

Board of Selectmen  
Town Hall Green Room  
Wednesday, January 26, 2012  
Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the United States flag

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 18, 2012**

Walter made a motion, seconded by Giannotti to approve the minutes from January 18, 2012. The motion was unanimously approved.

**RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

Last week the board tabled appointing Kimberly Buckley to the Board of Education. Buckley is a graduate of the University of Connecticut. Buckley is currently a teacher for the East Lyme school district and has been teaching for 10 years. Mezzetti made a motion, seconded by Vicino to appoint Kimberly Buckley (D) to the Board of Education for the remainder of the term to November 2013. The motion was unanimously approved.

Charter Revision Committee – The Charter Revision Committee can have not fewer than five and not more than fifteen members on the committee. The board discussed appointing either 7 or 9 members to the committee, not more than one-third of who may hold any other public office in the town. Mezzetti and Vicino thought the committee should consist of 7 members. Walter felt the committee should have 9 members. Several residents spoke about how members they think should be appointed. After much discussion Fritz felt the committee should consist of 9 members. Walter made a motion, seconded by Giannotti to create a Charter Revision Committee made up of nine members. The motion was unanimously approved. Each board member picked 9 people from a list of 15 who they felt should be appointed to the committee. Walter questioned if Tom Hollinger should be appointed to the committee because of his poor attendance at Board of Finance meetings. The board will ask Hollinger to attend next week’s meeting. If Hollinger is unable to serve on the committee Phil Sengle will be appointed to the ninth position. Vicino made a motion, seconded by Mezzetti and unanimously approved to appoint the following to the Charter Revision Committee:

(D)	Bradford J. Sullivan	10 Liberty Lane
(R)	Omar Francis	112 Pratt Road
(U)	Tom Terribile	42 Hurd Bridge Road
(D)	Jane Welch	101 Grove Street
(R)	Lenny Cahill	10 Buell Court
(R)	Ed Miller	144 Airline Road
(U)	Michael Galwey	51 Sunnybrook Lane
(D)	Sally Cotter	23 High Street

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Mezzetti made a motion, seconded by Walter to move to agenda item #8 Police Budget. The motion was unanimously approved.

**REVIEW POLICE BUDGET**

Police Chief Lawrie reviewed his budget with the board. Salaries-Overtime increased from \$216,768 to \$265,000 mostly due to the partial funding of the SRO position. Lawrie had originally requested funding for this position through salaries but it was determined it would be cheaper for the town to fund this position from salaries – overtime. The funding for this position will be shared by the Board of Education.

- Uniform allowance increased from \$23,150 to \$25,250.
- Convention and dues increased by \$600.00.
- Vehicle Repair/Maintenance increased by \$3,000.
- Armory Supplies increased from \$10,355 to \$13,395. The armory supplies include realistic based training for all officers. This training will allow officers to better protect themselves.
- There was a small reduction in office machine repair/maintenance, building service contracts and gas/boat fuel
- Overall the Police budget increased by 8.10 percent

Mezzetti made a motion, seconded by Walter to move back to agenda item #5. The motion was unanimously approved.

**FIRE MARSHAL/FIRE CHIEF POSITION**

In 2008 after the passing of Hugh Allen the Board of Selectmen had to appoint a new fire marshal. On January 16, 2008 the Board of Selectmen appointed Jeffrey Hesel (who at the time was the fire chief) fire marshal and Frank Schrempp as deputy fire marshal for a six month interm appointment. After the interm appointment expired the Board of Selectmen decided it would be a conflict of interest to have the fire chief and fire marshal as the same person. They needed to be two separate people. The decision made by the board was never recorded in the minutes. Hesel was told he had to decide if he wanted to continue as fire chief or be appointed as fire marshal. On September 12, 2008 Frank Schrempp was appointed as the fire marshal and Jeffrey Hesel was appointed assistant fire marshal. Schrempp has since maintained that position. Recently the Fire Department held elections and Frank Schrempp was elected as Fire Chief. The fire marshal appointment is a four year appointment expiring in September 2012. There was discussion from both Hesel and Schrempp. The fire marshal position is a town position. The board discussed if a new policy should be put into place going forward. Mezzetti said she felt both positions should not be held by the same person. Mezzetti made a motion, seconded by Walter to table this appointment until next week and seek advice from the town attorney on what if any impact this has on the town if the same person is both fire chief and fire marshal. The motion was unanimously approved.

