

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

7:00 PM

February 25, 2019

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PRESENT: Selectmen Roland P. Nutter, Lisa M. Ferolito and Bill Greathead; Andrew MacLean, Town Administrator; Tracie Looney, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Ms. Ferolito and seconded by Mr. Greathead, it was unanimously voted that the Board of Selectmen go into Executive Session at 6:30 PM as authorized by Chapter 30A Section 21(a) of the Massachusetts General Laws. The purpose of the meeting is to:

- a. To investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to consider the filing of criminal complaints.
- b. To approve February 11, 2019 Executive Session meeting minutes

Further, the Chair declares that the Board will reconvene back in open session for the purpose of continuing with the posted agenda. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Roland Nutter	Aye
Lisa Ferolito	Aye
Bill Greathead	Aye

The Board reconvened at 7:00PM for the Regular Board Meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance was said. Mr. Nutter announced that the meeting is being broadcast live and recorded for rebroadcast.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

3.1 January 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 1)

On a motion made by Mr. Greathead and seconded by Ms. Ferolito, it was unanimously voted to accept the meeting minutes of January 14, 2019 as submitted.

3.2 January 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 2)

On a motion made by Mr. Greathead and seconded by Ms. Ferolito, it was unanimously voted to accept the meeting minutes of January 28, 2019 as submitted.

3.3 February 11, 2018 Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 3)

On a motion made by Mr. Greathead and seconded by Ms. Ferolito, it was unanimously voted to accept the meeting minutes of February 11, 2019 as submitted.

4. APPROVE WARRANT AND SIGN PURCHASE ORDERS

The Board signed the warrant.

5. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

5.1 New Town Accountant Announcement / Lauri Plourde

Lauri Plourde was introduced to the Board by the Town Administrator. Ms. Plourde told the Board she looks forward to starting in March as the Town's new Accountant.

On a motion made by Ms. Ferolito and seconded by Mr. Greathead, it was unanimously voted to accept the Town Administrator's recommendation to appoint Ms. Lauri Plourde as Pepperell's Town Accountant effective March 18, 2019.

6. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

Audience Comments

Written Submittals (Exhibit 4)

Ms. Ferolito read a correspondence from Caroline Ahdab regarding transparency.

Acknowledgement of the Citizen letters in opposition of the Zoning Board of Appeals Decision for the Soil Reclamation Proposal.

Mr. Greathead read a letter acknowledging the snow removal job done by the Highway Department from the latest storm.

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:

7.1 Light, Air, and Noise By-Law Committee Update

Margaret Scarsdale updated the Board on the progress with the LAN Committee and the diversity of the Committee. They are currently working on the Noise and Light by laws.

7.2 Soil Reclamation Proposal Update

On February 14, 2019, the Board of Selectmen sent a letter to Mary Jude Pigsley at MassDEP stating their opposition to Mass Composting Group, Inc.'s 161 Nashua Road Reclamation Project. Also, on February 15, 2019, the Town Clerk's office received a Notice of Filing of Amended Complaint in an Appeal Pursuant to M.G.L. c.40a sec. 17. The amended complaint is an appeal of the decision of the Pepperell Zoning Board of Appeals filed with the Town Clerk on January 30, 2019.

7.3 FY20 Budget Review

John Ladik, Chair of the Finance Committee, spoke to the Board about the Town finances. The FinCom has proposed a \$1-1.5 million override. The FY2020 proposed budget has \$341,000 structural deficit and more than \$200,000 in undetermined cuts that need to be made to be brought into balance. The TA told the Board the revenues are much lower and the increase of use of free cash in the past years has not helped the Town financial position. Also the increase in the school district's budget numbers continue to rise faster than the Town growth. The anticipated increase to the tax payer's with an override of \$1 million would be approximately \$320 a year. The TA mentioned there are capital items for this year that are needed and can't be neglected. Margaret Talbot, citizen, spoke on behalf of the school budget and the respect the school committee has had to the supporting towns. The TA mentioned that the school is not the enemy but all parts of the town budget need to live within the means of the Town growth. Renee D'Argento, citizen, also spoke about the Town Schools raising their budgets and being respectful of the Town.

7.4 Discussion on Staff Vacancies

Ms. Ferolito asked about different job vacancies around Town and what was the TA planning for them. Mr. MacLean went through the vacancies and explained different options moving forward.

7.5 Promise Act Resolution Request (Exhibit 5)

The Town Administrator explained the Promise Act that was brought to the Town from Senator Kennedy's office looking for support. This is currently before the legislator and will help rewrite the Chapter 70 Education Funding Formula. The new formula would provide \$723,700 over the next four fiscal years.

On a motion made by Mr. Greathead and seconded by Ms. Ferolito, it was unanimously voted to accept and sign the Resolution in support of the Promise Act.

7.6 Removal of Portable Classroom at Peter Fitzpatrick School

The Town Administrator informed the Board about the portable classroom located on the Peter Fitzpatrick property and is looking for the Boards endorsement to destroy it. The Fire Department is looking to use this structure in a training burn.

On a motion made by Ms. Ferolito and seconded by Mr. Greathead, it was unanimously voted to authorize the DPW to remove the portable classroom from the Peter Fitzpatrick property.

Caroline Ahdab mentioned to the Board that it might be a good idea to notify the neighbors of the Peter Fitzpatrick property that the Pepperell Fire Department will be holding a training burn on the property to prevent citizens calling the station that there is a real fire.

7.7 April Board Meeting Schedule

No action was taken.

8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

8.1 Update on Town Administrator's Report (Exhibit 6)

Mr. MacLean pointed out a few highlights of his Town Administrator's Report to the Board, including the Marijuana By-Law that is in process with the Planning Board.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion made by Mr. Greathead and seconded by Ms. Ferolito, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracie Looney, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

Roland P. Nutter, Chairman

Lisa M. Ferolito, Clerk

Bill Greathead

- Encl:
- *Exhibit 1 - Meeting Minutes January 14, 2019
 - *Exhibit 2 - Meeting Minutes January 28, 2019
 - *Exhibit 3 – Meeting Minutes February 11, 2019
 - *Exhibit 4 - Written Submittals
 - *Exhibit 5 – Promise Act Resolution Request
 - *Exhibit 6 – Town Administrator's Report