

# Board of Selectmen Minutes 03/04/2013

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## Board of Selectmen Minutes March 4, 2013

Chairman Carroll convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Draper room of the Town Hall and requested a motion to allow the Board to enter into executive session, to reconvene in regular session no later than 7:00 p.m., under G.L. c.30A, §21(a) (3) & (6), to discuss negotiations with the Permanent Firefighters Union, because the Chair has declared that discussing this matter in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board of Selectmen; votes may be taken. Present: Chairman James Carroll; Selectman Robert Burns; Selectwoman Janet Jacaruso, and Town Coordinator Eugene Phillips.

MSDV to enter into executive session, and to return to open session meeting at 7:00 p.m. RCV\*\*: James Carroll, Chm. – Aye; Selectman Burns – Aye, and Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye.

Chairman Carroll convened the regular session meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Draper room of the Town Hall and moved into the agenda. Present: Chairman James Carroll; Selectman Robert Burns; Selectwoman Janet Jacaruso; Town Coordinator Eugene Phillips; Executive Assistant Patricia Goodwin, and Jeff Ellis, Videographer.

MSDV to approve the regular session minutes of February 19, 2013. Chairman Carroll – Aye; Selectman Burns – Aye, and Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye.

Chairman Carroll moved to correspondence on the agenda.

Selectwoman Jacaruso said the Board received a letter today from Ed Burt of the Town Hall Renovation Committee providing a status report pertaining to the planned renovations. The architect, Bargmann Hendrie and Associates, has completed a programming and building conditions analysis and a set of conceptual designs. The committee will work with the architect to solidify the design concepts. The committee has met with the Finance Committee to address funding options for the project, which is currently estimated to be within the \$7 million range, and it is hoped the total cost will be reduced as project details continue to be addressed. Summary statements regarding all areas of the project are being prepared and it is anticipated that these statements will be available in March.

The Committee plans to make information available regarding the renovation project by posting as much information as possible on the town website, and communications via local radio, cable and newspapers. Questions or concerns may be addressed to the members of the Renovation Committee.

Coordinator Phillips said he has received a request from Harry Ohannesian for the approval of Jackson Way as a town street.

MSDV to acknowledge the request for the approval of Jackson Way as a town street from Harry Ohannesian. Chairman Carroll – Aye; Selectman Burns – Aye, and Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye.

Chairman Carroll stated that during the Special Town Meeting held February 5, 2013 warrant article 5, pertaining to the forest management contract and the length of the term with Hull Forest Products forest was discussed. Following a vote, the town did not accept a 10-year contract. As a result, a letter was sent to Hull Forest Products notifying them that the current contract is null and void.

Chairman Carroll moved to appointments and resignations on the agenda.

Jason Caravaggio submitted his resignation from the Finance Committee due to the demands of work and family life and future plans to move out of state.

MSDV to accept the resignation of Jason Caravaggio from the Finance Committee. Chairman Carroll – Aye; Selectman Burns – Aye, and Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye.

Police Chief Mark Giovannella submitted a request for approval of the appointment of Ryan D. Porter to the position of part-time dispatcher for the Hopedale Police Department.

MSDV to approve the appointment of Ryan D. Porter to the position of part-time dispatcher for the Hopedale Police Department. Chairman Carroll – Aye; Selectman Burns – Aye, and Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye.

Chairman Carroll moved to new business on the agenda.

Milford Auto Sales, Inc. applied for a new Class II, used car dealer's, license. They previously held a Class II license under the name of Milford Auto Sales, however, the business has incorporated and the owner has applied for a new license as Milford Auto Sales, Inc.

MSDV to approve the Class II used car dealer's license for Milford Auto Sales, Inc. Chairman Carroll – Aye; Selectman Burns – Aye, and Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye.

The Water and Sewer Commissioners requested reallocation of a portion of the Treasurers budget to the Water and Sewer Department. The Water and Sewer Clerk collects payments for the Treasurer/Tax Collector. Coordinator Phillips commented that the Treasurer/Tax Collector's office also collects payments for the Water and Sewer Department. Christine Burke, a member of the Water and Sewer Commissioners, commented that they would like to bill the Treasurer/Tax Collector for the Water and Sewer Clerk and in turn the Treasurer/Tax Collector could bill the Water and Sewer Department for the Treasurer/Tax Collector's Clerk. Chairman Carroll said he would like to review a breakdown/spreadsheet of the water and sewer clerk's benefits, which would include health insurance, liability insurance, and workers' compensation. Ms. Burke also suggested that the Water and Sewer Clerk have her own space and a window for collection of payments when the town hall renovation is completed. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting of the Water and Sewer Commissioners.

The Town received notice from the insurance company for Prime Motorsports, LP that their Surety Bond had been cancelled for non-payment of premium. As a Class II license holder, the State of Massachusetts requires the licensee to hold a Surety Bond in the amount of \$25K. The licensee was notified that the Board would conduct a license revocation hearing if the bond was not renewed. Since then the

Board has been notified by the insurance company that the bond has been renewed with an effective date of January 1, 2013, and is effective through December 31, 2013.

The Town Treasurer/Collector asked that the Board review and approve an Investment Policy Statement so that it is documented that this is the practice of the Town when investing funds. During the last Moody's rating they had asked if the town had a policy.

MSDV to approve the Investment Policy Statement for the Town of Hopedale as discussed. Chairman Carroll – Aye; Selectman Burns – Aye, and Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye.

School Superintendent Dennis Breen submitted a Statement of Interest for approval from the School Department to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) with regard to replacement of a portion of the Memorial School roof, which has been leaking for the past year. Coordinator Phillips stated that the section of roof needing repair is not the same section that had been replaced a few years ago. The roof is approaching 20 years of age, which is the life expectancy for this roof. Mr. Phillips said this process is a requirement of the MSBA and the town will need to go before the Finance Committee and Town Meeting for approval.

Chairman Carroll moved to old business on the agenda.

A continuing discussion took place with regard to a petition that was submitted from the non-union, non-contract employees requesting amendments and an addition to the Personnel bylaws addressing vacation and holiday leave and longevity pay as discussed at the January 7, 2013 meeting of the Board. Tim Watson of the Water and Sewer Department commented that the employees had met with Chairman Carroll 8 or 9 days following the meeting of the Board, at which time Chairman Carroll suggested a town employee salary and benefit study be conducted by an outside consultant and asked for an update on the status of the request.

Chairman Carroll commented that he had just received a spreadsheet for review that lists all contracts and benefits, which would need to be reviewed and said the next step would be to inquire about a study. Mr. Watson said that it has been 8 weeks since the non-union employees submitted a petition to the Board for placement on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. Selectwoman Jacaruso said the Town Clerk will certify the signatures on the petition as registered town voters.

The non-union, non-contract employees in attendance expressed their displeasure and frustration with the lack of response from the Board. Selectwoman Jacaruso commented that the Board of Selectmen have held no discussions since January 7<sup>th</sup> or with the Finance Committee and they need to work on their budget, which she has not seen, and put money into the budget for the study and give these employees an answer. She also said that the union contracts are addressed every three years, or more often if a contract is re-opened, and commented that these employees could become union people and she would rather give them respect and do a study. Selectman Burns said he would concur.

Town Assessor Teri Gonsalves commented that the petition to amend the Personnel by-law must be filed tonight, as the deadline for filing would be March 15<sup>th</sup> and the next meeting of the Board does not take place until March 18<sup>th</sup>. A petition to amend the Personnel by-law as discussed will need to be completed and submitted by March 15, 2013 to allow 60 days prior to the Annual Town Meeting in May.

Selectwoman Jacaruso acknowledged that a Town Meeting vote is the only way the Town's Personnel By-law can be amended. Ms. Jacaruso said that as Town Clerk she will certify the signatures on the petition and get back to the employees as to whether there are enough signatures for placement on the Town Meeting warrant and she further commented that she will push for a study.

Council on Aging Director Carole Mullen suggested assigning boards to prepare and submit findings, by weighing the services of other similar towns, to the Board with data being fact checked and thereby eliminating the cost of an outside consultant. Christine Burke of the Water and Sewer Commissioners said she would be willing to meet with the departments involved to review statistical information in preparation for the non-union, non-contract employee's presentation at town meeting.

Chairman Carroll reviewed the current list of committee vacancies and asked that if anyone had an interest in joining one of the committees they please contact the Town Hall or to visit the town's website to obtain a Talent Bank form for completion and submission.

Chairman Carroll moved to other topics not previously anticipated at the meeting.  
There was no discussion held.

Chairman Carroll moved to Coordinator News on the agenda.  
There was no discussion.

With no further business before them at 8:08 p.m. a motion was made by Selectman Burns, seconded by Selectwoman Jacaruso and agreed to by Chairman Carroll to adjourn the open meeting not to reconvene but to adjourn directly upon conclusion of the open discussion.

MSDV close the open session meeting, and not to reconvene. RCV\*\*: James Carroll, Chm. – Aye; Selectman Burns – Aye, and Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye.

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James F. Carroll, Chairman

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Robert P. Burns

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Janet Orff Jacaruso

## Hopedale Board of Selectmen

\*Moved, Seconded, Discussed and Voted \*\*Roll Call Vote