

MENDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING----- March 26, 2015
APPROVED-----April 6, 2015

Chairman Goddard, Selectmen Schofield and Reil, Town Administrator Newman are present in the Upper Town Hall, Mendon to attend the joint meeting with the Finance Committee: Chairman Burke, Michael Ammendolia, Willem Angenent, Michael Merolli, and Norman Round at 6:39 p.m. Finance Committee Member Heather Alcock joined later in the meeting.

Chairman Goddard announced Mass Housing Partnership workshops. The first one is on Tuesday to discuss using CPA funds for housing.

Resident Mike Watson voiced concerns over approving the school district's budget. He declined Chairman Goddard's offer to repeat his statement once recording of the meeting started. Chairman Goddard stated there will further budget discussion on March 30. He welcomed more questions and intends it to be a dialog.

Ms. Newman explained the FY16 budget started out with a level service. There was a \$126,000 deficit. She reviewed the departmental requests. The budget is now balanced. The initial deficit was due to health and general liability insurance premiums and Worcester County Retirement, which were beyond the Town's control. A summary of changes was provided.

Selectman Schofield reported that there is an increase in motor vehicle excise tax payments of \$80,000. The Principal Assessor is conservative in her receipts. The past has shown an increase in receipts at approximately ten percent. Selectman Schofield anticipates an estimated three to four percent increase in growth for the next year.

Ms. Newman reviewed expenditure changes. There is 2.4% reserved for salary negotiations. Chapter 90 money can be used for road expenses. An increase of hours for the outreach worker was able to be included.

Finance Committee Chairman Burke thanked everyone for their efforts with the budget and voiced approval for decisions that were made. Chairman Goddard echoed the thanks and appreciates the due diligence.

Chairman Goddard stated there is operational planning for roads and IT infrastructure that has yet to be funded. More funds will be needed in the future for the Highway Department. Selectman Schofield said they need a five-year plan with numbers so it can be funded. The \$41,000 which the town will receive from the Winter Assistance Recovery Plan will assist in fixing roads damaged due to the storms.

The Finance Committee voted to accept the FY16 balanced budget as presented. Their public hearing for budget will be presented on April 1.

Chairman Goddard reviewed several of the articles on the May 1, 2015 Annual Town Meeting warrant. Ms. Willoughby confirmed that no additional revolving accounts were added in comparison to the last fiscal year. An amount needs to be determined for OPEB contribution. Ms. Hawkes confirmed the Fino land debt is \$97,283 for FY16. Half of the total debt will be paid off by FY16. Article 15 is a placeholder for the plaintiff's attorney's fees for the Showtime Entertainment case. Members agreed the school district budget override article will be on the warrant. Selectman Schofield reiterated that if the override does not pass, there is still an amount in the budget which the Finance Committee voted to

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approve for the school district. Chairman Goddard stated that if the district uses one-time funds for FY16, the district will need to adjust their budget for the following fiscal year.

Chairman Goddard restated that there is a budget discussion on Monday, March 30. Residents are encouraged to send questions to bosadmin@mendonma.gov. **Selectman Schofield made and**

Selectman Reil seconded a motion to support Article 16 as written for funding the school override.

Mr. Ammendolia stated, as a point of order, that the Chairman can make a motion and does not need to step down. Mr. Ammendolia informed all that his committee was passing notes and explained that they were discussing whether a vote should be taken on the warrant articles. Chairman Burke would prefer to vote at a future meeting. Mr. Merolli said the town could vote not to give that increase levied amount above 2.5 percent to the school in the future. Chairman Goddard stated in the past they have chosen to give that increase to the school. Chairman Goddard's understanding is that the override will be able to sustain the budget with investments for the next four to five years. Mr. Scharnagle and Watson do not agree with the school district budgeting in a 'cushion for five years'. **Schofield-aye, Goddard-aye, Reil-nay. The motion carried by majority.** The amount for the over \$1.1 million.

Article 17 is to replace a 30-year old truck for the Highway Department with a six-wheel dump truck with a plow and sander. Members agreed to support this article. Ms. Willoughby said a decision needs to be made on the amounts for other debt exclusions before April 6. *Action: Ms. Newman will get confirmation from Mr. Morin if \$75,000 is the amount the Library Building Committee will be seeking.* Mr. Tetreault will look at a municipal lease as an option.

Selectman Reil is not sure about supporting the Library override at this point. He agrees with putting it on the warrant. He will have a decision by Monday. *Action: Ms. Newman will tell the Building Committee that the Finance Committee would like a report on expenditures for their project.* Selectmen would like to hold Article 19 for Assessors' compensation until the June Special Town Meeting. They would like to look at the language of the MGL Ch. 59 §21A, have counsel review it first and determine who it involves. Article 20 is a trails by-law. Chairman Goddard would like to leave this Annual Town Meeting for money articles. Selectman Reil said most issues have been addressed since the article was passed over on a previous warrant. Chairman Goddard inquired whether there are any hearings that would be effected if it is delayed. Mr. Ammendolia said discussion of this by-law is supposed to come before the Conservation Commission. **Selectman Reil made and Chairman Goddard seconded a motion to leave Article 20 on the warrant. Selectmen retracted the motion and it will be addressed next Monday.** *Action: Ms. Newman to inquire whether any public hearing dates will be effected.*

Members agreed more information is needed in order to decide whether Article 21 should be left on the warrant. *Action: Ms. Newman to ask Ms. Mazar about why Inman Pond requires more maintenance.*

Members approve of keeping Article 22 on the warrant and support it. Article 23 is a feasibility study for the Paddock/D'Alessandro property on Providence Street. Mr. Burke said since it is a Community Preservation (CP) article, the CP committee will come before the Finance Committee. BOS Members agreed to support it. Ms. Newman explained Article 24 has been added as there is a problem with the phone system and it is slowly dying. A server also needs to be obtained for the basement renovation. Ms. Newman will bring pricing and options to the Finance Committee when available. There is enough money in the Capital Expenditures Account to cover the expense. Selectmen support it and it will stay on the warrant. Chairman Goddard explained that Article 25 will give the board the authority to negotiate a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Agreement. Ms. Newman explained that they have been approached by a business that makes parts hydraulic lifts and consultants that work with the State. It is an incentive for a business to come to the area. They will be attending the April 6 meeting to discuss the business aspect of their plan. It allows a developer to shift the burden of paying taxes to a later date in order to get the business established. It typically reduces the tax burden by five percent. Selectmen

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Schofield doesn't see why the Selectmen would negotiate a reduction. He explained that the business is owned by his wife's cousin. Therefore, he will recuse himself from debate and will not discuss the topic inside or outside of a meeting. Chief Horn noted that the business would have to stay in town to make it beneficial. The Assessor will also be involved in discussions. Mr. Ammendolia said that this type of TIF works better in towns with a dual tax rate which Mendon does not. Selectman Reil and Goddard agreed to support the article.

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Reil seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane Willoughby".

Diane Willoughby
Administrative Assistant

Documents Discussed located in 'Administrative Secretary's' Office:
Proposed FY16 Budget
Expenditure Changes
May 1, 2015 Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant