

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Natick Town Hall

February 10, 2014

5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair Carol A. Gloff at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Carol A. Gloff, Joshua Ostroff, Nicholas S. Mabardy, Charles M. Hughes, Richard P. Jennett, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT: Martha L. White, Town Administrator; Donna Challis, Executive Assistant

WARRANTS: Payroll warrants were signed by the Board of Selectmen on February 10, 2014 in the amount of \$1,093,230.94. This figure was included in total warrants signed by the Board of Selectmen of \$2,648,199.72.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Ostroff, moved to enter into executive session to discuss matters pertaining to litigation, non-union personnel negotiations, collective bargaining, real property, and executive session minutes. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. At 5:30 p.m. the Board entered into executive session after announcing that the meeting would return to open session. The Chair further announced that discussion of these items in open session would have a detrimental effect on the Board of Selectmen's negotiating position.

The open session was reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

In addition to the moment of silence observed for the men and women serving in the military in harm's way, a moment of silence was observed in honor of the DPW employee, Michael McDaniel, Jr., who lost his life while fixing a water main break. Thoughts and prayers were also extended to Scott Spurling who was badly injured in the same accident.

Ms. White found the support received since the accident to be both heart warming and heart breaking. She cited numerous examples of the outpouring of support from surrounding community and other Town personnel. There was another water line break on the day of the McDaniel break and the Town of Wellesley sent crews from their department to repair the line. Framingham and Wellesley today covered for the fire station so the Fire Department could go to the funeral. Needham helped with sanding and salting on Sunday. She estimated 100 pieces of equipment and 300-500 DPW workers attended the services today.

In addition other Natick departments helped the DPW in tremendous ways and she couldn't thank the Police and Fire enough for their help with the logistics. A fund for the family has been set up and the information will be posted on the web site.

INTERVIEW FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE RECYCLING COMMITTEE: EDWARD ARTHUR

Edward Arthur noted that his interest in recycling came from his father who was the Chair of the Environmental Committee in the Town where he grew up.

Mr. Ostroff inquired if he was available for evening meetings, and Mr. Arthur said he was.

Asked if he had any focus, Mr. Arthur said he questioned why there were no recycling bins in the Mall and would like to try to do something about it.

The Board unanimously voted to appoint Edward Arthur to the Recycling Committee. The vote was taken on a motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Jennett.

Document - Committee application submitted by Edward Arthur

NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER UPDATE

Major General Scott Rice, Commander for the State, along with other National Guard and representatives of state agencies updated the Board on the Speen Street National Guard Readiness Center project.

Major General Rice informed the Board that the project was pretty much on schedule, maybe about a month late. They were looking at June to begin

occupancy and to do operations closer to the end of the summer. Typically there would be a ribbon cutting but in this case this represents a change in the classic armory and he was thinking of an open house. This was more of an office complex with dual use. The Guard was happy with the project and proud with the synergy between the federal and the state and most importantly the support from the community.

Mr. Jennett was concerned with only one gate in the front if emergency access was needed into the lake area.

The architect for the project responded that the railroad connection had been determined appropriate for emergency access. Right now there was a gate there but not for motorized vehicles.

Asked what a readiness center was, Major General Rice explained the National Guard function and training cycle. Training was one weekend a month plus a longer two weeks during the year, but the two weeks would be held in a larger place. The Center also housed some administrative functions.

As to how often the building would not be in use, Major General Rice advised that a percentage of the force was full-time with probably 25-30 people there every day.

Mr. Ostroff inquired if the building was intended for public use. Right now Major General Rice did not envision community use. It was strictly military training. If there was interest in the Town doing some training compatible with the Guard's training, that was a discussion that could be had down the road.

In response to Mr. Ostroff's comment about not foreseeing a neighborhood impact, Major General Rice said he did not. DCAM did a study to see how much of an impact there would be and they didn't see a significant impact with 25-30 people during the week and 250 on the weekend.

Mr. Mabardy noted that when it was previously occupied, it was staffed 24/7, 350 days a year. Major General Rice didn't see this being a 24 hour operation. It would just be used during the day and weekends and not very active if at all overnight. There would be no security personnel.

The planned opening was for the fall. This wasn't a secret military operation. It was a training and administrative facility and he would like to show it off.

The open house sounded like a good idea to Ms. Gloff and Ms. White agreed that it would be terrific. Major General Rice thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide an update and he would be in touch to set up an open house.

HEATHER WIGHTMAN: APPLICATION FOR ONE DAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE

Heather Wightman appeared before the Board to request a one day entertainment license for an event being held by RIA House, Inc. at the Natick Elks on May 10, 2014.

Ms. Wightman stated that RIA House was a developing service organization and a team of volunteers was having a benefit on May 10 at the Elks from 6:00-11:00 p.m. It was a romancing the 70's theme with a concentration on 70's music that happened in India. It was like a karaoke night with dancing and live acoustical music. It was open to the public and there would be a cash bar.

The Board received an email from Lt. Lauzon recommending approval with no Police details required.

A motion was made by Mr. Jennett to grant an entertainment license as requested. Seconded by Mr. Ostroff and unanimously voted.

Document - Letter from Heather Wightman; email from Lt. Brian Lauzon

TOM TIERNEY: REQUEST FOR WATER & SEWER BILL ABATEMENT: ALGONQUIN ROAD

Three properties on Algonquin Road shared an irrigation meter and Tom Tierney previously appeared before the Board to request an averaging of the bill to avoid billing at the high usage rate.

Deputy Town Administrator for Operations William Chenard did not recommend doing the averaging. Irrigation was not a safety or health issue and under the Water Act irrigation will have to be restricted.

What concerned Mr. Chenard was the amount of water being used. The average condo with more units and larger properties used less water than these three homes. He recommended working through the DPW to look at the irrigation system because it was out of line for that property.

A motion was made by Mr. Mabardy to accept Mr. Chenard's recommendation and not average the Alogonquin Road properties. Seconded by Mr. Jennett and unanimously voted.

Document - Letter from Tom Tierney; water bill analysis prepared by Michael Walters Young; memo from Deputy Town Administrator William Chenard

KEEFE TECH VOCATIONAL SCHOOL: ROOF PROJECT

Representing Keefe Tech Vocational School were the Superintendent John Evans, Director of Finance and Business Operation Kristen Leville, and School Committee member Tass Filledes.

After thanking the Town for its support of Keefe Tech, Mr. Evans spoke about the School's need for a new roof, the schedule, and the financing.

The roof was a 177,000 square feet flat roof with various insulation systems. It was installed in 1971 and in 1987 during the first capital improvement project a second layer was put on the roof. There was a 10 year warranty.

The roof leaked in over 40 places and efforts to address individual areas were no longer effective.

Through MSBA funding, there would be a reimbursement rate of 69.89%. The cost of a new roof was estimated at \$5.799 million with \$4.138 million being funded by MSBA. The remaining amount would be shared by member towns commensurate with the enrollment.

Mr. Evans advised that the project was accepted by the MSBA in July 2013 and that began an 18 month clock. Official word of acceptance was received on January 29, 2014 and the School Committee voted to proceed with the funding of the project. There was now a 60 day clock for each community to hold a special town meeting or the Board of Selectmen could decide to go forward without a special and pay their Town's portion.

Natick's contribution would be 9.65% of the balance (after MSBA funding). On a five year note at 2.5%, the estimated cost per year would be \$39,360.00.

Ms. White noted that Keefe Tech desperately needed a new roof. The Board could call a special town meeting or could pay Natick's portion in one lump sum which would be around \$179,000. Her recommendation was to pay the lump sum from the Stabilization Fund. There was more than sufficient money to cover it.

Mr. Hughes moved to pay the lump sum of \$179,353 as Natick's portion of the Keefe Tech roof under the Capital Stabilization Fund article. Seconded by Mr. Mabardy. Ms. Leville noted that the \$179,353 was an estimate and the exact figure wouldn't be known until it was bid. Mr. Hughes amended his motion by removing the dollar amount. Mr. Mabardy accepted the amendment as the seconder of the motion. Unanimously voted.

In discussion of the motion Mr. Jennett asked why the Town would want to pay it in a lump sum and Ms. White responded that it would cost the Town additional money to borrow.

