

SELECTMEN'S RECORD

March 5, 2018

ATTENDANCE AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Small Meeting Room at the Library by Chairman John Hickey. Also present were: Selectmen Nancy Hyde, Selectmen Michael Walsh, Town Administrator Michael Jaillet and Town Counsel Tom McCusker. Christine McCarthy record the minutes.

J. Hickey waived the Pledge of Allegiance.

J. Hickey asked if anyone wishes to record the meeting and granted permission to Westwood Media Center to record.

SCHEDULED ACTION

Aid to the Elderly Committee – Request for Matching Funds

The Town established the Aid to the Elderly Account in 1999. The Fund is used to assist elderly residents in Westwood with paying their real estate tax bills. Each year, the Fund, overseen by the Aid to the Elderly Committee, provides assistance to qualified senior residents by paying a portion of their annual tax bill. This has helped our most vulnerable residents with remaining in their homes and the community they love.

The typical recipient is 88 years old, has lived in Westwood for over 60 years, and receives a payment of \$800-1,500 toward their property tax. The recipients are very appreciative of the Town's assistance, indicating the monetary help is so important, but also greatly value the support of the Town. Most of these residents live in modest capes and ranches with values that have risen by more than 20% in recent years because of their value as a building lot.

For many years, the Town was only allowed to collect donations for the fund. The 2016 Annual Town Meeting proposed a Home Rule change (which was subsequently approved by the State) to allow Town funds to also be appropriated from the General Fund. All funds collected or appropriated are distributed – there are no overhead or administrative costs charged to the account.

The Aid to the Elderly Committee is asking the Board of Selectmen to match the donations collected. As the Fund currently has approximately \$50,000 of donated funds, the Committee respectfully requests a match of \$50,000 from the Board of Selectmen reserve account. Approving this match at this meeting will allow the payments to be processed to the 4th quarter final FY18 tax bills.

N. Hyde arrived at 6:36pm.

J. Hickey asked if the Town could tie a percentage of the hotel and meals tax to the Aid to the Elderly annually to create a funding source. P. Dukeman answered that

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going forward that could be done, but this year, due to timing, the money should be taken from the Selectmen Reserve Account so it can be applied to the 4th quarter tax bill due in May.

J. Hickey asked if the question could be brought to the May 2018 Town Meeting to be voted on and begin in FY19. P. Dukeman answered yes.

M. Walsh asked to confirm that residents never see a check; the money comes directly off their tax bill. P. Dukeman answered yes; the money is applied directly to the resident's tax bill.

The donated funds and match of \$50,000 will allow for each of the 42 approved applicants to receive a payment of \$2,500.

N. Hyde moved approve the request to match \$50,000 from the Board of Selectmen Reserve account to the Aid to the Elderly. M. Walsh seconded. Unanimous vote: 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Review Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article Presentation to Finance and Warrant Commission

Removal of Articles

The Department of Local Services (DLS) has issued an extension for the review and implementation of PEG Access Accounting articles. This means the Town has more time to work with Westwood Media Center on a new contract without the time constraints of Town Meeting.

N. Hyde asked if there was any indication the Legislature may adopt how we handle PEG Access, M. Jaillet responded yes, there is. N. Hyde also asked if there was any help that our legislators could provide? M. Jaillet answered yes.

The Board voted to remove this article so the Town Administrator, IT Director and Finance Director can determine a new drafted contract with Westwood Media Center for the Selectmen to consider.

M. Walsh moved to approve the request to remove the articles pertaining to the Department of Local Services (DLS) issuing an extension for the review and implementation of PEG Access Accounting articles. N. Hyde seconded. Unanimous vote: 3-0.

New Article to be added to Warrant

The modification to the development agreement is that the Selectmen will be able to keep \$489,000 of the remaining \$589,000 building permit fees and all of the phase 2

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and beyond building fees paid (Marriott and Brigham and anticipated Pulte Condos which was just approved) and future facilities. The purpose will be to appropriate \$1 million dollars to be set aside in an account for use, by vote of the Selectmen, to advance the creation of affordable units (7 units is the goal). The balance of \$511,000 will be appropriated from Free Cash. Michael Jaillet has spoken with Lifeworks at SNARC and Lifeworks is looking for funding and a location (was contemplating Medfield) for four mentally handicapped adult males, so the timing is perfect for him to work with Westwood instead to develop 4 or 5 of the 7 units.

M. Walsh moved that a miscellaneous article be used entitled Affordable Housing Appropriation. N. Hyde seconded. Unanimous vote: 3-0.

Review of Article Language

The article for the appropriation for a comprehensive study for the security needs of municipal and school building has been drafted. Michael Jaillet has engaged the expertise of a resident who currently provides assessment of security needs for hospitals and is coordinating meetings with three possible consultants, the Police and Fire Chiefs, Town Administrator and school representatives. The objective of the meeting is to get a better idea of the scope of services we are looking for and the cost estimate is still being worked out with the idea that the Town will want to eventually assess all of its facilities (7 schools and 9 municipal buildings – including recreation)

OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD

J. Hickey asked if there was any other business that may properly come before the board?

PUBLIC AND PRESS

J. Hickey asked if there were any questions from the public or press

NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned into the Finance and Warrant Commission Public Hearing at 6:54 p.m.

N. Hyde moved to adjourn into the Finance and Warrant Commission Public Hearing. M. Walsh seconded. Unanimous vote 3-0.

N. Hyde aye. M. Walsh aye. J. Hickey aye.

The Board of Selectmen's Meeting next meeting will be on Monday, March, 19, 2018 at 7:30pm in the EOC/Training Room at the Police Station.

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Initial after reviewed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Jaillet". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

M. Jaillet
Town Administrator

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Board of Selectmen
3/5/2018 Small Meeting Room
Regular Meeting

SCHEDULED ACTION

- Aid to the Elderly and Disabled Tax Fund (PDF)
- Aid to the Elderly BOS 3.5.18.pdf (PDF)

OLD BUSINESS

- 2018 Annual Town Meeting Warrant List 030518 (PDF)
- Legislative Update February, 2018 - Mass Access (PDF)
- Affordable Housing Article - Background Info (PDF)
- 50 ft Light Pole - View from Birds Eye over High School (PDF)
- 50 Ft Light Pole - Birds Eye View over Thatcher Street (PDF)
- Glare Impact Slide (PDF)
- Finance and Warrant Commission March Hearing Handout BOS Version 030518.docx (PDF)