

Town of Nahant, MA
Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes
27 February 2014 7:30pm

Present:

Richard-J. Lombard, Chairman
Perry Barrasso, Vice Chairman
Michael P. Manning, Secretary
Andrew Bisignani, Town Administrator
~~Charles H. Riley, Jr, Town Counsel~~

Also present: Members of the Advisory and Finance Committee and Town Accountant Debbie Waters and Michael Quigley of the School Committee.

Meeting Opened at 7:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Richard Lombard. Mr. Lombard welcomed all.

Opening Remarks: Mr. Manning stated the Board has supported the request of SWIM for expanding the No Discharge Areas (NDA) for coastal Massachusetts on behalf of SWIM president Vi Patek. Mr. Manning also thanked the GLSS for their donation of a van to the Council on Aging. Mr. Lombard made a motion to have the Town Administrator write a thank you letter to GLSS for this donation. Seconded by Mr. Manning. Unanimous Vote in Favor.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Mr. Barrasso to approve the minutes of the prior meeting 2/6/2014 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Manning. Unanimous Vote in Favor.

Ongoing Business:

- a. **Citizen's Forum- Budget Discussion with FinCom:** Mr. Ward of the Advisory and Finance Committee asked for the Board to answer several questions relative to this year's budget. He indicated that his Committee had some questions relative to the "Sustainable Budgeting" proposed by Mr. Manning to reduce the amount of free cash used in funding the omnibus budget article, the operations budget of the Town. Discussion started on the subject of proposed cuts. Mr. Manning moved to have the Town Administrator provide \$150,000 in reductions from the FY15 Omnibus Appropriation Budget and present them to the Advisory and Finance Committee for their consideration. Mr. Barrasso seconded for discussion. Mr. Barrasso indicated that he believed that it was late in the budget process to consider such a reduction. Mr. Lombard indicated that he was against the motion because it was late in the budget season and because he wanted 3% raises. He also indicated that the Advisory and Finance Committee should use free cash as they wished in preparing the FY15 budget. Mr. Manning voted in favor. Mr. Lombard and Mr. Barrasso voted against. Mr. Lombard moved that the Board vote to approve the budget dated 2/25/2015 and forward it to the Advisory and Finance Committee for their consideration. Mr.

Lombard and Mr. Barrasso voted in favor and Mr. Manning voted against. The Board also discussed the proposed budget cycle for FY16.

- b. Establishment of Water/Sewer Rates:** Mr. Manning suggested the Town Administrator create a report of historical data of the past eight years for the Board's review before setting the FY15 rates.
- c. Five -Year Pavement Plan:** Mr. Manning stated that \$250,000 a year is used to keep our roads at present conditions and may not be the best job and Mr. Scarpati of Fay, Spofford & Thorndike Engineers is invited to the March 6th meeting to discuss the present plan and answer any questions from the Board.
- d. Discuss Sign at Entrance to Town:** Mr. Manning provided copies of different ideas for the new Entering Nahant Sign to be placed at the area adjacent to the bank. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Town Administrator contact DCR on how to proceed with this and to determine the size, shape and location of the sign and the new flag pole.

Town Administrator Report:

- a. Declare COA Van as Surplus:** On a motion by Mr. Manning, seconded by Mr. Barrasso there was a unanimous vote in favor to declare the COA van to be surplus property, to direct the Town Administrator to promptly dispose of the vehicle at auction and to report back to the Board on the results of the auction and the proceeds of the sale.
- b. Discuss/Approve POW/MIA Table:** Mr. Lombard made a motion to display the table on Town Meeting Day and Memorial Day at Town Hall. Seconded by Mr. Barrasso. Unanimous Vote in Favor.
- c. Warrant Article:** Mr. Bisignani stated there were added warrant articles, Article 10 and 11, and there will be additional articles added in the near future.
- d. Discuss Water/Sewer Proposal:** After a brief discussion it was agreed to have a professional engineer review the existing conditions and fire hydrant flows a prepare a recommended course of action for the Warrant Article supporting the water main replacement at Nectar Place.

Town Counsel Report:

- a. Adopt Open Meeting Law-Remote Participation:** Mr. Manning stated that upon the request of Town Counsel the Board should adopt the Remote Participation as a alternative to meet with members who cannot physically attend a scheduled meeting. Mr. Lombard moved that the Board of Selectmen vote, as recommended by Town Counsel, to allow public boards in the Town of Nahant to participate by remote participation by various means such as telephone, internet or satellite enabled audio or video conferences or any other technology that enables the remote participant and all persons at the meeting location to be clearly audible to one another as described in

the Open Meeting Law Guide published by the Attorney General. Seconded by Mr. Manning. Unanimous Vote in Favor.

New Business:

a. Approve One Day Liquor License for American Legion:

On a motion by Mr. Manning, seconded by Mr. Barrasso there was a unanimous vote in favor of granting an all alcohol one day liquor license to the American Legion for an Evacuation Day Fundraiser to be held at the Nahant Lifesaving Station on March 15, 2014 from 2pm to 10pm.

b. Discuss Scheduling/Rescheduling Meetings.

On a motion by Mr. Manning, seconded by Mr. Barrasso there was a unanimous vote in favor to adopt a formal statement of the process for scheduling/rescheduling Meetings of the Board of Selectmen, as presented.

c. Discuss the proposed budget cycle schedule for FY16: On a motion by Mr. Manning and seconded by Mr. Barrasso there was a unanimous vote in favor of adopting the proposed schedule for the budget cycle for FY16.

d. Discuss Nahant's Wharf Seawall Proposal Process: There was some confusion as to the application process for this grant. Mr. Bisignani stated he spoke to Sen. McGee recently and Nahant was not awarded this specific grant but is waiting for the Transportation Bond to be funded and Nahant is on that list for funds but it will be some time before we hear any results. Mr. Manning requested that all members of the Board be presented with a copy of the grant application that had been submitted for the most recent funding round and which had not been awarded funds in the last round.

e. Call for Update on Health Insurance Revisions: Mr. Manning stated that his understanding was that an opportunity was missed to offer retirees a better plan before January 2014. Mr. Manning stated that he had discussed the issue with two members of the Health Insurance Advisory Committee who had stated that the plan reviewed would have saved both the Town and the 33 retirees about \$100 per month – a savings to the Town of \$36,000 and a savings of \$1,200 for each retiree. Mr. Lombard disagreed. Mr. Barrasso, who attended the Insurance Committee Meeting, stated that there was discussion and proposals and it was voted to stay with the current plan the Town is offering. Mr. Manning pointed out that there were significant differences in the view of the current situation from the perspective of the three members and that resulted from the lack of information presented to the Board. Mr. Bisignani will get more information for the Board.

Announcements:

Adjourned at 09:44 pm. On a motion by Mr. Manning, seconded by Mr. Barrasso there was a Unanimous Vote in Favor to adjourn.

The minutes were prepared by Mary Lowe, Administrative Assistant.

The minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen on the 6th day of March 2014.

Board of Selectmen