

Town of Nahant, MA
Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes
22 January, 2015 7:30

Present:

Perry Barrasso, Chairman
Michael P. Manning, Vice Chairman
~~Richard J. Lombard, Secretary~~
Mark Cullinan, Interim Town Administrator
Charles H. Riley, Town Counsel

Meeting Opened at 7:30 pm

Mr. Barrasso welcomed all to the meeting.

Opening Remarks: Mr. Manning stated that the Lynn Item reported that the former Town Administrator was arraigned by the district attorney for a number of offenses and maintains his innocence. From Mr. Manning's perspective, he assured the residents that there has been a good and fair accounting of all funds and FY12-13-14 audit reports are on the Town's website.

Mr. Barrasso announced that Chief Manley passed away this week, and the service was well-attended and a fitting send-off. He was proud of the Police Department and the Town.

Approval of January 8, 2015 minutes: Mr. Manning made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Barrasso seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor to approve minutes.

Citizens Forum: None

Town Administrator Report

Quarterly Financial Review: Mr. Cullinan reviewed the financials. Both revenue (15revrep1214.xlsx and 15revdetail1214.xlsx) and expenses (fy15app1214) are in line for the most part and the Town is in good shape. Mr. Manning noted Fire Department spending is over at 57%. Mr. Cullinan stated repairs on equipment, fire exhaust system, and salaries caused overage. He will address the salary overage.

FY16 Draft Budget Review Continued: Mr. Cullinan met with the Finance and Advisory Committee and reviewed the budget and had a healthy discussion. There are no changes to budget since the last meeting.

FY16 Warrant Review Continued: Mr. Cullinan stated that there is a petition by 15 registered voters to discontinue the winter parking ban. Mr. Manning discussed how this gets addressed. Is it a by-law change, and what is actually being requested? Mr. Manning suggested that we print

the petition as presented and ask the Finance and Advisory Committee to talk to the petitioners to clarify their intent. Mr. Riley is unclear as to what exactly they want. Mr. Barrasso reaffirmed the need for clarification for the warrant article from the Finance and Advisory Committee. Petition will be printed in the warrant as presented. Warrant article will be written by the Finance and Advisory Committee.

Average Water Consumption: Mr. Cullinan asked the Selectmen to approve a policy change in water/sewer billing estimates. In households where meters are not being read or readings are irregular, and residents have not responded to requests to make an appointment to check the meter he proposed we use the following method. The American Water Works Association average consumption of 6.68 cubic feet or 50 gallons a day X number of residents in the household plus 25%. Those residents who oppose this bill can contact the Town Hall and have their meters checked. Mr. Manning made a motion to have the Town Administrator issue estimates on water bills to residents whose consumption is unreasonable and use 50 gallons per person per day plus 25%. Mr. Barrasso seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor.

Town Counsel Report

Abandoned Properties:

57 Breezy Hill Terrace - Mr. Riley stated that he spoke with Elizabeth Grieve of Bank of America Property Maintenance Department. They inspected the property yesterday. They cannot give a report because there is a loan associated with it. If Wayne Wilson and/or Fire Department can issue a condemnation order, we may be able to get them to tear it down. Mr. Riley will follow-up.

25 Furbush Road: Executrix of the estate had promised to list it. She contacted Nahant Associates but has not pursued it. Mr. Riley will continue to pursue.

42 Seaview Avenue: Mr. Riley has been calling the management company but has been getting a runaround. He will continue to call them. Mr. Barrasso commented that slowly but surely progress is being made on the abandoned properties.

Old Business:

Town Administrator Search Consultant: Mr. Cullinan stated that this was tabled at last meeting because of concerns that it would violate the Special Town Administrator's Act. Attorney Steven Smith attended the last Search Committee meeting and advised that hiring a consultant to aid in the search is not a violation as long as the Committee does not delegate their duties. Mr. Cullinan sent request for quote to five vendors for services at approximately \$7,000 and requests approval to contract with one of them on the due date of January 26, 2015. Mr. Manning is concerned that hiring a search consultant is not part of the Special Town Administrator's Act, but if the Search Committee feels they require assistance, Mr. Manning will approve if they provide an outline stating why they need a consultant, the duties required, and why they feel it is consistent with the Special Act. Mr. Barrasso seconds Mr. Manning's concerns but wants to aid the Committee in their selection by giving them the tools they need.

Mr. Manning made a motion to charge Mr. Cullinan in contracting with the consultant after receiving the required letter from the Committee. Mr. Barrasso seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor.

Closing Announcements:

Mr. Barrasso read the new Town Hall hours effective Monday, February 2. Monday – Thursday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Friday 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

Mr. Manning made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Barrasso seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

The minutes were prepared by Mary Ellen Schumann, Administrative Assistant.

The minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen on the 5th day of February, 2015.

Board of Selectmen