**Board of Selectmen Amended Meeting Minutes**

**Rhodes building, 9/18/2017, 7:00pm**

**Present:** Selectman Martell, Selectman Pearson, Selectman Ribeiro, Finance Committee members John Trickey & Fred Vanderbeck, Town Clerk-Kathy Martell, Moderator-Dan Robb, Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant-Susannah Carey.

**Open:** Selectman Martell opened at 7:00pm.

**Minutes**

Motion to accept Minutes from 6/21/2017 as amended, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

Motion to accept Minutes from 7/19/2017, seconded by Selectman Martell, unanimously approved.

Motion to accept Minutes from 9/6/17 as amended, seconded by Selectman Martell, unanimously approved.

**META Grant Documents-Town Assessment for Solar**

Documents from Energy Committee to sign by October 1st to proceed with hiring consultant to have assessment done on Solar opportunities in Town. Grant received from DOER for $12,500.00.

Motion to sign META Grant for Energy Committee for Town Assessment for Solar, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

**Fall Town Meeting Warrant-Finalize and Sign with Moderator**

Each article read in its entirety by Selectman Martell.

Article 1: Project figure in article reduced in half so half of work done in Fall and completed in Spring, in order to preserve the money in Capital Stabilization and not use it all.

Motion to accept Article 1, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, Selectman Pearson abstains, motion passes.

Motion to recommend Article 1 by Board of Selectmen, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, Selectman Pearson abstains, motion passes.

Article 2: Cemetery Committee met and needs to use funds. Sale of Lots fund requires Town Meeting approval. Accountant is still working on balancing FY17 figures. Balance to date on latest Expense Report is $400, but Fred Vanderbeck assured the Board that there is actually about $8,200.00.

Motion to accept Article 2, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

Motion to recommend Article 2 by Board of Selectmen, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

Article 3: School Committee to create Regional School District Planning Committee. Note if legal to create new subcommittee of/under the Exploratory Committee that was created initially by Moderator. Confusion because no term limit was set to either committee. Dan will contact counsel directly to discuss further.

Motion to accept Article 3, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

Motion to recommend Article 3 by Board of Selectmen, seconded by Selectman Martell, unanimously approved.

Selectmen asked for additional clarifying information to be added to the warrant after Article 3 and before Article 4 of total budget shortfall and the breakdown of those numbers and where the funds will be allocated (1/3 Town, 1/3 School, 1/3 taxes).

Article 4: Full time police officers salary. Chief Thomann will speak to this article on the floor at Town Meeting as well as John Trickey. Charge that was caught on the expense report. Article 4 and 5 were originally one article, but John Trickey separated into two for further clarification.

Motion to accept Article 4, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

Motion to recommend Article 4 by Board of Selectmen, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

Article 5: Motion to accept Article 5, seconded by Selectman Martell, unanimously approved.

Motion to recommend Article 5 by Board of Selectmen, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

Article 6: Motion to accept Article 6, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

Motion to recommend Article 6 by Board of Selectmen, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

Article 7: Motion to accept Article 7, seconded by Selectman Martell, unanimously approved.

Motion to recommend Article 7 by Board of Selectmen, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

Article 8: Charter School tuition cost article to bring budget up to cover operating costs of the School.

Finance Committee commented that the average household’s bill will increase by ~$100.00. Assessments will go up slightly and tax rate will drop for level funding. Eventually the rate will increase and the new tax rate will be in effect on the February and May tax bills. Chair of School Committee will also be at Fall Town Meeting to speak about article.

Motion to accept Article 8, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

Motion to recommend Article 8 by Board of Selectmen, seconded by Selectman Martell, unanimously approved.

Finance Committee recommends Articles 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

**Public Comment-**Dan Robb noted that our article’s language and Amherst’s should mirror each other, since our town counsel amended this article.

**Liaison Reports**

Highway; Selectman Pearson; Alisa spoke with Rick Adamcek and was never told that article 1 was going to be split to preserve capital stabilization fund, that ½ repairs to be done in Fall 2017 and ½ repairs to be done in Spring 2018; Town has no storm damage like other communities; corrosion inside Library building about $2,500 to repair with a section already replaced, would like BOS and Energy Committee to think of ways to pay for the Propylene Glycol corroding pipes there.

