

Call to order: Chairman, Manners called the meeting to order. Other members present: John Payne. Joe Judd was absent.

Media present: None

Appointments:

3:00 p.m. Desiree Joy, Retirement Specialist from Nationwide Retirement Solutions – (Bob Taylor, Treasurer was also present) Desiree was invited to attend a meeting of the Select Board to present Nationwide's OBRA Plan (an alternative to social security). For the past two years, the town's auditor Hibour and Haynes has recommended that the town transition all part-time and seasonal employees to a Massachusetts Deferred Compensation SMART Plan. Earlier in the year, members of the Board met with a representative from Great West Annuity Insurance Company who made a similar presentation.

Desiree explained that changes enacted by U.S. Congress in 1991 prohibit part-time, seasonal, or temporary governmental employees from receiving social security benefits. Employees are now required to participate in a Massachusetts Deferred Compensation SMART Plan.

By transitioning all of the eligible employees by December 31st, the Town would realize a significant savings. On average, the town has contributed approximately \$13,000 annually in social security payments for employees who are technically not eligible to receive the benefit.

Under the OBRA Plan, employees must contribute at least 7.5% of their total compensation. The Town would deduct the required contribution from the employee's gross compensation bi-monthly. Contributions to the Plan are placed in a fixed interest account managed by Nationwide; the current rate of interest paid on one's earning is 3.5%.

While members of the Board understand that changes are in order, they are mildly concerned about the impact on one's salary. John wondered whether the town should consider offsetting the employees 7.5% contribution by offering a match the first year. The action would require town meeting's authorization.

Desiree explained that she would hold an informational series for affected employees and she would schedule appointments for those individual who had specific concerns. She is also available in Greenfield on the first Tuesday of each month from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. if employees require further assistance.

Given the instability of the social security system, Desiree pointed out that ineligible employees who have been paying into social security while employed by the town, may be surprised to find that their benefits are denied once they are ready to collect. With the OBRA Plan, employees earn interest on their pre-taxed contributions and they can withdraw the money at any time.

The Board will make their decision at their next meeting on December 3rd.

Memorial Hall Association RE: Request to Use Meeting Room on December 2, 2012 @ 2:00 p.m. for a Benefit Concert Reception – John presented a motion to approve Memorial Hall Association’s request providing the group cleans the room after using it and providing that there is adequate adult supervision. Bob seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Vote to Support Community Innovation Challenge Grant for Cooperative Public Health Services – Acting on a request made by the Board of Health, John presented a motion to support the F.R.C.O.G.’s Community Innovation Challenge Grant for Cooperative Public Health Services. If successfully funded, the Shelburne Board of Health will participate in the Public Health Nursing program. Bob seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Open Space Request for \$380 in Postage Funds – As part of the Open Space Committee’s efforts to update the Open Space and recreation Plan, they will send out a town-wide survey to all residents. The estimated cost for said mailing is \$379. The Committee has received a donation for the envelopes, the Town Clerk will print the labels, and the F.R.C.O.G. will provide the printing. In the absence of a budget, the Committee needs funding to cover the cost of postage. Following a brief discussion, John presented a motion authorizing the Open Space Committee to expend up to \$400 in funds from the Selectmen’s Expense Account to pay for postage costs associated with their bulk mailing. Bob seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Adjournment: John presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 p.m. Bob seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Mosher

Town Administrator