

TOWN OF LAKEVILLE
February 17, 2016 – 6:00 PM
Freetown Senior Center

On February 17, 2016, the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 6:00 PM at the Freetown Senior Center. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Burke at 6:00 PM. Selectmen present were: Selectman Burke, Selectman Powderly and Selectman Hollenbeck. Also present were: Rita Garbitt, Town Administrator and Christine Weston, Recording Secretary. FreeCAM was recording the meeting.

Chairman Burke explained that the Board of Selectmen had been invited to a meeting in Freetown to meet with the Freetown Board of Selectmen to discuss the FY17 Regional School Budget. However, the Freetown Selectmen were unable to attend the meeting, but the Lakeville Selectmen decided to continue to meet anyway.

Review and vote to renew Somethin's Brewin Lease

Chairman Burke stated that a letter had been received from Lorraine Carboni requesting the renewal of the Lease Agreement for the Historic Library (Somethin's Brewin) from March 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017. The Worker's Compensation and Liability Insurance Policies are current. There are no changes to the Lease Agreement, except the dates on the lease.

Upon a motion made by Selectman Hollenbeck; seconded by Selectman Powderly it was:

VOTED: To approve the Lease Agreement for the Historic Library (Somethin's Brewin) with Lorraine Carboni from March 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 with no changes being made to the current lease.
Unanimous in favor.

Vote to Authorize Deficit Spending for Snow & Ice for FY16

Chairman Burke stated that pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 31D, the Selectmen's approval is required to expend in excess of the current year appropriation for Snow and Ice. The FY16 Snow and Ice appropriation is \$50,000. The deficit as of January 31, 2016 was \$26,145.71. An additional updated report was provided by the Town Administrator showing that the deficit as of February 10, 2016 is \$50,083.01. The amount includes what has been paid for snow plow drivers, salt and sand. Selectman Powderly reviewed the amounts of appropriation, total expenditures and the total deficits in previous years. He stated that he would like to see a \$100,000 budget set for the Snow and Ice budget for next year. Ms. Garbitt explained that if the last snow storm of the season was a blizzard and the Governor does not declare a State of Emergency, then the Town would not be reimbursed for costs. Selectman Hollenbeck stated that if the blizzard is the first storm of the year, then the Town would also wind up potentially not getting reimbursement. Selectman Powderly asked for the information to be shown to him on why the Town should continue to appropriate on the low side and have to deficit spend each year. Ms. Garbitt stated that the total expense last year that the Town carried was a deficit of \$75,000 for Snow and Ice. The Town applied for the Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement. The timeline for the storm was narrowed down to 48 hours and the Town will

be receiving \$23,600 less than was anticipated. When the lesser amount is received, it will go to Free Cash.

Selectman Powderly felt that the Town should just budget zero in the Snow and Ice Account each year. It seems that if the Town is not behind in the Snow and Ice Budget and cannot submit paperwork, then the budgeted amount should be zero. Ms. Garbitt mentioned that there is \$100,000 in the Reserve Fund, if the Town deficit spends. Selectman Hollenbeck stated that the Town should earmark and put into the Reserve Fund each year what is deemed appropriate that the Snow and Ice Account might need.

Upon a motion made by Selectman Burke; seconded by Selectman Hollenbeck it was:

VOTED: To authorize deficit spending for Snow and Ice under Chapter 44, Section 31 for Fiscal Year FY16.
Unanimous in favor.

Discuss letters of interest received from Joan Moran and Sharon Christian regarding the vacancy on the Economic Development Committee

Chairman Burke stated that we have two (2) good candidates interested in sitting on the Economic Development Committee (EDC). He suggested speaking to current members who have been unable to attend meetings to see if they would like to resign, so that both candidates could be appointed to the Committee. Selectman Powderly asked if the EDC is recommending both the people that have sent in letters of interest. Chairman Burke responded that they are not, though that is not a bad idea to bring the letters of interest before them. However, it would be beneficial to preempt that process and open up a space to add both these interested parties, rather than having to decide between the two (2).

Upon a motion made by Selectman Powderly; seconded by Selectman Hollenbeck it was:

VOTED: To table the appointments to the Economic Development Committee at this time.
Unanimous in favor.

Discuss purchase of 1998 Ladder Truck

Chairman Burke explained that the Fire Chief has found a 1998 low mileage Ladder Truck that is available for purchase from a Fire Department in New York. They are asking \$70,000 for the truck. Selectman Powderly noted that there are two (2) Fire Trucks on the Capital Plan from the Fire Department. He added that though he is against spending \$500,000 for a new Ladder Truck, he would rather spend money on the more needed Pumper Truck for the Fire Department. This Ladder Truck seems to be such a good deal that he would approve this expenditure, after it has gone through and received a positive mechanical inspection. The Ladder Truck is presently located in Long Island, N.Y. and is still in service. It seems that it would be in the best interest of the Town that this opportunity is not passed by. Chairman Burke agreed and added that the purchase would not be in-lieu-of the Fire Department's Capital request. This is a good opportunity that should be explored. Selectman Hollenbeck asked if the Fire Department has the

housing available for the Ladder Truck. Selectman Powderly responded that there was room; an older truck would be brought outside. Selectman Hollenbeck stated that her main concern was to make sure that there was adequate space to house the vehicle, along with making sure that the ambulances still have housing as well. It is a good deal, provided it checks out through the mechanical inspection.

Selectman Powderly mentioned that at some point, the bay doors should be widened for the Fire Department, so that the trucks can more easily access the building. Ms. Garbitt stated that if the Selectmen would like to move forward with the purchase, the vote can be subject to a positive mechanical inspection. The Selectmen can then recommend the expenditure to the Finance Committee, since they vote on the use of the Reserve Fund. Since the current Ladder Truck was recently down, it is considered an emergency to replace it. The Fire Chief did mention that if the Town had a Ladder Truck, it would have helped fight the recent fire at the golf course more adequately by being able to shoot water down onto the fire. Selectman Powderly recommended that the Fire Chief be sent to New York within the week to view the Ladder Truck in person. Ms. Garbitt stated that the Finance Committee has a meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, and they would be able to vote on their recommendation.

Upon a motion made by Selectman Hollenbeck; seconded by Selectman Powderly it was:

VOTED: To approve the purchase of the 1998 Seagrave 100' Ladder Truck in the amount of \$70,000, subject to approval of the expenditure from the Reserve Fund by the Finance Committee and the vehicle passing a Mechanical Inspection.
Unanimous in favor

Review and vote to approve Selectmen Meeting Minutes for September 23, 2015; October 14, 2015 and November 4, 2015

Upon a motion made by Selectman Burke; seconded by Selectman Hollenbeck it was:

VOTED: To approve the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2015, October 14, 2015 and November 4, 2015 as presented.
Unanimous in favor

Review and vote to approve Selectmen Executive Session Meeting Minutes for February 2, 2016

Upon a motion made by Selectman Burke; seconded by Selectman Hollenbeck it was:

VOTED: To approve the Selectmen Executive Session Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2016 as presented.
Unanimous in favor.

Meet with Freetown Board of Selectmen to discuss the FY17 Assessments for the Regional School District

Chairman Burke stated that the reason the Selectmen were meeting this evening was to discuss the FY17 Assessments for the Regional School District. The Selectmen will still review the information and plan a strategy. The information regarding the Assessments and Preliminary District Calculations, along with three (3) scenarios have been prepared by Selectman Hollenbeck. The information shows that Lakeville's Minimum Local Contribution has increased by \$400,000, and Freetown's has decreased by \$90,000. The School Department has requested an enormous increase from last year.

Selectman Hollenbeck provided an update of the information as provided. She stated that there is a math error in the amount of \$27,000 on page two (2) from what was provided by Fred Baker, Director of Business & Finance. With the increase to the School budget as proposed, they are asking for an increase in the operating budget of almost \$1.5 million. This is three (3) times the amount that the entire Town has to operate. It is an increase of 13% over last year's request. The increase for Freetown is \$705,000 or 8%. Scenarios have been created with a reduction of \$2 million, \$1.5 million or \$1 million. In FY16, the School budget was \$34,805,240. They are asking for 8% more than last year. One time offsets are being used as well in the amount of \$1,464,000. Looking at Scenario 1, there is no change. With Scenario 2, the budget has been reduced by \$2 million. The Selectmen have not met with the School Department to discuss their budget or for them to learn what the Town is willing to provide them this year. Chairman Burke stated that for the School Department to propose a budget to the Town this far out of whack is ridiculous. This is supposed to be collaboration. The Town can perhaps go with Scenario 2, which is a \$2 million decrease/reduction, and even that is on the high side. Selectman Powderly stated that there are no negotiations and this is disingenuous. A meeting took place at this facility two (2) years ago, and they had proposed this type of budget as well. Those on the School Committee who voted for the budget were asked to step down. The School Department has already written three (3) years of Teachers' Contracts. They did not have any Town Officials included during their negotiations, and they still have \$1.2 million in Excess & Deficiency. They cannot keep giving raises of 7% per year when the rest of the Town receives less than 2.5%. The combined meeting that was to take place this evening with Freetown should still take place and be rescheduled.

Selectman Hollenbeck stated that there is a F/L Regional School Finance Budget Subcommittee Meeting scheduled for tomorrow night. She will let the Committee know that the \$2 million reduction is where the Town of Lakeville wants to go, since any other scenario puts the Town in an override position, and no one wants that. Schools have to rely more and more on Town aid, since the State is not picking up their end of expenditures. Selectman Powderly stated that when School Districts lose 600-800 students, then they also lose funding from the State. Selectman Hollenbeck stated that if they needed to have lay-offs, then there are other layers besides the Teachers, where reductions could be made. Selectman Powderly stated that if they proposed an override, he would vote against putting it on the ballot, since no action has ever been done by the School Department to relate costs to student enrollment. Chairman Burke agreed, but asked at what point does the Town say enough is enough. They have been irresponsible with how they negotiate contracts and doing their duty by the students.

