

TOWN OF LAKEVILLE
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2020 – 6:30 PM
Lakeville Public Library – 4 Precinct Street

On March 4, 2020, the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 6:30 PM at the Lakeville Public Library. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman Fabian. Selectmen present were: Chairman Fabian and Selectman LaCamera. Also present were Maureen Candito, Town Administrator, Tracie Craig-McGee, Executive Assistant and Lorraine Carboni, Town Coordinator. LakeCAM was recording the meeting for broadcast.

New Business

Review and Vote for Town Administrator to sign Amendment No. 2 to Agreement for Professional Services with BETA Group, Inc.

Ms. Candito said the Town has been working with BETA since 2015. We are extending what we contracted with them to do. This is additional money already spent out of Chapter 90 funds. This is for design services, change orders, and to attend previous meetings and updating maps for the next presentation. Chairman Fabian said the Selectman are putting together an information night on March 11th to let everyone know what the Route 79 vote is about.

Upon a motion made by Selectman LaCamera and seconded by Chairman Fabian, it was:

VOTED: To approve Amendment #2 for BETA Group, Inc. and authorize the Town Administrator to sign it.
Unanimous in favor.

Meet with Department Heads to review their FY21 Budget and Capital Needs:

George Vlahopoulos, Chairman, Darren Beals and Brian Day from the Finance Committee were present for the discussions. Chairman Vlahopoulos called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Council on Aging

Kelly Howley was present for the discussion. Ms. Howley said we have added new programming and are seeing if there is interest in some night programs. In 2019, there were over 10,000 check ins to use the Senior Center. The average daily check ins is 44 people and we are growing. The budget has a \$300 increase in expenses. The State Grant budget for the outreach worker is increased by \$500 this year and \$1,000 next year. Ms. Candito said this is a maintenance budget that does not include cost of living, top step or Department Head wage increases.

Veterans' Agent

Wilford Corey, Veterans Agent, was present for the discussion. Mr. Corey said there is a 3% to 4% increase from the Department of Veterans Services. As of November 11th the burial benefit

went up to \$4,000. The State reimburses ¾'s of the budget. Veterans can apply for burial benefits, heat assistance, and medical expenses. Selectman LaCamera asked how many vets are serviced. Mr. Corey said right now he has 24 cases, but that fluctuates. Selectman LaCamera said we were reimbursed \$122,000 from the State for the current year's budget. Mr. Day asked if veterans in Town are aware of these services. Mr. Corey said he tries to get the word out as best as he can. There are a lot of different things that people that served can qualify for. If you are getting help through the VA, if you are injured or sick you can now go to Urgent Care three (3) times a year. The State has a good website that they should refer to. There is an annuity that disabled Veterans can get of \$1,000 twice a year.

Planning Board

Sylvester Zienkiewicz and Barbara Mancovsky of the Planning Board were present for the discussion. Selectman LaCamera the Planning Board is requesting \$1,000 for training/testing. Doesn't the Town pay for that already? Mr. Zienkiewicz said yes, from the Selectmen's Budget, but it makes sense for us to have our own budget. Ms. Candito said we can increase the Selectmen's budget for additional training. Selectman LaCamera said the Planning Board is requesting \$5,000 for legal costs. The Town has one (1) budget for legal costs. Ms. Candito said they wanted to make sure that they had attendance from legal counsel at meetings. Selectman LaCamera said if you need Town Counsel to attend a meeting, it will come out of our budget. Mr. Zienkiewicz said not having a legal budget did turn into a problem a few years ago when we were not on the same side as the Selectmen. Selectman LaCamera said the Planning Board Chairman can request legal counsel through the Town Administrator.

Selectman LaCamera said a Town Planner is being requested. Mr. Zienkiewicz said at first we discussed a part time Planner. We have someone that can do the clerical work, but we don't have staff that can do technical work and provide leadership to the Planning Board. A Planner gives us a person that can tie our group together with the Zoning Board of Appeals and communicate with the Board. Selectman LaCamera said we do have an engineer for peer review, but we can't afford \$100,000 for a Planner. We can talk about sharing a Planner with another Town and contract out some services to do consulting work on land use. Ms. Mancovsky said she is not in favor of hiring a full time Planner at this time. She recommends a consultant until we figure out what is needed.

Chairman Fabian asked about the \$5,000 for legal. Mr. Zienkiewicz said we have gone to Town Counsel at times when we didn't need Town Counsel because we have no one there to help the Board. Selectman LaCamera said we should get the information on the Planning Board's costs for legal counsel. Chairman Fabian said perhaps the next Chairman can work with the Town Administrator on agency fees for the Planning Board. Discussion occurred on increasing the training budget. Ms. Mancovsky said they would like to send their Clerk to trainings so she can bring the information back to the Planning Board. She has not submitted her travel expenses from last year, and we have told her to submit them.

