

Call to Order: Chairman Robert Manners called the Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Other members present: Joe Judd and John Payne.

John Rees & Leo Ojala from the Finance Committee joined the meeting for the budget presentations.

Acceptance of Minutes: Joe identified two corrections to the draft minutes and then made a motion to accept the minutes of January 14, 2013, as corrected. John seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Noteworthy News:

Senator Ben Downing met with several Franklin County citizens in Shelburne's Town Hall for one of his periodic afternoon coffee gatherings to hear issues and concerns. Half a dozen people from the surrounding towns attended and raised the following subjects:

- Shelburne and Buckland support three local libraries; continued State Library support is critical to the survival of these three centers of learning; also Arms / Pratt in Shelburne Falls has just embarked on a major fund raising campaign to refurbish the building top to bottom and would welcome any State contributions or grants;
- FRCOG has applied to transfer its retirement system to the State program and would greatly appreciate legislative support; Ben was very familiar with the application, supports it, and is optimistic that State legislators will pass the necessary legislations.
- We talked extensively about School Budgets, shrinking enrollment and building over-capacity, the capital fund burden, busing issues, the Charter School impact, Chapter 70 funds and the importance of quality, local education in these times;
- Progress on bringing high-speed internet access to the area; Ben outlined progress on the "Middle Mile" initiative, requirements for Open Access for the "last mile," \$40 million in State funding and \$45 million in Federal grants and the challenges of working with Comcast, Verizon, National Grid and WMECO;
- New efforts to make the Pot Holes more visible with a viewing deck and walkway near water level while still maintaining a reasonable level of safety;
- Despite the growth of tourism in the last few decades, we discussed the importance of Agriculture to the economic viability and beauty of the area.

Joe reminded viewers that the Parking Ban would be in effect Tuesday morning from 1:00 am to 6:00 am for snow clearing.

Bob noted the State Wide emergency ban on car travel and asked everyone to comply with the Governor's directive.

Appointments:

7:00 pm Bev Neeley, Town Clerk, requested that the Selectboard move the town elections (normally scheduled for the third Monday in May, May 20th) to either the date of the Senate Primary, April 30th, or to the date of the Election, June 25th in order to avoid the cost of a third election for town officials. Because this option is authorized by the State, towns need only Town Clerk and SelectBoard approval to make this one-time change. John made a motion to move the town elections to April 30th for this year only; Joe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Bev announced that nomination papers for town positions will be available tomorrow, February 12, 2013

7:15 pm Cathy Buntin, Director, Senior Center, presented two requests. The first is to hire an Office Assistant for 6 hours per week starting March 18th for the remaining 15 weeks of the current budget year. The FY '13 budget had provided for splitting the 30 hour / week Program Director position into a 16 hour Activities Coordinator and a part time office assistant. The Board hired the Activities Coordinator earlier this year and Cathy is proposing now to proceed with the hiring of the Office Assistant. The Senior Center has stayed within its FY '13 budget and has sufficient funds for this position through June 30, 2013. The rate would be \$11.52 and the cost for the remainder of the year would be \$1,036.80. Joe moved and John seconded a motion to approve the hiring of an Office Assistant at \$11.52 / hour for 6 hours a week starting March 18, 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

Cathy's second request was to divide one of the two front offices with a partition to allow the Outreach Coordinator to meet with seniors in relative privacy, as needed. Cathy presented a floor plan showing a partition dividing the 14' wide room into two 7' wide rooms (each about 17' long). She has received permission from the Masons to add the partition. The Selectboard considered the issue of spending town funds on a non-town building balanced against the need for privacy and small cost. It decided that this improvement met a town need and created no meaningful benefit to the landlord. The cost will be minimal, particularly with carpentry help from the Highway Crew. On Joe's motion and John's second, the SB approved the request.

Cathy also discussed the establishment of a gift account that would allow Shelburne, Buckland, and Ashfield residents to make contributions for the benefit of the Senior Center. The funds would flow through Shelburne's books and expenditures would be approved in the bi-weekly warrants. After discussion, the Selectboard indicated a willingness to consider such a proposal, which Cathy will prepare and present. We also discussed briefly the unused space at BSE and its possible use as a new home for the Senior Center. We have signed a 1-year lease at our current location and any move would take more than a year to accomplish.

7:30 pm Chief Steve Walker presented the Police Department budget (Bob excused himself from the meeting at this point, asking Joe to take the chair.) Steve is proposing a flat operating budget and the 2½% salary adjustments, but has two special requests. First he would like to add a 3rd full time officer, offset in part by a decrease in the use of Reserve Officers. Steve's reasons include better coverage, more continuity, higher training, and the ability to keep top quality officers. Most of the salary cost would be offset by fewer reserve officers' hours, but benefits would add about \$15,000 to the overall cost.

Steve's second request is for a long overdue upgrade in some key equipment. Part of the equipment, protective vests for example, may be partially offset by grant funds, but other equipment will need to be funded from the Town's budget.

