

Call to Order: Chairman Robert Manners called the Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Other members present: Joe Judd and John Payne.

The Finance Committee (including John Rees, Leo Ojala, Charlie Cohen and prospective member Tamarak Hana) joined the meeting for the budget presentations.

Acceptance of Minutes: Joe moved and John seconded a motion to accept the minutes of February 11th and February 13. The motion passed unanimously.

Noteworthy News:

The Special Town Meeting will be March 11th, starting at 6:30 pm. The regular Select Board meeting will follow at the conclusion of the Special Town Meeting.

Because town elections have been moved forward to April 30th to coincide with the Primary for U.S. Senate seat vacated by John Kerry. Thus nomination papers for town committees are due Wednesday, March 13th. The 6-week lead-time is necessary for the town clerk to prepare the town ballot, receive approval, program the election machine, and complete other election preparation work.

Bob and Joe attended the Massachusetts Commonwealth Cultural awards ceremony at the Great Hall of Flags in Boston last week along with about 15 other residents from the Shelburne area. Shelburne was recognized as a unique cultural area for its unusual blend of artists, studios, theater and cultural attractions, set against the backdrop of a beautiful, well preserved New England village, open farm lands and large, contiguous forests.

Department Reports:

Highway: Joe - Highway continues to manage the winter storms and keep up with the rest of its work.

SFABA: Joe is working with Mary Vilbon and Kevin Fox to develop a proper protocol for approving and overseeing any movies that might be filmed in the village.

Police: John – no report.

Town Hall: Bob is working with members of Town Hall to quantify a capital request for computer equipment and software, which will bring the departments to a new level of computing capability.

Pratt Memorial Building: The committee continues to work on grant funding opportunities to finance the roof and related building refurbishment projects.

Appointments:

7:30 pm Bev Neeley, Town Clerk, presented her budget requests. With one less election in 2013, Bev is requesting \$2,100 less in election expenses; the remainder of her budget followed guidelines.

Bev is requesting two capital items. Our voting machine is now 16 years old, nearing the end of its useful life and parts are hard to find. Bev expects the State to approve a new type of voting tabulator with touch screen and wireless capability. Manufactured by ES & S of Omaha, Nebraska, the machine costs

approximately \$7,000. Bev said that we could limp along with the present machine for another year if necessary.

Bev's second capital request is for 5 four-person voting cubes to replace the Town's current rickety plywood booths. Based on our voting population, we do not have enough booths and the ones we have are starting to fall apart. One collapsed on a voter during the last election. The new booths each accommodate 4 individuals (in privacy) and would cost \$765 per booth. Bev would like five of them at a total cost of \$3,825. If necessary she could get by with 2 or 3 new booths this year deferring the remaining ones until next year.

The Finance Committee asked about transferring town voting to the Buckland – Shelburne Elementary School but Bev indicates that change would severely hamper the voting process because all her records are here in town hall. She needs the records quickly available during voting to assist individuals who are eligible to vote but for some reason may not be listed in the large voting record books.

Nomination Papers: To date no nomination papers have been taken out for the following elected positions: Constable, Moderator, Planning Board, Recreation Committee, and School Board. Bev noted that newly elected officials take office as soon as they are sworn in.

7:45 pm Cathy Buntin, Executive Director, Senior Center, presented a total budget of \$208,000 divided into two scenarios - one showing Friends of the COA with \$4,590 in expense support and \$6,050 in Programming support, and a second showing only the \$6,050 in Programming support. Without the Friends' \$4,590 in expense support, the three towns' budget allocation is \$145,786 an increase of about \$3,000 from last year. However, Shelburne's portion of the budget increases about \$8,500 due to more and more frequent usage by Shelburne seniors while Ashfield and Buckland's contributions increase only nominally. (Historic information is adjusted to reflect the current 3-town structure.) Members discussed the benefit of the \$4, 590 in Friends support verses the flexibility of encouraging the Friends to direct their support elsewhere.

Capital Needs: Members identified certain other town capital needs. Last year the town allocated \$50,000 for refurbishing and repairs needs at the Pratt Memorial Library building. The Pratt and the Arms Library are in the middle of a major fund raising campaign targeting a total of over \$650,000. Shelburne should consider continuing to add to the roof capital account, perhaps at the \$20,000 level of earlier years.

Joe noted that the school roof repairs allocated last year have been completed under budget. A discussion ensued about the over-capacity at different schools and the benefits of using that excess space for town or private business needs. Legal constraints have frustrated such ideas to date.

The MHRS district budget currently includes about a \$71,000 increase for Shelburne, although some reports suggest that amount may increase due to certain open issues. Bob reported that although Shelburne will no longer have a Smith School cost, the Tech School budget is likely to increase due to higher enrollment and rising costs.

The SFABA is requesting an increase in Shelburne's annual contribution from \$5,000 to \$7,000.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cowell Gymnasium RE: Mold Remediation Work – Joe continues to work with Robert Melton at Indoor Air Technologies to resolve the wiring loose ends from IAT’s mold scrubbing.

Peter von Aud at Covnio Environmental will perform its mold inspection tomorrow and Joe hopes to receive a favorable report by the next meeting. He has made arrangements to have the closet in the south-east corner of the Cowell underneath the stairway that is ripe with mold scrubbed and cleaned.

At the ground level, the one remaining issue is that water may be seeping in from the south-east corner suggesting that the excavator did not properly seal the foundation. Joe is pursuing with Charlie Dean.

Cowell Gymnasium Floor: Joe continues to explore alternatives for redoing the gym floor and expects additional bids this week. Joe surfaced the idea of adding the Arms colors (red and white) to some of the floor markings, although the outside boundary lines would remain black.

Glacial Potholes Expansion: Nothing new to report.

Arms Library Cleaning: Joe will check with Laurie Wheeler on the possibility of asking George Sinistore, who is already cleaning the Cowell, to clean the Arms too.

Street Permits: Joe has been working with Bob Dean of the Buckland Select Board and Mary Vilbon of the SFABA to standardize permits on both sides of the river for individuals who wish to perform, display wares, take opinion polls or other activities that would occupy sidewalk space. Buckland has a bylaw; Shelburne does not. Two concerns for Shelburne are that its sidewalks are quite narrow and business owners do not want others selling wares or products in front of their storefronts. John encouraged the Board to not generate more new regulations and rules, adding to the red tape citizens already face in our daily lives. Joe and Bob expressed concern that we have proper rules in place before a problem surfaces.

Transfer Station: Joe reported that after several discussions Jan Ameen, he is persuaded that Shelburne’s transfer station partnership with Charlemont is more beneficial financially to our town than trying to establish and maintain our own transfer facility.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim Stacy has requested a 6-month leave of absence to do some personal traveling; Joe Giard is prepared to manage the Transfer Station in Jim’s absence. Joe Judd is satisfied that Joe Giard can handle the Transfer Station duties in Jim’s absence.

State of the Town Forum: Members discussed the possibility of hosting a discussion forum for townspeople to have an advanced review of the proposed budget, to discuss projects and initiatives around town and to offer suggestions to the Board of priorities for the next year. The forum could be held at the Grange in Shelburne Center, at Town Hall or other convenient locations. The gathering might also be an opportunity for those running for elected office to offer their suggestions and ideas. Possible dates could be Friday evenings, April 19th or April 26th.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: Doug Finn spoke regarding the sidewalk usage discussion that Shelburne's sidewalks are quite narrow and that particularly when people start to visit at some of the sidewalk tables, passage along the sidewalk becomes congested and difficult.

ADJOURNMENT: Joe presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. John seconded the motion.

John Payne
Clerk pro tempore