

Town Council Meeting Minutes 3/13/2012

**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
STANDISH, MAINE
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012
STANDISH MUNICIPAL CENTER
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Olson and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Councilors present: Olson, Pomerleau, Sargent, Stack and Thompson.
Councilors Blanck and Spencer were excused.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (S)

Moved by Stack seconded by Sargent and voted to approve the minutes from the February 14th and 28th meetings, the minutes were accepted as presented by unanimous consent.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Olson explained that we received a communication from the Cumberland County Development Program about regarding the renewal of the Town's affiliation with that program.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Gordon Billington announced that the Public Works Department will be installing the docks at the boat launch this week. In addition, many residents are registering their boats. He noted that the town's street sweeping process would start after April 15 when the threat of winter storms has past. The recycling compactor at the Transfer Station has been out of service since December. The cylinder that was to be used in the repair is defective, this cylinder will be refurbished, until its up and running recyclables will should be placed in the sliver bullets. He explained that the town is thinning the trees at Johnson and Memorial Fields. Our forester will also mark trees on our lot at the end of Mountain View Road. This should be a revenue generator for the Town.

Departmental Report--Bud Benson of the Planning Department present a new program that's available on the Town's web site. The program runs on Google Earth it provides the parcel and zoning data for the entire town.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Town Manager Gordon Billington presented an overview of the FY 2013 Municipal Budget as received by the Town Council. He noted the budget timeline and that the Town's financial condition was sound as of the closeout of last year's books. Last year's audit indicates that the Assessors valuation increased slightly, however, it is still below the states 100% value. He noted it is importation for the values to stay below the 100% mark, to prevent the state from coming in and resetting the values. He said that in the FY 2013 budget expect non-tax revenues to be similar to 2012, continue with the four-day work week, 2.5% COLA to employees and capital spending to replace ageing equipment and repair roads. He showed a three-year graph comparison of the budget which highlighted the slight increases in this years proposed budget, then finished by noting the upcoming meeting dates. A paper copy of the PowerPoint presentation is filed with these minutes.

Chair Olson stated that the budget meetings would be televised.

Council Stack questioned the unassigned fund balance which previously was known as undesignated reserve. He said that these funds are slightly different. He said that if we were still using the previous method the amount would be different.

Finance Director, Scott Gesualdi said that the amounts would be different; however, he did not have that information with him tonight. He noted that the auditor did a reconciliation, but it was not as much as the \$686,000. These changes are all due to GASB 54, the current governmental accounting standards.

Councilor Stack said that he understands that we have to go to these standards, but we're not talking apples to apples.

Scott Gesualdi explained that everything that was in the undesignated balance got parceled out to five different categories.

Councilor Pomerleau said that we're presenting a \$10.86 mil rate in this budget. He said that's one of the lowest mil rates in Maine. He said that the school hasn't come in yet so it may change some, we've held the mil rate, the Town Manager and department heads have done a great job keeping the rate down.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Olson noted that on March 7 the Sebago Lake Village Design Committee met, in addition, their meetings will now be broadcast.

Chair Olson announced that at the March 19 Economic Development Committee meeting has been cancelled due to the Budget Review meeting.

Chair Olson said that the Finance Committee met on Monday and they continue to monitor the Town's finances.

Councilor Pomerleau said that the Capital Improvement Committee met to open the bids related to items on tonight's agenda. He noted that the Public Works Department budget is fine due to the mild winter.

Councilor Pomerleau explained that the Public Safety has met, he noted that this year EMS/Fire Department will hold an awards ceremony in late April rather than their annual banquet.

Councilor Sargent announced that the Appointments Committee is looking for persons interested in serving on the Budget Committee. For more information, people can call Mary Chapman.

Councilor Stack said that the Route 113 Corridor Committee testified on a \$21 million bond for the restoration of the rail from South Windham to Fryeburg. As a result of that, the joint Legislative Appropriations/Financial Affairs Committees have worked on that bill; and two other bills, combining the three rail efforts into one bill. The Route 113 Corridor Committee is pursuing and asking for the support of the Committee to pass out LD 851 to referendum in the fall.

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no consent items on the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no unfinished business on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

16-12 Award Bid and Authorize Contract for Street Sweeping [Pomerleau]

Councilor Pomerleau noted that six vendors bid on this process, it is a three year bid, the bids ranged from \$90 per hour to \$120. He explained that there were two bids that came in at \$90 per hour. The Public Works Director visited both of those vendors and decided that Complete Sweeping of Dayton, Maine would be the best bang for our buck. Councilor Pomerleau recalled that the numbers in the last contract were higher.

VOTE: 5 Yeas

17-12 Award Bid and Authorize Contract for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Fill Station/Containment System [Pomerleau]

Councilor Pomerleau said that there were three vendors that submitted bids, however one was late and not considered. We took low bid, he said that he's glad we went out to bid, because the bid process works.

