

Selectboard Minutes

Tuesday, November 24, 2015

Town Hall

7:00 pm

Present: Peter d'Errico, Julia Shively, Tom Hankinson; and Administrator Margie McGinnis
Reporter, Thom Masterton, Stewart Olson and Ethan Dickenson also were present

Meeting with Finance Committee

Finance Committee members present: Tom Powers, Ann Delano, Steve Nagy, Philip Carter
The group looked at the sample financial policies that were recommended by bond counsel and auditors. Tom has gone through them with a comparison to the town's historical numbers for these categories and adapted them to Leverett's reality. We need to increase what we set aside in the Reserve Account each year. The group would like to see bank accounts and their balances at the end of each fiscal year. One change was made on page 2 of the Investment Policy regarding borrowing in \$1mil blocks, which seems too large. **Motion made to adopt them as presented. Voted: 7-0 in favor.** Margie was asked to show them to the new Treasurer for comment with the thought that they can still be revised if he wants changes and to update the numbers on the historical chart when they are available.

The group also reviewed budget data for FY 2017 budget. How the next year's levy is projected was asked. The town has another year of uncertainty due to the lack of resolution on the large abatement requests and this year Shutesbury has made it clear that they will no longer support the alternate funding method for the Regional School. Agreed to request departments to cut 2% for discussion at budget hearings. Departments should also make clear if any service or staff will be lost by this cut. The group also would like to see actuals compared to budgets.
Finance Committee members left the meeting at 8:16 pm

Pipeline Coalition

Barbara Tiner, Portia Wesikal and Cynthia Thomas-Kimmel were present for this discussion. Portia stated that the Energy Committee has voted to oppose the Pipeline. The land should be preserved. A Compressor station is proposed in Northfield that will run 24/7 and emit constant noise, odor and chemicals and has the risk of explosion. **Motion made: to join the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline. Voted: 3-0 in favor.**

At 8:35 pm Motion made: To go into executive session to discuss complaints against an employee. d'Errico, aye; Shively, aye; Hankinson, aye. Peter announced that the Board would reconvene into open session.

8:40 pm reconvened in open session.

Highway Department

Roberts and LaClair contractors have been talking about how to get the department through the winter and want to meet early next week to discuss. The ad for a superintendent will be resent to papers and to all Highway Departments in Franklin and Hampshire counties.

Minutes were not accepted as members want to see changes made.

Retiree Health Insurance

Letter from the Teachers union was reviewed requesting family retiree health insurance coverage. Margie will send the teachers a copy of the 2004 town meeting vote that the town is obligated to follow and Peter and Julie will do additional research.

Put in newsletter that we need a new Board of Health member.

The Board agreed not to pass on the Letter of Statement received from the Mayors for Peace.

The Board agreed not pass on the FRTA statement drafted by Roy Kimmel. Tom will talk to him.

The Board discussed the Town Garage CPC application and work to be done before the December 1st deadline. Margie and Peter will work on it.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.