Minutes

Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 2018 at 7:00pm
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall


Members Absent: Beverly Kennedy

Others Present: Rick Belden, Tony Caserta, Tony DePrimo, Rob Dyer, Gary Popielasz, Doug Thomas.

Item #1 – Call Meeting to order
Chairman Bill Sawicki called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance
Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3 – Seating of Alternates
There is an open seat left by Zani Imetovski who did not run this past year and no one ran in his place. This would be a 2-year position.

Motion to fill this seat with Gary Popielasz (Republican).
Motion: Richard Demko Second: John Stelma
Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to seat Kristyn Hanewicz as alternate for tonight’s meeting.
Motion: Richard Demko Second: Jim Cretella
Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Item #4 – Public Comment
None

Item #5 – Approval of Minutes—December 28, 2017 Regular Meeting
Motion to approve Minutes from December 28, 2017 Regular Meeting
Motion: Richard Demko Second: Kristyn Hanewicz
Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 1 (Heather McDaniel)

Motion to move discussion/approval of Transfer #1 (from last month) to this position on agenda.
Motion: Richard Demko Second: John Stelma
Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Discussion: quote from “Digital Back Office” was distributed. Rick Belden and Rob Dyer discussed this expense.
• Our current firewall is at End of Life
• We tried an experiment with the current system and much got through the firewall; the new system (Palo Alto) adds an additional layer of security.
• Previously the price given was good for a 12-month period. Now is good for 18 months
• No other company markets this product at this time.
• One-time charges are $13,800 for the device and installation. Then about $3,223 per month for licensing fees. $10,848 of this will be in next year’s expense.
• There would be a savings of $1,750 because there will be no need for separate internet connections for Town and Board of Education. Also, the internet speed would be MUCH faster.
• Also, the auditors always ask about computer security. Having a reliable, up-to-date security system can only impact us positively.
• The Police Department and Library previously had their own internet connection. With the new fiber optic system, we can put everyone on one connection.
• With the Cisco system, updates are about every two years. With the Palo Alto system updates every three minutes. This system can assess threats as they happen.
• With this product we also have the capability to BLOCK certain sites. (Content filtering)
• Richard Demko also noted that municipal cyber-crimes are on the rise.

#1 – Town Computers – Transfer from: Fund Balance $30,300 – Transfer to: Software $20,400 and Hardware $9,900

Transfer for acquisition of hardware and software for new firewall.

Motion to approve the above transfer
Motion: Jim Cretella Second: John Stelma
Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Item #6 – Comments from the First Selectman
None

Item #7 – Comments from the Finance Director
• Audit books were distributed.
• Currently we have a shortfall of $130,000; there is currently an overage in Capital of about $300,000 that can be used to cover this.
• Street lighting – LED are not in place yet (until summer) – this line item will be $60 to $70,000 short.
• Snow plowing materials line item – shortage
• The State has an additional deficit of $230 million to cover; for us this could mean an additional $700,000 cut. All in total this may put us at $1 million short.
• We will establish a Debt Service Fund – this will allow us to have a reserve fund to use in case we need additional funding for these cuts. This fund would not be considered part of our fund balance.
• We are the 18th highest fund balance in the state. This is what the state bases their cuts on.
• Bill Sawicki e-mailed Town Counsel with accounting verbiage to open this Debt Service Fund.
• Our Education Cost Sharing grant was shorted about $400,000.
• Richard Demko asked how much we realized in savings as a result of cutting the 13 paras in the schools. About $300,000. The amounts that teachers contribute to their retirement accounts is set by the state.
• The Board of Education was hit with two additional special needs children this year at a cost of about $350,000.
• Information on various options for insurance with different deductible amounts and different dollar amounts was distributed by Doug Thomas.
• We need to be sure to put in place some procedural controls for the Tax Collector’s office. These need to be in place by 3/31/18. This is very important. Insurance companies may not pay out claims if these controls are not in place. Also, insurance needs to be bumped up to at least $300,000 for the people in this office.
• Motion to approve/accept Audit Report as distributed
  Motion: Heather McDaniel  Second: Richard Demko
  Yes: 7  No: 0  Abstain: 0

Item #8 - Transfer Requests
  #2 – Public Works – Transfer from: Contingency $50,000 – Transfer to: Snow Plowing Materials $50,000
  Transfer for salt used due to early snowstorms. Winter operation summary attached.

Discussion: This transfer has not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Motion to approve the above transfer contingent upon approval from the Board of Selectmen.
  Motion: Richard Demko  Second: Heather McDaniel
  Yes: 7  No: 0  Abstain: 0

Item #9 – Charter Revision Update
  • Bill Sawicki said there is a meeting tomorrow.
  • Deadline is August 31, 2018

Item #10 – New Business
Bill Sawicki asked if there were any unexpected Workers Comp or Legal Settlement issues. Doug Thomas said no. There will be some retirements: Police Dept, Town Clerk, Economic Development Director, Asst. Assessor but these will not affect the budget. Doug Thomas will send calendar of whose budget discussion is on which night.

Item #11 – Correspondence
None

Item #12- Adjournment
Motion to adjourn
  Motion: Jim Cretella  Second: Gary Popileasz
  Yes: 7  No: 0  Abstain: 0

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

Submitted by:

Monica Dimon
Recording Secretary