VOTE: 5 Yeas

18-12 Dissolve Standish Beach Committee [Olson]

Councilor Thompson said that everyone spent many hours working on this project. She said that Wayne Newbegin did a lot of corresponding with the Water District when the other members could not due to their work schedule. She noted that members of the Boating Club also attended their meetings.

Chair Olson said that we appreciate the work of this group.

William Hill a resident of Standish and a member of the Sebago Boating Club asked that when appointing the next committee they consider possibly including a member of the boating club in that new committee.

Chair Olson said that will be duly noted.

Councilor Thompson said that one of the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Committee was to include membership from the boating club in the next committee.

Councilor Stack said that we should have had a signed MOU from the Water District by now. He said that without that signed MOU we're premature in disbanding the committee. He said that he would recommend that we table this order until we receive the signed MOU from the Water District.

Chair Olson said that the recommendation of the committee had moved forward and the MOU has been signed by the Town. She said that at this point it would come down to negotiating the MOU which we've already processed. She said that we may call on these individuals if we need assistance, but it would not prevent us from going forward with this or going to the group if things slowed down.

Moved by Stack seconded by Sargent and voted to table this item until the MOU is countersigned by the Water District.
(Unanimous)

19-12 Resolution Establishing June 21st, 22nd, and 23rd as the Standish Summer Spectacular Weekend [Town Council]

Linda Brooks and William Tracy presented highlights of this year's Summer Spectacular's events to the Council. Mr. Tracy explained that this year's theme is Building Community. This year they hope to support three organizations in town, the Steep Falls Village Improvements Society, Rippling Waters Farm and the Johnson Field Playground Committee. He said there will be various fundraisers and raffles; the proceeds will be divided evenly between those three organizations. He said that starting Thursday at the Boat Launch there will be a 'Taste of Maine' food sampling station, the Saco River Jazz Ensemble, and a dance floor. There will be a rain location for this and all events for the Spectacular. Linda Brooks explained that proceeds for "Taste of Maine" event will go to the Johnson Field Playground project. The fundraising events in each area will be earmarked for that area. In future years, new themes and recipients for the fundraising efforts will be selected. She went on to say that they would take suggestions for entities to be the recipients of the fundraisers.

Councilor Sargent questioned the use of the boat launch and if fisherman would be affected?

Linda Brooks explained that they would make every effort to notify the users of the launch. They plan to use the lighted notice sign for a week in advance, hand out notices at the boat launch and other efforts to alert boat launch users.

VOTE: 5 Years

20-12 Town of Standish, Maine Orders of the Town Council Authorizing issue of \$66,000 Principal Amount of General Obligation Bonds of the Town [Olson]

Moved by Pomerleau seconded by Sargent and voted to dispense with the Clerk's reading of the order. (Unanimous)

Chair Olson said that the Finance Director is here to answer any questions. The Capital Improvements Chair found an extraordinary bargain, and this will extend the life of quite a bit of equipment.

Scott Gesualdi explained that this is in regards to the decision to purchase the Public Works wheeler. These are the official documents that need to be adopted by the Council; they render a legal opinion that is required by the bank.

Councilor Pomerleau explained that \$190,000 was put in this year's budget for a wheeler, however, due to budgetary constraints it was moved into next year's budget. He went on to say that he happened to stop at a dealership where a wheeler had come in for a trade. It had the plow gear, sander, and approximately 50k miles on it. Roger Mosley took a look at the truck, it was found that it was very close to what the department was looking for. Councilor Pomerleau said that we believe that we can save about \$130,000 by buying this truck. It was from Livermore Falls, they traded it because their area is very hilly and the truck didn't have the power that they needed for the terrain. He explained that he did some comparison shopping and found a truck the same year with 200,000 miles was selling for more money. He said that we couldn't wait until June to buy the truck, he said that he brought the information to the Council at a Special Meeting and it was thought that it was a good buy for the Town. He explained that this truck will help eliminate one on the hourly plowing contracts.

VOTE: 5 Years

21-12 Adopt New Fund Balance Policy [Olson]

Moved by Pomerleau seconded by Sargent and voted to dispense with the Clerk's reading of the order. (Unanimous)

Chair Olson said that due to the changes in the Governmental Accounting Standards our current policy needs to be reworded to reflect the change. Basically, what the policy does is set aside two and a half months worth budget funds for a rainy day.

Finance Director Scott Gesualdi explained that as discussed earlier the new procedures change the classification of fund balance from three to five categories. He noted that undesignated is now called unassigned. They have taken some items out of undesignated fund balance and reclassified them so our current policy is out dated. He noted that it needed to be updated to be in compliance with GASB 54.

Councilor Stack said that he was sorry that he didn't notice this in the meeting yesterday, he was concerned with the with the percentage that is used to determine the unassigned fund balance. He now you're shooting for an unassigned fund balance and you're using the same percentage that you would have for the undesignated reserve. He said that this needs to be reviewed.

Scott Gesualdi said that it can be discussed in the Finance Committee.

Chair Olson said that the policy is looking to the budget to create the two and a half months of appropriations. She said that everything else about the policy remains the same other than the change in categories.

