

**Call to Order:** Following the Special Town Meeting, Chairman Robert Manners called the SelectBoard's meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Other members present: Joe Judd and John Payne. After a brief recess for technical reasons, the meeting resumed at 7:12 pm

The Finance Committee (including John Rees, Leo Ojala, and recently appointed Tamarack Hanna joined the meeting for the budget presentations.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** John moved and Joe seconded a motion to accept the minutes of February 25, 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

**Noteworthy News:**

Bob extended condolences to the family of Jack Shea on his passing Friday evening. Jack was a long time member of the Shelburne community acting as constable, special police, and in various capacities at Arms Academy.

At the request of the town clerk, Bob reminded all dog owners that all dogs 6 months and older must be registered with the town clerk annually by March 31<sup>st</sup> to avoid a late fee. Documentation includes a current rabies certificate and a spay/neuter certificate (new this year.) The new dog officer is quite energetic and dog owners who fail to register their dogs on time should expect active enforcement.

Nomination papers for all elected positions to be filled at the April 30<sup>th</sup> election are due back at the clerk's office this Wednesday, March 13, 2013. Individuals have taken out papers for all open positions except for Sewer Commission.

**Department Reports:** None

**Appointments:**

**7:15 pm Cemetery Commission:** Joe introduced the new recording secretary Nancy Hammond (Chairman Lesley Chadwick was available in the audience for questions) and noted that the newly formed Cemetery Commissions represents the culmination of many months of work to develop a committee to supervise and standardize the operation of the Hill Cemetery, sole town-owned cemetery. The other cemeteries in town are owned by different church denominations.

Nancy presented a mission statement, a set of bylaws and a proposed budget for 2014. The two key component of the \$ 2,400 budget are \$1,760 for lawn mowing and \$640 for grave marker repairs and straightening. Nancy noted that there is much more work to be done on grave marker repairs but the Commission hope to secure volunteers for the majority of the work.

**7:30 pm Highway Department - Mark Shippee:** The overall highway budget request is down about \$10,000 from last year's \$300,000 reflecting principally lower personnel costs due to the retirement of the long-time superintendent and the hiring of replacement personal that start at lower salary levels.

The snow and ice budget continues at last year's \$78,000 level although the moderate winter to date means last year's actual expenses could be as much as \$20,000 under budget.

Hiring George Sinistore to clean the Cowell and Arms Library may lower the Building & Grounds expense for the upcoming year by about \$2,000, although the budget is currently straight lined at \$14,162.

Highway Capital requests: Mark would like to purchase a new plow at a cost of \$7,000 to replace one that is beyond repair. He will be able to reuse the existing under carriage frame and mount.

The second request is for a “newer” 1 ton pick up for plowing intersections and similar light duty work. The existing truck is a '97 gas vehicle with significant corrosion and in need of new tires. While the department can limp along for another year if necessary, the '97 is clearly on its last legs. Mark recently priced a suitable diesel replacement at \$34,000.

Mark also noted that the town should consider replacing one of its large trucks within the next year or two. Currently the fleet consists of a 2003 and three 2001s. Although we have brought used trucks the last few times, Mark would greatly prefer a new one this time. He estimates the cost at \$150,000, a significant portion of which could be paid for from Chapter 90 funds, maybe spread over a 3 – 5 year lease-to-own contract.

**8:00 pm Arms Library – Laurie Wheeler:** Laurie reported that the Arms library is doing well and finally finished its automation project this past June. The library has two public computers that are in use almost all the time and Laurie has established a sign up schedule to ease congestion. Also WiFi is available even when the library is closed, so one often sees user sitting outside on the library steps. Arms is one of the most actively used libraries in the area. Based on the CW Mars reports, usage at the local libraries from last June to this March is as follows:

Arms Library	16,025	Heath	1,400
Ashfield	13,747	Shelburne Center	9,500
Colrain	12,000	Rowe	2,742

Arm’s proposed budget increases about \$4,000 reflecting two additional hours for the assistant librarian plus a small increase in operating expenses. Shelburne’s contribution would increase only \$400 from \$25,500 to \$25,900. In addition to the formal budget, Arms benefits from about 30 hours a week given by volunteers, trustees and others.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**ZBA Appointment:** Zoning Board Chairman Joe Palmeri had previously emailed the Select Board recommending the appointment of Michael Perry as a full time member of the ZBA. The Select Board meet with Mike Perry, discussed his experience working with zoning boards, his knowledge of issues currently before the board and his long history in business. On a motion by John, seconded by Joe, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mike as a regular member of the ZBA, effective as soon as he is sworn in by the Town Clerk.

**Highway Department RE: Overtime Policy:** Continuing the discussion with the highway department about the change in overtime rules recommended by the auditors, Joe reported that his has received a 3 part proposal to “soften” the negative impact on workers’ overtime compensation from the change.

- Pay a winter differential of \$2.00 – to \$ 3.00 / hr during the winter – (i.e. November through March); Joe estimates the cost of this differential at about \$8,600 if paid at \$3.00 / hr.
- Holidays during the winter would be classified as days work for purposes of calculating when overtime payments start; (i.e. the 40 hour threshold could include the 8 hours of a holiday even though it is not a work day under the state guidelines;) cost estimated at \$3,200;
- Increase the call - in minimum hours from 2 to 3 hours; (thus a person called in for a 30 minute job would receive a minimum of 3 hours pay for that call in ;) no cost estimate.

An energetic discussion ensued with no clear consensus and the Board agreed to revisit the issue as soon as it completes the budget discussions.

**Cowell Gymnasium RE: Mold Remediation Work** – Joe reported that Covino completed its air quality and mold remediation testing last week and the building past with flying colors. Even the mold infested closet in the south east corner under the stairs past. Joe is checking on the progress on the electrical repairs.

**Cowell Gymnasium Floor:** Joe has received 3 quotes for redoing the floor ranging from \$2,200 to \$10,000. The \$10,000 quote involves significantly more work than the \$2,200 quote and Joe will be discussing the proposals with the contractors and others in order to present the Board with a clear recommendation.

**Glacial Potholes Expansion:** Nothing new to report.

**Street Vender Permitting:** Nothing new to report.

**Town Forum:** The Board agreed to sponsor a town forum on April 19<sup>th</sup> at Fellowship Hall in Shelburne Center at 7:00 pm to give a “State of the Town” report, to summarize the budget and to answer citizen’s questions about town government.

**Wired West:** Wired West has submitted a new draft letter for the town to express interest in WW’s services but not formally committing to buy the services until we see a full pricing and services package. Members will study the letter with the intent of responding at the next SB meeting.

**Arms Library Cleaning:** After discussion, Joe made a motion, seconded by John, to hire George Sinistore to clean the Arms Library for 2 hours every week at a rate of \$ 14.76 / hour. The motion passed unanimously. Discussion ensued about whether or not these additional jobs would bring George close to the 20 hour / week threshold and whether or not the Board should consider providing for benefits in the 2014 budget. George may already be receiving necessary benefits and not need to be added to the town package. Joe will discuss and report back.

**Buildings & Grounds Position:** Although the town has a Buildings & Grounds position, which George might fill, the Board decided to monitor progress and consider any change at a later date.

**Cabot Risk Quote:** Joe reported that the town’s existing insurance already includes \$10,000 in benefits for individuals injured while performing volunteer work for the town. This coverage could be increase to \$25,000 at a cost of an additional \$300 (or maybe \$400) premium. Joe will seek a formal proposal from Cabot to present to the Board.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Eagle Elevator Co.:** With FRCOG’s help, the town has received a bid for a one year elevator maintenance contract from Eagle Elevator. The new contract is a savings over the existing one. On a motion by John, seconded by Joe, the Board unanimous agreed to hire Eagle Elevator for one year commencing July 1, 2013.

**Finance Committee Appointment:** Bob reported that Moderator Jim Stacy has appointed Tamarack Hanna of 25 Mechanic Street to the Finance Committee.

**Hampshire Solar Program:** Bob reported that Shelburne has received a proposal to join the Hampshire Solar Program at an estimated electricity savings of 21%. The proposed contract appears to be for 20 years, which may be too long a period for the town, and would certainly required a Town Meeting vote. The Board decided to invite Hampshire Solar executives to a SB meeting to present their proposal.

**Charlemont Academy Theater Use:** As it has done in the past, Charlemont Academy requested use of Memorial Hall on May 16<sup>th</sup> for a theater production. Preparation and clean up day would be March 28<sup>th</sup>. Joe presented a motion to approve Charlemont’s request subject to the usual requirement that adults provide necessary supervision and that the Hall and the bathrooms be cleaned up afterwards. John seconded the motion, which past unanimous.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Margaret Willis of Charlemont has written to the Select Boards of the Mohawk area schools and several other individuals to address the idea of a “9 - town talk on the schools” and suggested bring back Stan Gawle to do a pitchfork campaign.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Joe presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. John seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

John Payne  
Clerk pro tempore