Town Offices; Selectman Pearson; Edna will be out of office on 9/21/17 and has balanced through May; Edna is still finding errors last Collector/Treasurer made; April reconciliation is within $1-2,000 just need to find paperwork. Selectman Pearson asked if RFP could be put on website and it is already.

Fire Department; Selectman Martell; all is fine.

Police Department; Selectman Martell; no problems.

Energy Committee; Selectman Pearson;

Energy Committee would like BOS permission to do a RFP for electrical work in Town Buildings (Rhodes building, Highway Shed, & Library) for lighting/bulbs. Committee viewed a proposal from World Energy MA Save Audit in July/August. Proposal from World Energy ~$30,000.00. Dan Robb commented on work completed 7 years ago. The fixtures were cheap and have since been replaced from that job. LED lighting is far more efficient than the halogen lights in the Rhodes Building. The town would benefit if a local electrician bids this particular job and bid came in for less than $10,000; Requirement to have an RFP for procurement if work done is over $10,000.00. Liability is a concern when anyone is working with ladders, in this case to change the light bulbs. Selectman Martell gathered figures with Edna from last year, paid to Eversource which amounted in $15,995.00 for entire year. Price quoted for materials, sales, labor, etc., was high at $25,899.48 from World Energy; Eversource would pay ~$4k and Town would pay ~$20k.

Motion to permit Energy Committee to solicit bids for re-lamp of town buildings up to $9,999.00, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant will speak with Stan Swiercz about procurement requirements.

Cost of lightbulbs would be around $500.00, but there needs to be an account with funds set up first which would need to be allocated at Spring Town Meeting. Logical place to find funds is Building & Grounds, but Rick’s budget is already set. Tabled until next Board of Selectmen’s meeting.

Finance Committee; Selectman Martell; no meeting scheduled.

Library; Selectman Ribeiro; Flu Clinic tomorrow in Ramsdell Room, Concert on Saturday from 12-2pm.

Elementary School; Selectman Ribeiro; Special Education students in town have since moved out, which has freed up money to cover the Schools 1/3 cost.

Regional School; Selectman Ribeiro; No new updates.

**Town Officials**

Town Clerk, Kathy Martell, updated BOS on Laserfiche Avante software update. Gathering information to check that Town can support the program. Town may have an additional cost for server to be set up as Town does not currently have one. Our Ricoh copier will be able to support the scanning needed for the program. Neither archives Expense account nor the Records Access Officer’s money that was allocated relates to the Record Digitization Program-Laserfiche that the town received grant money for.

Roving Archivist is currently writing a report for the Town and working with Historical Society on Records Preservation. Meeting was yesterday afternoon.

**Public Comment**-none.

**Old Business**

Cable Committee and Board of Selectmen have not met regarding cable complaint that aired on 22News recently regarding resident Michael Crowner. Suggestion to put information from Edmond Donnelly on letterhead and send to Mr. Crowner that the issue is out of the Town of Pelham’s hands. Comcast is waiting for permission from utility company to run new cable lines. Two residents already signed with Comcast to date for service from area that is part of the buildout; completion date of August 2018.

Selectman Martell will ask Shutesbury Town Administrator the cost to run wires to the 2 houses in Pelham on Shutesbury Road. This would allow them to connect to Shutesbury’s service that is currently being created since Comcast has already told the Town that they will not extend poles to those last 2 households.

MVP Program Summit-Selectman Ribeiro attended Tuesday, 9/12/17, with hopes to learn about MVP grant town secured. Grant was not discussed. Networked with Spencer, MA DPW superintendent about grant funding. Understanding that if Town applies for as many grants as it can get from the State, more points will be awarded, and in-turn Pelham will be likely to receive future grants.

Mention of grant for Electric Charging Station for anyone to use in Town. Could use credit card or pay online for charging station use. Also, grant for new electric vehicles, which covers 2/3rds of the cost.

Planting Plan with Generator is moving forward with Town of Amherst. Kevin Hartzell put in a lot of extra effort with his plans.

**New Business**-none.

Next Board meetings are October 11 and October 25 at 7pm.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

**Documents Examined**

Minutes from 6/21/2017, 7/19/2017 & 9/6/2017, Fall Town Meeting Warrant with edits and clean version, META Grant documents for Town Assessment with Consultants for Solar.

Respectfully submitted

Susannah Carey