

Minutes of April 17, 2012

The Meeting was opened at 5 PM. All members were present.

The minutes of April 9th were put on hold until next week.

Members of the Finance Committee appeared before the Board to review and discuss the public informational meeting scheduled for Monday, April 23rd at 7PM. It was noted that the Finance Committee will host the informational meeting.

The Board announced that it received a letter dated April 12th from the State regarding the closure of the Norfolk Bridge. Mr. Yohalem updated the Board regarding his conversation with Peter Niles, DOT District 1 Director. Mr. Niles advised that there are two choices, close the bridge or repair the bridge. About 15 years ago the State viewed the bridge and rebuilt the middle of the bridge but now there are some issues with the outside girders on the bridge. Mr. Niles also advised that until recently there was no aid available for towns to repair bridges but now a new program helps towns with bridges. Mr. Niles believes that New Marlborough will qualify for the program but he doesn't know when the work can be done. Mr. Niles will do a site visit in early May and before his visit he will have the District Engineer and Safety/Traffic Engineer view the bridge and make their recommendations to him. Mr. Niles recommends that the Town hire an engineer to do an analysis of what needs to be done. Mr. Niles believes that Mass DOT has some guard rails that would be available to the Town, but the Town must pay the cost for installing them. Mr. Niles advised that lights would have to be rented at the cost of \$5,000.00 a month, he is not sure if his department has any available that the Town can use. Mr. Niles also advised that his department might have some Jersey Barriers available for the Town to use.

The Board noted that it received a letter from the School District concerning a final draft report from the subcommittee to the School Committee on its recommendation for forming a committee to look into the needs of the District. The subcommittee will present its findings to the school committee this Thursday night. The subcommittee will recommend that the School Committee appoint an 11 member task force (formerly known as the ad hoc committee) that will make its recommendations to the School Committee by December 1st 2012 or earlier. The subcommittee is looking for up to three members from the following: SBRSD Administration, Elementary Faculty, Elementary School Council/PTO/PTA and from each five Towns Board of Selectmen. Any citizen of the Five Towns should contact Catherine Miller by May 4th with a brief statement of qualifications/interest in the task force.

The Chair presented an update on the Executive Session that was held last Monday, April 9th with Police Chief Scott Farrell. The Chair advised that the Board did not enter into executive session as it was determined that the issues that were going to be discussed did not comply with the Open Meeting Law regarding Executive Sessions. The Board and Chief Farrell only wanted to discuss the Police Department posted office hours, gas bill and the purchase of bullet proof vests.

Selectman Yohalem updated everyone on the status regarding the gas bill. Per a recommendation of the Town Clerk ExxonMobil email the Town the monthly statements so as to receive them earlier and get payment out sooner.

Selectman Yohalem expressed interest in appointing all Town officers instead of electing them. It was decided to wait at this time and possibly place articles and corresponding questions on next year's Annual Town Meeting and Election Warrants.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board a motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Skorput
Administrative Assistant