Selectman Powderly stated that he will be recommending what is best for students, and the salary increases are not what is in the best interest of the students. Chairman Burke stated that

increased spending does not correlate to better education. Selectman Hollenbeck stated that the Town of Attleboro's request for an override failed, and their budget is significantly less than Lakeville's with about the same number of students. Have we lost sight of this, since we are so far out of whack? Chairman Burke stated that the School Budget will be at \$40 million in a few years. It is a runaway freight train. Selectman Powderly stated that the Selectmen need to come up with a number. He would go with the \$2 million reduction. They have created the chaos. 85% of their budget is salary, steps, levels and health benefits. They should be fixing the parking lot, not talking about parking fees. The Selectmen need to meet with the Freetown Selectmen to discuss the amount of contribution that they would be in favor of.

Ms. Garbitt asked if the School Committee gave the Superintendent direction to create the budget as it stands. In the past, the School Committee has asked the Superintendent to provide a level service budget, a level funded budget, etc. Maybe that is why the current budget is so high. Selectman Powderly stated that the budget is so high because of the contracts that they just wrote; it is unsustainable. Ms. Garbitt mentioned that she is aware that the bus contract is coming up, and they do not know what the increase in health benefits for insurance will be. Selectman Hollenbeck stated that it is a good idea to provide the School Department with a number that the Town is willing to provide. Selectman Powderly stated that the Town is increasing its contribution for all Town Departments in the amount of 2.5%. It is necessary to do sustainable raises for budgets to work. Ms. Garbitt stated that she will ask Mr. Baker for a copy of the Debt Schedule, since Lakeville's debt went up. Did it go up since there are more students? Selectman Hollenbeck mentioned that she believed that they were going to refinance all their debt.

A motion was made by Selectman Powderly to increase funding to the Schools by increasing Lakeville's \$11,305,310 share from last year by 2.5% and to give an additional \$282,633. This motion was not seconded and discussion on the topic continued. Selectman Hollenbeck noted that due to the change in the Chapter 70 Formula, the amount is hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is a bigger swing this year, because of the required Net School Spending (NSS) with the change in the formula. Chairman Burke stated that if the Board doesn't stay firm with a policy or approach, then it is completely reactive to their needs. Selectman Hollenbeck suggested to maybe look at a Special Assessment Formula as an approach. It would be above and beyond the District Agreement. Chairman Burke stated that they need to revise their budget to a new expectation. Selectman Hollenbeck stated that she will bring Lakeville's proposal to tomorrow night's meeting. Selectman Powderly stated that Ms. Garbitt and Mr. Healey need guidance sooner than later. He added that he disagreed with this approach, since it tells them they have to do cuts, but the Town is really giving them money. It needs to be made known that the Town is giving them an additional 2.5% increase. Selectman Hollenbeck stated that she will convey this to them. They have given us too big of a budget. Chairman Burke suggested that there be a discussion prior to the meeting in March. If Freetown cannot make it, ask them to share their thoughts. It would be preferable to meet if they are available. Ms. Garbitt stated that the next meeting of the Selectmen is March 2, 2016, and she will ask if they can meet with the Board at 6:00 PM.

New Business

Ms. Garbitt stated that there is good news with Old Colony Regional School. At this time, the preliminary increase is only \$5,608.

Ms. Garbitt stated that she needs to speak to Town Counsel and the Town Moderator regarding a date for Town Meeting. She is suggesting June 6, 2016.

Other Items

1. Memo to Planning Board regarding meeting to discuss drainage lots in subdivisions
Ms. Garbitt stated that she had spoken with the secretary of the Planning Board about scheduling a meeting with the Selectmen. There did not seem to be an available time; however, they do want to meet and discuss the matter of drainage easements. Chairman Burke stated that he had spoken with Robert Mather about the matter and asked him to reach out to Brian Hoeg directly. What would need to be done is basically just add another paragraph for builders/developers. Mr. Mather will provide them with the template. Selectman Powderly stated that they need to resolve that issue. He would prefer that the Planning Board meet with Attorney Mather and get the template in place.
2. Notice from M/L Herring Fishery Commission Election of Officers
3. Letter from Freetown Board of Health regarding Sheltering Meeting Summary
4. Letter from MassDOT regarding Reconstruction of Rhode Island Road – Section 106 Review – Early Environmental Coordination
5. Annual Report and Assessment for Plymouth County Extension
6. Annual Complaint Filing for Verizon
7. BayState Roads Winter Newsletter

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Selectman Burke; seconded by Selectman Hollenbeck it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the Selectmen's Meeting at 7:27 PM.
Unanimous in favor.

List of documents provided at the February 17, 2016 Selectmen's Meeting

1. Request from Lorraine Carboni to renew lease for Historic Library, Lease Agreement
2. Information from FY2000 to present regarding deficit spending for snow and ice and current information.
3. Letters of interest from Joan Moran and Sharon Christian regarding their interest of the vacancy on the Economic Development Commission.
4. 1998 Ladder Truck pictures, information from the Fire Chief
5. Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2015, October 14, 2015 and November 4, 2015
6. Executive Session Selectmen Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2016
7. FY17 Regional School Assessments, Scenarios, preliminary Chapter 70 local aid, minimum contribution information, etc.