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**HCH LIBRARY APPROPRIATION REQUEST**

Maribeth Breen and Lynn Hidek reviewed the library's FY2011-2012 mid-year report. The library is requesting an appropriation of \$30,000 to be able to fund the operation of the library at its current reduced hours to the end of this fiscal year. Breen said they have already cut 14 hours from the schedule. \$40,000 of its reserves has already been used to fund the operation of the building since July 2011. \$10,579 of this fiscal year's expenses was paid to GR Wade for HVAC repairs. Mezzetti made a motion, seconded by Vicino to appropriate \$10,600 for HVAC repairs and ask the Board of finance to consider an additional appropriation of \$20,208.00. If the Board of Finance approves the \$20,208.00 appropriation it will need to go back to the Board of Selectmen for approval. Walter abstained from voting. The motion passed.

**HISTORIC RESTORATION FUND GRANT**

The Town of Clinton has been awarded \$200,000 for the rehabilitation of the William Stanton Andrews Memorial Town Hall from the Historic Restoration Fund Grant Program of the Department of Economic and Community Development, State Historic Preservation Office. This grant will be used in addition to the 2 million dollars that has already been approved. Mezzetti made a motion, seconded by Vicino to accept the \$200,000 Historic Restoration Fund Grant. The motion was unanimously approved. The language on the resolution needed to be revised so it was tabled until next week's meeting.

**BUDGET REVIEWS**

- Communications – Major Lucas reviewed this budget. There was some discussion on the maintenance costs for the new communications tower. The maintenance cost for the towers will be split over three years. The overall budget reflects an increase of 0.53 percent.
- Animal Control – Major Lucas reviewed this budget. This budget remained relatively flat from last year. The only increase was in salaries.
- Fire Department – Fire Chief Frank Schrempp reviewed this budget. There was a small increase in each of the line items. This represents an overall increase of 2.40 percent.
- Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Frank Schrempp reviewed this budget. Schrempp requested an increase in salaries from \$35,000 to \$71,000. Schrempp is currently receiving \$20,000 and has requested \$60,000 for FY 2012/13. Schrempp said he works between 10-25 hours per week as Fire Marshal. Schrempp stated there are many things he should be doing but doesn't because he doesn't get paid enough to do all them. Schrempp requested a new vehicle through CEC. The current vehicle has over 100,000 miles. If Schrempp gets a new vehicle then his repairs/maintenance budget will decrease.
- CRAHD – at this point it appears to remain flat but final figures are still not determined
- Shellfish Commission – Wayne Church reviewed this budget. Shellfish budget increased from \$3,000 to \$3,700
- Library - Maribeth Breen and Lynn Hidek reviewed this budget. Last year's budget was reduced by \$100,000 after the town budget failed to pass at referendum. Library is looking to restore

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the \$100,000 plus an additional \$70,000. Last year the budget was reduced to \$593,500. This year the library is requesting \$764,175. This represents an increase of 5.58 percent.

- All the budgets to date that have been reviewed by the Board of Selectmen reflect an overall increase of 5.58 percent.
- Tree Warden – Gary Bousquet requested a stipend of \$5,000 per year. Bousquet is a licensed arborist and goes out on approximately 15 calls per month using his own vehicle. This request will be reviewed again at next week’s meeting.

**SELECTMEN’S REPORTS**

Reported by Walter

- Capital Expenditure Committee budget is currently \$1.5 million
- The new town website went up yesterday.

Reported by Giannotti

- The Municipal Building Committee met last week and has authorized David Thompson Architects to go forward with the presentation to the town.

Reported by Vicino

- Economic Development Commission.

Reported by Mezzetti

- New website was just launched yesterday. They are still working out some of the bugs.
- Fire Truck Committee is meeting again tomorrow night. The committee has decided to go out to bid again.

**ADJOURN**

Vicino made a motion, seconded by Mezzetti, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schettino  
Administrative Assistant