Department Liaison Reports:

The Board then reviewed other budget issues for FY14. Joe reported that Highway needs 2 new road plows, although it can make due this year with 1 replacement. Also the Town needs to start planning for a new 1 ton pick up for plowing intersections and other lighter work that does not require the heavy trucks. The crew has temporarily pulled out of retirement the old '97 gas truck that is very expensive to operate. Mark recently priced a 2007 diesel with 38,000 miles at \$26,000.

Cathy will submit two Senior Center budgets, one that includes some "Friends of the Senior Center" financial support, but also with use constraints, and a second one that is without "Friends" support.

Shelburne Seniors' use of the Center has risen by 20% this past year and so Shelburne's allocation will also rise meaningfully.

The SFABA will likely increase its support request from \$5,000 to \$6,000 - \$6,500. Shelburne and Buckland have not increased their contribution to the SFABA since its inception in the mid 1990s although the SFABA's impact on the Shelburne Falls business community has been significant and the SFABA's costs have risen many-fold.

The Mohawk Trail Regional School System allocation for Shelburne will likely rise significantly (\$71,000), offset moderately by a decline in the Smith School (Northampton) payment (\$25,000).

Bob reported that the Pratt Building Committee has issued an RFQ inviting architects to bid on an overall refurbishment and repair plan. The site visit will be Wednesday, February 13th. To date the building refurbishment drive has raised about \$150,000 of a \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 goal. Architectural fees may be in the \$ 60,000 to \$70,000 range. The town has committee \$20,000 from Stabilization for the roof.

Highland Village: Current CBDG grants are redoing the sidewalks and parking areas; hopefully future grants will address the Building Envelope needs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cowell Gymnasium RE: Mold Remediation Work – Joe continues to work with Robert Melton at Indoor Air Technologies to resolve the wiring/conduit damage resulting from IAT's mold remediation work. The Town has held back \$2,000 from the final payment, pending review by the electrical inspector and any necessary repairs.

Peter von Aud of Covnio Environmental has reduced his price for the mold remediation inspection from \$1,800 to \$1,440. Joe has recently discovered a closet in the south east corner of the Cowell underneath the stairway that is ripe with mold. It will have to be scrubbed and cleaned. Joe is requesting a price.

Cowell Gymnasium Floor: Joe continues to explore alternatives for redoing the gym floor. The last time it received a full sanding, cleaning may have been in 1978. If so, it is in excellent condition. Work to redo the floor will take 10 days to 2 weeks.

Insurance Waiver: John had expressed skepticism that volunteers would sign an insurance waiver form that included a hold harmless provision to the town; Joe will explore deleting this paragraph.

Glacial Potholes Expansion: Joe reported that he had an excellent meeting with Peggy Sloan at FRCOG; his next step is to meet with National Heritage to determine appropriate steps vis-a-vie the Butterflies and the Tree. He hopes for assistance from Conservation Commission member, Tom Miner and Cindy Boettner of Open Space. Bob suggested Joe also contact GCC, which has a good Environmental Department, and possibly UMass.

Emergency Centers: John noted that EMD Chris Myers is working on adding two dedicated Verizon telephone lines (see STM Warrant) and an agreement from Fellowship Hall for use as a staging center.

Cowell Gym Maintenance: Following on earlier discussions, Joe brought forward a motion to hire George Sinistore to clean the Cowell and to do snow shoveling and lawn moving for up to 10 hours / week at a rate of \$14.77 / hour. John seconded and the motion passed unanimously. George already cleans the

Shelburne Center Library and is available to clean the Pratt Building if desired. The town has provision for a Building and Grounds Keeper, which could be a 16 – 18 / week job.

NEW BUSINESS:

Special Town Meeting (STM):

The Board reviewed the Warrant and approved five of the six articles for the STM as follows:

Article 1 - \$ 6,881 paid to Verizon regarding pole and wire tax suit;

Article 2 - \$ 1,775 allocated to Planning Board for 120 additional clerical hours in FY 13;

Article 3 - \$ 300 to Emergency Management to install 2 additional telephone lives at the EMC;

Article 4 - Funding for two special elections for the Senate seat, (subsequently set at \$2,500);

Article 5 - \$5,000 for new voting booths to comply with State regulations; given the large number of increases already pressing on the FY 14 budget, the SB decided to defer this request until the regular Town Meeting in May;

Article 6 - Transfer the balance of free cash (subsequently determined to be \$113,574 to Stabilization.

Street Venders: Joe is scheduled to meet with Kevin Fox and Mary Vilbon to propose a common street vender bylaw.

ZBA Member appointments: Bob presented an email request he has received from ZBA to appoint two new members and one alternate member. The SB is considering candidates for several town positions including School Committee, Finance Committee, and Sewer Committee and wants to evaluate which candidates will fit best in which positions. Also the Selectboard has a long-standing policy of first interviewing candidates, asking about their experience, time commitment and any potential conflicts before finalizing appointments. The candidate for an Alternate on the ZBA has met with the Board in the recent past and so on a motion by John, seconded by Joe, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Judy Truesdell to the Alternate position.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: Regarding the Pot Holes discussion, Jeff Boettner (Cindy's spouse) is reportedly an expert entomologist and might be able to help on the butterflies.

ADJOURNMENT: Joe presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. John seconded the motion.

John Payne
Clerk pro tempore