

**Board of Selectmen  
Special Meeting  
Town Hall Rose Room  
Wednesday, January 27, 2011  
Minutes**

Present: First Selectman William W. Fritz, Jr.; Selectmen, Dolly Mezzetti, Thomas Vicino, Ray Apel and Carol Walter.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the United States flag.

**VISITORS**

Michael MacDonald, vice chairman of the Water Pollution Control Commission, spoke about last week's Morgan Building Committee meeting. MacDonald encouraged the committee to have more informational meetings. The committee should address what the impact would be on taxes. MacDonald said the presentation didn't fully explain the renovate-like-new options so people can understand why the committee didn't think they were viable options. The Water Pollution Control Commission has studied land parcels in town and has a lot of engineering data that they would be willing to share with the committee. MacDonald suggested segregating the land acquisition and site development costs from the building costs.

Valarie Nye, 14 Stone Wall Lane, encouraged the Selectmen to vote yes on the \$19,000 appropriation for the conceptual drawings. V. Nye said the people should be allowed a chance to vote and to let the democratic process go forward. V. Nye said the new school is the best of all the options as recommended by the Morgan Building Committee. V. Nye said a vote no would be a slap in the face to the committee and the democratic process.

Walter said the vote tonight is only for conceptual drawings. Don't assume a no vote is a slap in the face. It's a broad statement and paints us in a negative light. The \$19,000 is all the board is discussing tonight.

Larry Ouellette, Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, supports the study for the new high school. The committee did a great job with their presentation. This would be a great economic opportunity for the town. Commercially the current site is far more valuable. An alternate site would diminish the cost.

Peggy Adler, 5 Liberty Street, was concerned what the impact would be on local business if the current site is developed for commercial use.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 19, 2011**

Apel made a motion, seconded by Mezzetti, to approve the minutes from January 19, 2011. The motion was unanimously approved.

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**RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

None

**DISCUSS AND ACT ON A REQUEST TO APPROVE \$19,000 FOR ARCHITECTUAL SERVICES TO PREPARE CONCEPTUAL DRAWINGS PROVIDED BY DAVID THOMPSON ARCHITECTS**

David Townsend, member of the Morgan Building Committee, said every comment that has been made has been discussed by the committee. The committee is looking at all the options. Townsend said David Thompson Architects has a good grasp of things based on all conversations. Mezzetti said she was pleased to see so many people at the informational meeting last week. Walter said based on options C1, C2 and C3 they would serve the best needs of the town. Walter is concerned the proposed new school would be too small. A discussion followed regarding if parking, traffic renovations and ball fields were included in the price of the school or was it additional. Fritz said everything is included except the cost for a new site. The proposed new school does include an oversized gym and auditorium. Apel spoke against the new high school. Walter said when she questioned David Thompson how the smaller school would effect the new classrooms he did not give a definitive answer. Vicino said it was an excellent presentation. Townsend said the current high school is a nightmare and has a lot of wasted space. There was a discussion on if the plans can be used on an alternate location. Mezzetti made a motion, seconded by Vicino to approve \$19,000 for architectural services to prepare conceptual drawings provided by David Thompson Architects and send to the Board of Finance for approval. Fritz Mezzetti and Vicino voted in favor of the motion. Apel and Walter voted in opposition of the motion. The motion passed: 3-2.

**AWARD BID – GENERATOR PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR**

Peter Neff, Director of Public Works, met with a representative from the Clinton Public Schools, Volunteer Fire Department, Police Department and Technology to review all the bids received. Based on their analysis of the bids they are recommending that the bid we awarded to GDL Services. Mezzetti made a motion, seconded by Apel to award the maintenance contract bid to GDL Services. The motion was unanimously approved.

