaFond stated the survey is related to Police Officers but will bring this to the attention of MRI. Jim Connolly questioned if the survey is a written survey. Context of the survey will be the responsibility of MRI. Mr. LaFond stated that the BOS will be informed as to all future information/meetings/conversations that occur.

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Senior Center Roof Replacement – Bids due for submission by next Thursday. Addendum will be issued to reflect conversations/recommendations of contractors. Project to start early spring.

Fire Station Update – Cost estimation different depending on site selection; preliminary station design basically complete. The feasibility study will include an assessment of future needs with the goal being to have one central station, and to determine the best location will be for that station. Discussed use of any available surplus land, North School and Gliniewicz Way as part of the site analysis. Discussed media release of issues and conditions at both fire stations. Mr. LaFond noted the press did an independent source and that referred any inquiries to the Fire Chief for comment. Mr. DiMarzio recommended informing the public as to what is going on with the study, why the study is being done and the conditions at the Fire Station as this may influence public opinion. Mr. DiMarzio stated the BOS should get the results of the study before talking to the press. Tim Chapin stated it is a political issue and needs the support of the public. Tom Connolly noted safety of the employees is also a concern as well as the conditions of the stations.

Library Carpeting Status/Update – Library – LaFond updated the Board on the current status including where/how materials/books were moved to; areas scheduled to be done; and disruption for staff. He stated that the completion of project is on schedule. Mr. LaFond noted that board members are able to tour the Library to review work that has been done.

Affordable Housing Trust Bylaw – LaFond provided the state's Guidebook for Municipal Affordable Housing Trusts and a draft bylaw prepared by LaFond. Discussed the benefits of a trust including transferring CPA funds (10%) to assist with affordable housing; financial aid assistance for down payments; local shares of available funding sources (grants/state/federal funds). There is a seven year wait list for elderly housing thus making affordable housing available as soon as possible. Recommendation made to have legal counsel review Bylaw with the intent of seeking Town Meeting.

Budget Update (Rick LaFond) – Reviewed \$1,000,000 additional Chapter 70 School Aid funding. School Department is seeking use of entire \$1,000,000 for specific needs. Increased estimated receipts; 22% increase in tipping fees for recyclables (reviewing new/different collection systems if waste collection costs continue to increase); additional staff requests for police and library. Tim Chapin questioned the Building Commissioners previous request to raise building permit fees. Mr. LaFond noted that until Marshall Adams wishes to come before the board to discuss there is no reason for further action.

No Town Manager report at this time.

7:35 pm – Motion made by Kevin DiMarzio, seconded by Tim Chapin to adjourn the January 13, 2020 meeting of the BOS.

VOTE: 5/0/0 Unanimous

Motion carries to adjourn the February 24, 2020 meeting of the BOS.