Animal Control

David Frates, Animal Control Officer, is present for the discussion. Mr. Frates said the stipends for the Assistant Animal Control Officers are hard to estimate. He has to have coverage when he goes to court, is out sick or has a day off. Ms. Candito said the stipends are on target for \$21,000, and it was budgeted for \$16,000. Ms. Candito said comparing 2018 and 2019, it needed to be

increased \$9,000. Mr. Frates said the wildlife calls will be increasing. We did 900 calls in 2019. Mr. Beals asked why Mr. Frates would go to court. Mr. Frates said for animal abuse charges. Chairman Fabian asked about inspections? Mr. Frates said he does kennel inspections.

Police Chief

Matthew Perkins, Chief of Police, was present for the discussion. Selectman LaCamera said step increases for officers are in the budget, but not pay increases. Chief Perkins said this budget is 2.18% less than FY20 budget due to retirements and reorganization in the Police Department (one less supervisor and one less dispatcher). He discussed the increase in the overtime budget. Mr. Vlahopoulos asked if it would be helpful to hire another patrolman rather than use overtime. Chief Perkins said we have done that over the years, which has depleted our overtime budget. Our staff is at the appropriate level right now. If we hired someone, he would still run into problems backfilling shifts. Chief Perkins said the heating fuel has decreased due to the new building being on a combination of electric heat and propane. Ms. Candito said the Chief's salary line increases reflect communications being moved into the Police Department budget. Chief Perkins said the contracted service increase in \$7,000 represents an increase in custodial, boat slip and the maintenance agreement for the security technology. The new maintenance agreement is \$7,120 for one-year. He is not sure if it should be in the IT budget. Selectman LaCamera said it should stay in this budget for security.

Discuss FY21 Budget Summary

Mr. Beals asked if the Selectmen will discuss the request for additional overtime for the Police budget. Selectman LaCamera said it is already in his budget. Mr. Day noted that the minimum amount is in there now.

Mr. Vlahopoulos asked about advertising for someone to fill the vacancy on the Finance Committee. Selectman LaCamera said we should wait until after the election. Selectman LaCamera said we can ask for letters of interest now though.

Selectman LaCamera said we don't know yet if only the Town representatives are to attend the Regional Finance Committee meeting on March 19, 2020. Mr. Beals said he may need Mr. Vlahopoulos to attend in his place.

Selectman LaCamera said he will meet with Ms. Candito and the Town Accountant on money that is already in the Capital Plan that has not been spent. We probably won't address the Capital Plan until the first week in April. There is a copy in your budget book, but it will be adjusted.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Vlahopoulos and seconded by Mr. Beals, it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:47 PM.
Unanimous in favor.

Request for appointment of James Bowles as Special Police Officer

Chairman Fabian said the Police Chief has requested that James Bowles be appointed as a Special Police Officer.

Upon a motion made by Selectman Powderly and seconded by Chairman Fabian, it was:

VOTED: To appoint James Bowles as a Special Police Officer for a term to expire July 31, 2020.
Unanimous in favor.

Vote to accept resignation letter from Deanna Elliot from Open Space Committee

Chairman Fabian noted that Deanna Elliot has sent in a letter of resignation from the Open Space Committee.

Upon a motion made by Selectman LaCamera and seconded by Chairman Fabian, it was:

VOTED: To accept the resignation letter from the Open Space Committee from Deanna Elliot.
Unanimous in favor.

Review and vote to approve Selectmen's Meeting Minutes from March 20, 2019; February 10, 2020 and February 13, 2020

Upon a motion made by Selectman LaCamera and seconded by Chairman Fabian, it was:

VOTED: To use the Rule of Necessity to approve the Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2019.
Unanimous in favor.

Upon a motion made by Selectman LaCamera and seconded by Chairman Fabian, it was:

VOTED: To approve the Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2020 and February 13, 2020.
Unanimous in favor.

Old Business

There was no Old Business discussed.

Any other business that may properly come before the meeting

There was no other business discussed.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Chairman Fabian and seconded by Selectman LaCamera, it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 7:48 PM.
Unanimous in favor.

List of documents provided at the Board of Selectmen Meeting of March 4, 2020

1. FY21 Budget
2. Agenda page
3. Letter from Police Chief requesting appointment of James Bowles as Special Police Officer
4. Resignation letter from Deanna Elliot
5. Draft Selectmen Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2019; February 10, 2020 and February 13, 2020
6. Amendment #2 to Agreement for Professional Services with BETA Group, Inc.