**WSAM REPAIR & MAINTENANCE BUDGET**

Fritz reviewed the WSAM maintenance budget. The current repair and maintenance budget is \$21,000. The year to date expenditures is \$20,519. The air handler unit and motor of the air conditioner for the auditorium was replaced in July for \$5951.00. The ice melt circulator for the front walkway was replaced last month for \$493.00. Fritz suggested appropriating those funds back into the repair & maintenance budget. Mezzetti made a motion, seconded by Vicino, to request the Board of Finance to transfer \$6,500 back into the WSAM Repair & Maintenance budget. The motion was unanimously approved.

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**BUDGET REVIEW**

The Following budgets were reviewed by the Board of Selectmen;

- Economic Development Commission – tabled
- Fire Department – (Presented by Fire Chief Bob Voss) Other operating increased from last year. Voss said all fire fighters are now required to get physicals. There are currently 164 members and 80-90 members still need to have their physical done. Voss said all new fire fighters are required to have psychological testing. It costs \$5,000 to gear up one new fire fighter including training and gear. Apparatus checks increased. Comcast High Speed Internet line item was added so the Fire Department can connect and communicate with the Police Department. Repairs & Maintenance budget was increased from last year.
- Conservation Commission – (Presented by Larry Ouellette) Open Space Advisory Committee has now become the Conservation Commission. The new commission has to identify all resources in town, map them, update the maps every year and create a conservation plan for those resources. Fritz said there should be special appropriation to cover the one time costs. Only recurring costs should have a line item in the budget.
- Park & Recreation – (Presented by Robert Potter & Harry Swaun) The department has grown and more programs have been added. Eventually a part time programmer will have to be added to the budget. Fritz increased part time salaries in hopes to have a certified lifeguard at the beach this summer. The fees for programs have not been increased. The teen center has been decreased by \$500 due to inactivity.
- Social Services & Youth & Family Services – (Presented by Barbara Small & Lois Ruggiero) \$500 was added to the Social Services Building line item for window treatments.
- Communications – (Presented by Chief Lawrie, Major Santry & Major Lucas) Lawrie said they are currently running with 2 dispatchers at all times. There are 6 full time and 3 part time dispatchers. Over time is used when a full time dispatcher is out sick or on vacation. If no full time dispatcher wants the shift then it is offered to part time dispatchers. Maintenance contracts increased due to tower fees.
- Animal Control - (Presented by Chief Lawrie, Major Santry & Major Lucas) Lawrie said they are looking into trying to share resources with neighboring towns. Overall budget decreased by 1.64 percent from last year.
- Police Department - (Presented by Chief Lawrie, Major Santry & Major Lucas) Lawrie submitted two budgets. Plan A includes the addition of the 25<sup>th</sup> officer and Plan B is for the current 25 officers. Fritz recommends plan B. Part time salaries include two crossing guards. \$8,000 was put back into the budget for the crossing guard at Jared Eliot Middle School. Several line items were reduced due to budget cuts but have been restored. The Police budget has increased by .46 percent.

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- Public Works – (Presented by Peter Neff) Part time salaries was put back into the budget to allow the Transfer Station to open one more additional day. Road equipment maintenance was decreased. The overall budget was increased by 3.32 percent.
- Shellfish Commission – Fritz reduced the Shellfish Commission budget request from \$4,000 to \$3,000.

**SELECTMEN'S REPORTS**

A brief discussion took place regarding the pending lawsuit. The town is represented by the insurance company. The insurance company failed to notify the town attorney or the town of any settlement offers. The settlement offer would have been well within the coverage amount. The insurance company should be liable for the additional costs. The lawsuit is currently in the appeals process.

Vicino said the school presentation went very well. That is a good place to start and they still have a long way to go.

Walter asked what the status was on the new finance director.

Mezzetti said CEC will meet Monday night. Jeff Hesel is the chairman of the Fire Truck Committee and meetings will take place on the first Wednesday of every month.

Next Wednesday morning the Board of Selectmen will review all the budgets. Walter will not be available for next week's meeting but can submit her budget recommendations in writing.

A public informational meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2011 in the Green Room of the Town Hall. The Board of Selectmen will review all the budgets.

Mezzetti made a motion, seconded by Walter, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schettino  
Administrative Assistant

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