Councilor Stack asked if come up with the same amount using this percentage.

Scott Gesualdi said that you would come up with the same amount.

Councilor Stack said that that doesn't seem right because the unassigned fund balance is a different amount than what would have been the undesignated reserve balance. He said that we have to look at this again. He said that you will be looking at the appropriations for the year; he said that it was his opinion that the 20.83% was high.

Chair Olson said that the treatment is standard within the Governmental Accounting because the fact the categories have changed is non-spendable assets. She said that it does give a target at which point it was intend so that the unassigned fund balance would not grow too large.

Councilor Stack said that the 20% is the minimum amount not the maximum amount that we're supposed to have in the undesignated reserve. He said that his concern is, is that the unassigned fund balance is substantially less than what is was when we used to call it the undesignated reserve. We use to arrive a the undesignated reserve by multiplying by 20.83%.

Scott Gesualdi said that the policy gives us the opportunity to look at the target level and change it if need be. The policy also mandates a yearly review of the policy. He said that we're not locked into this. He said that his personal recommendation would be not to go below two-months of funding, which would be 16.67%.

Chair Olson said that it is always pointing at the appropriations level. The policy itself is being reworded to incorporate the new fund names. It will not substantially change the fund balance this will bring it into compliance with GASB 54.

Councilor Sargent said that the way that he understood it was basically the money amount hadn't changed we're just assigning different categories.

Scott Gesualdi said for the most part, the changes are the categories in what fund balance are. Some items that were considered undesignated have now been put into assigned for or committed. So now, the fund balance instead of three parts, there are five parts.

Councilor Sargent said that from what he understands we're still going to have the same amount of money in the reserve account.

Scott Gesualdi said if you go with that same target level.

Chair Olson said that what we have is to do make our policy in compliance with GASB, in light of this policy we could still ask the Finance Director and Town Manager to assess the level and bring recommendations to the Finance Committee. She said this could be reviewed at the next Finance Committee the next meeting, but in meanwhile bring the policy into compliance.

Councilor Stack said that if we pass this its good for a year.

Councilor Pomerleau said that from what he's hearing we need to table this, he said that he's hearing some concerns from Scott.

Scott Gesualdi said that whatever the target level is, the wording needs to be changed, because the wording of the old policy is not correct.

Councilor Pomerleau asked if we don't approve this tonight will it trigger something.

Scott Gesualdi said that we would want it in place by the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Billington said that he would concur with tabling the order. He said that Councilor Stack's assessment is right on.

Moved by Stack seconded by Pomerleau and Voted to table this until the next Council meeting. (Unanimous)

22-12 Authorize Amendments to Personnel Policy [Olson]

Moved by Pomerleau seconded by Stack and voted to dispense with the Clerk's reading of the order. (Unanimous)

Chair Olson explained that at the beginning of the budget process the Personnel Committee meets with employees. This order does recognize a few items that were discussed with the employees, longevity step raises, holiday pay and earned vacation time that can be carried over are the amendments.

VOTE: 5 Yeas

PUBLIC ITEMS

Pam Slattery Thomas of Thomas Road questioned the bid process on dismantling the house that was purchased for the Oak Hill Road connector project. She asked if it had been awarded and will the building be dismantled before the June vote.

Gordon Billington said that the bids that we received were rejected; the building will be used for firefighter training.

Pam Slattery Thomas asked if that will be done before the June vote and she asked that he clarify the bid.

Gordon Billington explained that we ~~received~~ received one bid and a decision was made to allow the Fire Department to use it ~~building~~ for training and then destroy the building. He said that the building was purchased strictly to provide access for the connector road.

Councilor Pomerleau explained that someone wanted \$12,000 to tear it down. Allowing the Fire Department to use it for training and then remove it will cost the town little. He said that the house is coming down one way or another.

Pam Slattery Thomas questioned if it would be torn down if the by-pass wasn't approved.

Chair Olson said that the property was purchased with the idea of removing the building.

Pam Slattery questioned what would happen with the daycare.

Gordon Billington said that the daycare will be moved, and that was approved by a bid process. The purchase price to the bidder was \$800.

Pam Slattery asked the price that the Town paid for the daycare and the Oak Hill Road properties.

Gordon Billington said approximately \$230,000 for Oak Hill Road and \$199,000 for the daycare. These amounts were approved by the voters.

Pam Slattery Thomas asked if she could get a copy of the referendum question.

Chair Olson explained that she could get that information at the Town Clerk's Office.

Paul Thompson asked when the building would be burned and will it be backfilled.

Chair Olson said that once it's burnt down the property will be made safe.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Clerk announced upcoming meetings and explained that nomination papers were available for a number of boards and committees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by seconded Sargent and voted to move into Executive Session as provided under 1 M.R.S.A. 406 (6) (A) for discussion of a personnel matter, in addition the Town Manager will join the Executive Session. (Unanimous)

Moved seconded to arise from the Executive Session. The Council arose from Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. and the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.

Submitted by: _____
Clerk/Secretary

PLEASE NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM. A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS