

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Minutes

Date: March 12, 2014

Members Present: Janet Flinkstrom, Mike McCallum and Steve Ingerson

Time: 7:08 p.m.

2) Motion to approve minutes of February 26, 2014 as recorded.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steve Ingerson Vote: Unan

3) Warrant #W35P approve and sign Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$46,122.79 subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steve Ingerson Vote: Unan
MM Abstains from
Line with Jean Lindquist

Request to Approve and Sign on Warrant #W36B Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$232,096.05:

SI commented on truck payment. Was not aware of payment being made as he is the Procurement Officer of the Board and he is in contact with the Attorney General's office. SI says he E-mailed Bill Davis after seeing him driving a white pick-up truck. His response to SI was that he was renting the truck at \$50.00 per hour. MM stated he felt this was not on the agenda tonight and should not be discussed at this meeting. He said "making allegations" against a Town employee is not acceptable. SI stated he will not vote on the vendor warrant. Lillian Whitney states she gave a book to the Board on procurement and this needs to be followed. JF stopped her, stating she could not slander an employee. Discussion was held as to whether they could postpone the signing of the warrant until further investigation could be done. BOS will hold off on signing this warrant until Saturday.

4) Motion to appoint Donna Leonard to the Board of Registrars for a three- year term ending March 31, 2017.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steve Ingerson Vote: Unan

5) Motion to appoint Krishnabai as an alternate to the Board of Registrars for a one-year term ending March 31, 2015.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steve Ingerson Vote: Unan

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Request to appoint Peter Niall as Building Inspector for a one-year term from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015:

SI wanted to discuss this appointment. He received a signed letter. He wanted to read it but after looking at the letter, JF and MM weren't comfortable reading the letter in the public forum and wanted to consult with Town Counsel before bringing this forward.

Motion was made and then withdrawn by MM.

Discussion by Martha Svedberg asked the Board what she should do about previous letters she has submitted to Town in regards to Mr. Niall and how to further her issues with this. Resident asked why the BOS is not accepting the letter tonight. They explained the reason stated above. Another resident was upset as to why this was not being done. He asked why every time SI brings up an issue the BOS puts him down. He feels the BOS is confused with what to do about this situation. JF tried to explain the reasons for not approaching this tonight. The resident continued to argue and make statements dealing with slander.

JF stated that all information and proof of accusations shall be submitted to the Selectmen for further investigation. Resident became very agitated and confrontational. Motion tabled.

- 6) Motion to appoint Richard Hanks as Building Inspector Alternate for one-year term from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steve Ingerson Vote: Unan

- 7) Motion to appoint Paul Lessard as Electrical Inspector for one-year term from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steve Ingerson Vote: Unan

- 8) Motion to appoint Steve Dubois as Assistant Electrical Inspector for one-year term from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steve Ingerson Vote: Unan

- 9) Motion to appoint Harry Parviainen as Assistant Electrical Inspector for one-year term from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steve Ingerson Vote: Unan

- 10) Motion to approve Building Inspector's appointments of Richard Kapenas as Plumbing and Gas Inspector for a one-year term from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015 and Gary Williams as Plumbing and Gas Inspector Alternate for a one-year term from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steve Ingerson Vote: Unan

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11) Motion to approve and sign on a One Day Liquor License for the Fitchburg Rod and Gun Club for April 5, 2014 for a Memorial Benefit for Matti Laaksonen.

Motion: Mike McCallum

Seconded: Steve Ingerson

Vote: Unan

Any Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman:

JF received communication from Roberta Flashman to present at tonight meeting, concerning pipeline that is being sought in Ashby. Roberta Flashman (Conservation Commission Member) provided information on this issue and provided a drawing to explain some of the residents concerns. She would like to put a non-binding article on the warrant so that Town Meeting can vote on whether or not to oppose the pipeline. Resident and SI asked for documentation of the spraying of the right-of-way. RF told both that the documents are on the State website and every company must file these documents regarding their practices on this website. Anyone can go to the website and look them up. Question asked by resident if this company has already proposed this. Answer: Map has been given to Town Administrator. MM spoke on this company being private and what they might or might not be able to do. They may have eminent domain rights and he talked about what he knew of the information that has been provided. LW stated she has seen on the internet that some states have passed laws prohibiting this type of company from coming into their state.

RF states that there are some citizens who have already signed the consent for surveying their land.

12) Motion to place an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to allow the citizens at Town Meeting to vote on the “ Resolution to ban Fracked Gas Pipelines and to Champion Sustainable Energy”, as presented to the Board by 4 members of the Conservation Commission (resolution attached).

Motion: Mike McCallum

Seconded: Steve Ingerson

Vote: Unan

SI would like to submit an Article for the Warrant to start up a Capitol Plan for the Town. He would like to have \$100,000. Put into the account. MM and JF suggested to him that this be discussed with Town Administrator as to how to write this up and have it on the warrant. MM asked where the \$100,000 is supposed to come from. SI does not have a funding source in his warrant article request. Resident asked how anyone could get an article placed on the warrant. MM explained this to him and gave some examples of what the process is with submitting articles.

Assistant to the Board of Selectmen’s Report: Report and Announcements read by MM.

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Public Comments (if any):

Resident concerned with SI inability to obtain information on Town records he has asked for on numerous occasions. He asked if MM and JF “signed a contract” to prevent SI from getting information. Answer is No. SI is asking for information that is more than a few pages long and goes back 14 years and must be charged. Private Citizens asking for information must be charged and the Town must follow the Public Records Law. He asked SI to discuss what he has been going through to get info. SI proceeded to give an example of what resistance he has meet trying to get info. He read a response that was given to him by the Town Administrator requesting \$197.50 for copies and labor required for the documents he is requesting. JF tried to explain to the resident what the procedure was but to no avail as the resident became very confrontational. It was explained to resident that SI could come in to Town Hall, look up his own information and make his own copies. Resident Martha Swedberg stated her experience with Town Hall documents and she found it hard to get information she needed but she was not charged for it. MM stated there is a Public Records Act that is followed. MM stated there were stacks of records SI had asked for and they were gathered and available for SI at Town Hall multiple times and he never came in to look at the information. Access to Town Counsel was again brought up and an example of a situation that happened a few years ago was brought up by MS. Resident accused MM of “character assignation: against SI. JF advised that the discussion would stop @ 8:50. Police presence was noted during this very confrontational issue.

Lillian Whitney spoke on notice she sent to the BOS in regards to her request to be put on the agenda in regards to the 250th Anniversary Committee using the Town Hall. She read the letter she sent to the Board and gave response from Mr. Hanson. JF stated to her that she can continue to have her meetings at Town Hall as a Town Committee just like all other Town Boards and Committees do.

13) Motion to adjourn at 8:56 p.m.

Motion: Mike McCallum

Seconded: Steve Ingerson

Vote: Unan

Signed by: _____

Dates Minutes Approved by Board of Selectmen: _____