Document - Executive Summary, General Laws, History of Keefe Tech capital projects, roof project report, impact analysis

NATICK CENTER CULTURAL DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Appearing before the Board was the Procurement Officer Peter Roche

a. Book Restoration Contract

Per the recommendation of Mr. Roche, the Board unanimously voted to award the contract for the restoration of birth and marriage records to Kofile Preservation of Essex, Vermont in the amount of \$189,880.

Mr. Roche advised that only one bid had been received, but this was highly specialized work that few companies were qualified to perform. Kofile has done extensive similar work in the Town Clerk's Office in recent years and the work has been quite satisfactory.

Document - Memo from Procurement Officer Peter Roche

*b. Dug Pond Treatment Contract*

As recommended by Mr. Roche, the Board unanimously voted to award the contract for Dug Pond water treatment and analysis to the low bidder Aquatic Control Technology for \$13,460.00 per year and \$2,850 per application for herbicide treatment. The vote was taken on a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Hughes.

Document - Memo from Procurement Officer Peter Roche

*c. Cole Center Synthetic Soccer Field Design Contract*

In a memo to the Board, Procurement Officer Peter Roche recommended awarding a contract to Huntress Associates in the amount of \$66,300.00 to design and engineer the synthetic turf soccer field at the Cole Center.

Mr. Jennett inquired if any lighting was included in this contract. Recreation & Parks Director Jon Marshall responded that there was not, but the intent was to create infrastructure underneath so lighting could be incorporated at a later date. After meeting with the residents several times there was a concern about lighting and the way to address those concerns was to put the field in, see the impact, but have the infrastructure in place to put in lighting at some time in the future.

Mr. Jennett inquired as to the Natick Soccer Club's contribution and was told by Mr. Marshall that the Soccer Club would contribute up to \$600,000. A memorandum of understanding with the Club was being drafted.

Mr. Hughes asked if this was the location of the old Framingham sewer line. Deputy Town Administrator Operations William Chenard advised that it was and that Framingham had promised to cut and cap the ends and remove the line.

Mr. Mabardy raised the issue of maintenance costs for this type of field and Mr. Marshall responded that LFNR had the equipment needed to maintain.

Mr. Ostroff recalled this topic generating a lot of debate at Town Meeting and he wondered about the opportunity for the public to see the plan and where it would be discussed.

Mr. Marshall advised that with the award of this contract a timeline would be established to move forward with the different public processes. The plan was to have two engagement sessions with the residents and there will be a review before the Planning Board.

Document - Memo from Procurement Officer Peter Roche

POLICE CHIEF:

*a. Safety Committee Recommendations*

As the Chair of the Safety Committee, Police Chief James Hicks presented the Safety Committee's recommendations from the meetings of November 6 and December 17, 2013.

November 6, 2013

*1) Crosswalk Lighting on West Central and Pond Streets*

The Committee recommended that the Board of Selectmen move forward in purchasing a viable replacement to broken underground lights to warn motorists of pedestrians crossing.

Mr. Hughes moved approval. Seconded by Mr. Ostroff and unanimously voted.

*2) 10 Waring Road*

The Committee recommended the installation of a CHILD (Autistic Child) sign on both sides of Waring Road at the intersection of Farrant Road. Chief Hicks requested that the exact wording be left undetermined until after discussions with the parents.

Mr. Hughes moved approval. Seconded by Mr. Ostroff and unanimously voted.

*3) Oxbow Road - No Outlet Sign*

The Committee recommended the installation of a NO OUTLET sign on Oxbow Road at the corner of Millbrook and Oxbow Road.

Mr. Ostroff moved approval. Seconded by Mr. Jennett. The motion passed on a 4-0-1 vote. Ms. Gloff, Mr. Ostroff, Mr. Mabardy, Mr. Jennett voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Hughes abstained.

December 17, 2013

The Committee voted to recommend the Board hold a public hearing on a requested address change from 71 ½ Pond Street to 73R Pond Street.

Mr. Hughes moved to schedule a public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Jennett and unanimously voted.

Document - Safety Committee Report

b. Acceptance of Donations (K9 Program and Fitness Center)

On a motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board unanimously voted to accept a \$1,000 with thanks a donation from the Crowne Plaza for the Police fitness center.

On a motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board also unanimously voted to accept with thanks a \$300.00 donation from Brochu Brothers, Inc. and a \$200.00 donation from Century 21 Commonwealth-Natick to be used toward the purchase of a K9 vehicle.

Document - Memo from Police Chief James Hicks

c. Acceptance of Mutual Aid Agreement

To demonstrate the need for a mutual aid agreement Chief Hicks described an incident involving a Natick police officer observing a motor vehicle committing a traffic offense operating at a high rate of speed. When the officer stopped the vehicle and encountered the operator, he had crossed the town boundary into Framingham.

The operator of the vehicle was placed under arrest for operating under the influence of an intoxicating beverage, but the trial court judge ruled the stop was invalid because the vehicle crossed into another jurisdiction and therefore the Natick officer did not have the authority to take this potentially dangerous driver off the roadway. The Commonwealth appealed the decision and the Supreme Judicial Court upheld the District Court's decision.

For the past 23 years legislation has been filed to address the issue, but as the result of inaction the Police Chiefs of Massachusetts have looked to address this issue through the use of an Interagency Mutual Aid Agreement.

Chief Hicks encouraged the Board to enter into the Massachusetts Interagency Mutual Aid Agreement, a copy of which was provided in the packet. He noted that it had been signed by over 50 of the 54 Middlesex County Police departments. He also noted that two bordering towns in Norfolk County - Dover and Wellesley have signed. Town Counsel has approved the document.

Mr. Jennett inquired as to the existing policy regarding Police details, and Chief Hicks responded that officers were sent to other jurisdictions at the request of other departments and other departments were also asked to work details in Natick. This agreement would clear up a lot of things that were out there.

A motion was made by Mr. Mabardy to enter into the Massachusetts Interagency Mutual Aid Agreement. Seconded by Mr. Hughes and unanimously voted.

Document - Memo from Police Chief James Hicks; copy of Mutual Aid Agreement

APPROVE AND SIGN TOWN MEETING WARRANT

On a motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Ostroff, the Board unanimously voted to approve and sign the warrant for the Spring Annual Town Meeting.

Document - Draft of warrant

SIGN ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION WARRANT

The Board unanimously voted to sign the warrant for the Annual Town Election to be held on March 25, 2014. The vote was taken on a motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Ostroff.

Document - copy of warrant

ANKUR SHARMA: REQUEST ABATEMENT OF WATER & SEWER BILL PENALTY

At the previous meeting the Board considered Chalcom Circle resident Ankur Sharma's request for an abatement of a portion of his water & sewer bill dating back to the fall. An abatement was not issued, but Mr. Sharma was now requesting an abatement of the penalty incurred. In his appeal Mr. Sharma wrote that he had been working with former Deputy Town Administrator/Finance

Director Michael Walters Young for three months and had been advised not to worry about any penalty because he was working with Town officials on a resolution.

Mr. Hughes moved to abatement the penalty of \$76.28 reflected on Mr. Sharma's January 10, 2014 bill. Seconded by Mr. Ostroff and unanimously voted.

Document - email from Ankur Sharma; copy of Ankur Sharm's water & sewer bill

CONFIRMATION OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S APPOINTMENT TO COMMISSION ON DISABILITY: BARBARA IRVINE

On a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Hughes, the Board unanimously voted to confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Barbara Irvine to the Commission on Disability.

Document - Copy of Town Administrator's letter to Barbara Irvine

RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

The Board unanimously voted to release the following executive session minutes. The vote was taken on a motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Ostroff:

- 6/16/86
- 7/31/89 with redactions
- 4/2/90 with redactions
- 1/4/99 with redactions
- 1/11/99 with redactions
- 1/25/99 with redactions
- 1/22/99 with redactions
- 3/8/99 with redactions
- 4/26/99 with redactions
- 5/10/99 with redactions
- 6/7/99 with redactions
- 7/6/99 with redactions
- 2/24/97
- 3/3/97
- 11/23/98 with redactions
- 12/14/98 with redactions
- 9/2/99 with redactions

Document - list of executive session minutes the Board voted in executive session to release

PERSONNEL EXEMPTION FROM TOWN BY-LAWS CHAPTER 41,S4: JEANNINE RONDEAU-KEEDY

On a motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board unanimously voted to approve an exemption from Town By-Laws Chapter 41, s.4 for Jeannine Rondeau-Keedy so that in addition to her employment with the School Department as an ABA Technician she could be employed as an ASA Substitute Instructor.

Document - Memo from Marianne Davis, Director of Human Resources for Natick Public Schools; disclosure form filed by Jeannine Rondeau-Keedy

SCHEDULE HEARING FOR DEDICATION OF CROSS & SOUTH AMIN STREETS: WARREN & WILBERT GAY

The Board was in receipt of a request from the Natick Veterans Council to name the intersection of Cross and South Main Streets in honor of Warren and Wilbert Gay, both of whom were killed during World War II.

Mr. Hughes moved to schedule a public hearing for March 10. Seconded by Mr. Ostroff and unanimously voted.

Document - Letter from Edward Jolley, President of the Natick Veterans Council; memo from Veterans Services Officer Paul Carew

MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Hughes, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2014 meeting.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS ASSOCIATION: REQUEST PERMIT FOR MS JOURNEY OF HOPE WALK

Mr. Hughes moved to grant the Multiple Sclerosis Association permission to hold their annual MS Journey of Hope Walk through Natick on May 17, 2014 subject to the recommendations of Lt. Brian Lauzon for two detail officers.

Document - Letter from Drew Davis of the Multiple Sclerosis Society; email from Lt. Brian Lauzon

APPROPRIATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MONEY FOR WEBSITE & MARKETING

Chair of the Economic Development Committee Paul Joseph appeared before the Board on two topics: One was a memo from Economic Development Planner Michael Gallerani who as part of his initial focus reached out to communities that promote the types of brochures included in the Board's meeting material. Mr. Gallerani was also doing a business marketing guide.

The other was the Economic Development web site. It was ready to be turned on but it needed to be kept fresh.

Mr. Joseph explained that Town Meeting had appropriated \$40,000 for economic development - \$25,000 was to be spent on the web site and with the balance there had been a discussion of directional signs. The question was if some of the money could be used for a publication and to get Mr. Gallerani and the Information Communications Officer trained to maintain the web site. The desire of the Committee was to get the web site turned on as soon as possible and maybe long-term bring it into the Town's technology.

The request was for \$5,000 to be used for marketing materials and training for Ms. Lentini (Communications Officer).

Mr. Ostroff inquired if there was a web site he could see in terms of what had been developed and was told by Mr. Joseph that it was in the sand box but not for the public. To get it under the Town's technology required a dramatic redesign, but it could be turned on without the conversion.

As a member of the EDC, Mr. Jennett noted that at the last meeting there was an extensive conversation with Ms. Lentini and given all she has on her plate, it was decided to do the web site without the transition software.

Mr. Joseph added that the plan was to launch the web site in the first quarter of last year, but when the decision was made to hire someone full-time, the decision was made to hold until there was someone on staff to take care of it and keep the web site until the ED Planner was hired. The site itself was available and could be launched in a simplified format now.

Mr. Ostroff commented that he would love to see the new web site up on the new platform as soon as possible.

Mr. Jennett noted that Ms. Lentini requested a delay to give her some time to get all the projects assigned to her up and running.

With respect to the brochures, Mr. Ostroff wanted to be sure there was a cohesive plan and the Town wouldn't be on the hook for selling advertising. Mr. Jennett assured him that the Town would not be. To Mr. Ostroff's comment that he didn't want an obligation of more work, Mr. Joseph responded that the \$1,500 was to purchase advertising in the publication and the Town had no other obligation. The publishers will be looking to Mr. Gallerani for content.

Ms. White questioned if the Committee would see and approve a final version of the brochure before going to print. Mr. Joseph believed the Committee would look at it or at a minimum it would be the Economic Development Planner.

Mr. Ostroff noted that he was the one who proposed the directional signs and there was a need, but there was never the staff to move it forward.

A motion was made by Mr. Jennett to approve the expenditure of \$5,000 appropriated under Article 15 of the 2010 Spring Annual Town Meeting with \$1,500 to purchase the back cover ad of the advertising brochure and the balance for continued development of professional services for the Economic Development web site. Seconded by Mr. Ostroff and unanimously voted.

Mr. Ostroff requested an update on the status of the web site some time in March.

Document - Memo from Michael Gallerani, Economic Development Planner; copy of promotional brochures from other communities; email from Paul Joseph

BUDGET REVIEW

## a. Board of Selectmen

Ms. White explained that Robert Bois was retiring. Mr. Bois functions as both the Conservation Agent and the Environmental Compliance Officer and her proposal was to split that into two positions.

The Conservation Agent would be part-time in the Community Development office and with the salary proposed, there would be a savings of over \$32,000 in that budget. The Selectmen's budget was affected in that the position of Sustainability Coordinator would be created in the salary range of \$55,000-\$80,000. For budgeting purposes the figure of \$60,232 was used. That results in an increase in the Board of Selectmen budget but a significant savings in the Community Development budget for an overall savings of \$23,000. Nobody was being added to the benefits and the hope was to hire someone young for the Sustainability Coordinator and have the person mentored by Mr. Bois.

Mr. Bois has agreed to stay on and fill the role of Conservation Agent. By law the Conservation Commission has to have certain inspections so he would begin right away upon his retirement, but the other position would not be filled until approved by Town Meeting.

Mr. Mabardy asked if there was a job description for the Sustainability Coordinator, but Ms. White said not yet. She anticipated requiring a minimum of a Bachelor's degree with a Master's preferred. The plan was to present the job description to the Personnel Board on February 20.

With Mr. Bois retiring the end of February, Mr. Jennett asked if those duties would go unfilled until the Sustainability Coordinator was hired. Ms. White advised that the critical role that the Town couldn't do without was the Conservation Agent. Any essential duties on the other side, Mr. Bois would continue to do.

On a motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board unanimously voted to reconsider the Board of Selectmen budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Hughes to approve the request for an additional \$9,490 for Selectmen's total budget of \$1,338,988. Seconded by Mr. Jennett and unanimously voted.

Mr. Ostroff expressed his appreciation of Mr. Bois' extraordinary services to the Town.

Mr. Mabardy pointed out this was creating more positions, but Ms. White countered that it was saving money.

Document - Memo to the Board from Town Administrator Martha White

b. Sassamon Trace Golf Course

Representing Sassamon Trace were Director of Recreation & Parks Jon Marshall and Director of the Golf Course Peter Meagher.

A slide show highlighted the changes and improvements that have taken place at the golf course. They have been working to increase the use of the web site and promote online bookings. The adult leagues and instruction were at capacity. The course was being used as an outdoor classroom.

The biggest change was the work in water conservation and this was the first year water wasn't drawn on the Town's water supply. There were numerous course improvements including tee repairs at 4 and 7 and 2 bunker renovations.

Mr. Marshall thanked LFNR and the Highway Division for their help.

He also recognized the efforts of the Friends of Sassamon Trace, a 501c3, set up to assist the course. They provided new score cars, new steps on holes 3 & 8, golf cart message holders, and a refurbished entrance sign along with a refurbishment of the Conley dedication.

Mr. Marshall reviewed the proposed budget for Fiscal 2015.

Personnel services were increasing by \$13,563. One main reason was to improve accounting practices. Also included were merit raises, step increases for part-time employees, and additional hours. This was the first year of doing maintenance inhouse and a good job was done, but there were a lot of things that need to be done.

The additional hours would provide 174 hours in maintenance support; 44 for a mechanic; 113 for part-time operation and support staff. Mr. Marshall noted that one of the biggest challenges was managing staff each and every day. On a nice day in the summer, people were needed for the pro shop but on rainy

days Mr. Meagher scaled back the number of staff. Mr. Meagher put in above and beyond the hours.

Continuing, Mr. Marshall advised that the course maintenance expense increased by \$787.00. The biggest cost was an increase in \$11,000 for organic fertilizer that had to be used especially on the Sherborn side. On the other side there was a \$6,000 reduction in irrigation.

The fuel account moved to indirects in the amount of \$2,830. Previously when the budget was put together there was an item under course maintenance for fuel, but the thought was to bring in the indirects because it was being charged back from the DPW at the end of the year.

Employee benefits decreased by \$4,251.

The debt service increased by \$22,802 attributed to the golf carts coming on line.

Mr. Marshall had done a comparison of the maintenance costs and found that had the maintenance been inhouse in Fiscal 2012 it would have saved \$9,821. Fiscal 2013 saved \$12,906 and Fiscal 2014, \$13,334. Beyond the savings the course conditions improved and strengthened the customer base.

In conclusion Mr. Marshall noted that a ten year revenue and expense road map had been established. Preventative maintenance will continue and they will look at increasing instruction.

Mr. Mabardy asked about the possibility of using well water like some of the high school athletic fields, but Mr. Marshall pointed out that with the shared water agreement with Dowse there weren't any water expenses for last year.

Mr. Meagher added that when the course opened it was specifically stated that well water couldn't be used. They didn't want to draw down from the ball fields.

Ms. White commented that every year the golf course gets more financially stable and improvements get made. It was under terrific management and she thanked Mr. Meagher and Mr. Marshall for significantly improving the operation.

A motion was made by Mr. Hughes to support a Sassamon Trace budget of \$914,114 including indirects, debt service, and operation. Seconded by Mr. Jennett and unanimously voted.

As a user of the course, Mr. Jennett said he would echo Ms. White. The course has improved its appearance, presence, and quality to a level that every golfer he spoke with marvels at the transition. Enough couldn't be said for the management.

Document - Power point presentation; Fiscal 2015 proposed budget

#### PARKING STUDY COMMITTEE UPDATE

On behalf of the Parking Study Committee, Mr. Ostroff provided an update. The Parking Study Committee has been working on three fronts and consolidating things in a recommendation. The focus has been on Natick Center and includes:

- 1) A comprehensive review of parking related policies and programs to improve management and utilization of existing inventory.
- 2) Consideration of options for creating new structured parking, including an RFP process for development at the two primary municipal sites, and consideration of standalone town-funded projects.
- 3) Surveys of Natick Center businesses and town government to assess current utilization for employees and visitors, and estimates of potential demand by existing businesses.

Document - Memo from Joshua Ostroff

#### BUDGET REVIEW

##### c. Natick Public Schools

Appearing on behalf of the Natick Public Schools were Superintendent Dr. Peter Sanchioni and Assistant Superintendent of Fiscal Affairs William Hurley.

Dr. Sanchioni began the power point presentation by emphasizing that this was a preliminary budget. This was a strategic plan to educate the children.

Dr. Sanchioni identified the goals for the Fiscal 2015 budget and advised that the total request for Fiscal 2015 of \$53,166,610 was a 9.4% increase over Fiscal 2014 or \$4,577,937. The increase in personnel services was 7.6% which included \$1,034,000 for 22.5 staff additions.

The addition in staff was broken down into:

- 8.5 classroom teachers
- 7.5 pupil services
- 3.0 support services
- 3.5 paraprofessionals

Dr. Sanchioni reviewed the 15 required staffing requests and the 15 requested staffing requests. He explained there was a fine line between required and requested and this was all the result of the students in the system now. 15% of the students were on special ed and there hadn't been any increases which was why something had to be done this year.

With respect to the expense budget, the FY15 expense request was \$12,443,100 which represented a 15.8% increase or \$1,699,271. The major expense increases were SPED Tuitions (\$1,167,030); Transportation (\$154,057); Technology (\$96,121); Curriculum (\$146,230); Principals' Requests (\$132,916).

There were 11 students in the school system that may have to be placed out-of-district. The SPED budget built in the addition of students with the increase in private school tuition.

The increase in technology was internal technology. The most significant was the upgrade of various networks.

Curriculum had additional professional development and some software and hardware needs.

The presentation continued with a chart showing Natick's K-12 enrollment for the past 12 years, a chart of enrollment projections for the next three years, a chart of the high school enrollment from FY09-FY14, a pie chart of the school budget breakdown, a pie chart of the salary distribution, a comparison of FY12 per pupil spending for area towns, a review of the FY15 capital request for Spring Town Meeting, educational strengths & recognitions, an update of the education plan, and the budget calendar.

Under capital \$215,000 was being requested for the purchase of portable classrooms and Ms. Gloff inquired as to where those portable classrooms would be used.

Dr. Sanchioni advised that they were currently at Kennedy and it would be cheaper to purchase vs continuing to lease.

The additional staff didn't include anyone at Ben-Hem, and Mr. Hughes noted that he received an email from three parents about an additional priority.

Dr. Sanchioni responded that the class size at Ben-Ham was 23,24 and he believed that was workable. Two tutors were assigned to each building and the administration said anytime a class hit 26, a full-time tutor would be provided. Ben-Hem will continue to be monitored but they were now identical to Lilja and Brown.

Mr. Hughes asked about Kennedy and the MSBA and Dr. Sanchioni advised that the process to reapply was just opened and Mr. Hurley has submitted another application. He didn't expect to hear anything until the fall.

Not being critical of the quality of education but speaking on behalf of the average taxpayer, Mr. Mabardy noted that people wonder what type of effort was being made to control taxes. Twenty-two new positions were being added to the schools and eight new positions to the municipal side.

Dr. Sanchioni stated that there was no desire from the Schools to seek any override. They lived and died within their budget and appreciated what had been done and would work with the net revenue received. He hoped he provided a justification for the positions being requested. The positions were being requested because over 800 students were added and they wanted to educate those students just as well as the generations that came before them.

Mr. Jennett asked about per pupil expenditure and Mr. Hurley explained that in addition to the School budget there were grants and municipal charges like benefits, retirement, and facilities. All those expenses went into the end of the year report to come up with a per pupil expenditure.

Mr. Ostroff commented that the Town was dealing with a number of unknowns. It would be helpful to know local aid, unrestricted and Chapter 70. Historically the numbers in the budget have been conservative and he wondered if there was any reason for optimism.

He further commented that the enrollment trend was not the norm which he believed was a testament to the others and the educators that young families were moving here. Rising enrollment was a good problem unless it was a struggle to make ends meet.

Dr. Sanchioni noted that he had attended a legislative breakfast and every one of the legislators thought the Governor's budget was low and thought an increase would be seen.

Asked about the impact of McKinney Bento, Dr. Sanchioni responded that it was a problem beyond our ability to solve. There was no way to predict the number of people who moved into the Travel Lodge. It was such an impact on the budget that the School Committee endorsed a warrant article.

Mr. Hurley added that it was a federal law that protects families in a homeless situation. It was happening throughout the state. There have been families living at the Travel Lodge but not to the degree there was now. There were 60 students at the Monticello being transported to Everett and Boston. The parents had the ability to choose the district the child will attend and most remain in their home district. The transportation fees were dramatic. He hoped the problem was resolved and hoped the families could find better housing than living in the hotels.

Document - power point presentation

#### SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS

##### a. Amvets

Mr. Hughes referenced correspondence from the ABCC suspending the Amvet's club license for 15 days in March for the operation of illegal gambling machines. He wanted the Board of Selectmen to also schedule a hearing on the violation.

On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Hughes, the Board unanimously voted to schedule a hearing on an alleged liquor license violation by the Amvets.

##### b. Taxes

Mr. Mabardy voiced his concern about the increase in taxes and distributed a copy of the Town's tax bill history for the past 10 years. He noted the \$3.5 million deficit in the preliminary 2015 budget and the addition of new positions.

Ms. White confirmed there were eight new positions being added to the municipal side, but for some of the positions there was no cost and some were voted by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Mabardy responded that he was just trying to relay the concerns of many people in Town on the increase in their taxes and was looking at some control in spending. When he raised the fact that the Board of Selectmen's budget was reconsidered tonight, Ms. White pointed out that the reconsideration was a net reduction of \$23,000. Money was saved with that proposal.

Mr. Mabardy continued that he saw a proposal for people to be moved up, and Ms. White acknowledged there were two. She added that she had reviewed with the Board the numerous savings introduced for which credit was not being given. It was a complex operation and a lot was expected and the staff delivered, i.e. the major improvements at the golf course.

Ms. White gave assurance that this administration thought about the impact on taxpayers in everything that was done, but there was an obligation to deliver services.

Looking at the sheet distributed by Mr. Mabardy, Mr. Jennett asked that the overrides voted by the taxpayers be pulled out of the equation so the true annual change was more clearly reflected.

There has been an override and two debt exclusions but Ms. White said she looked at comparable communities and they were in the same ballpark for taxes as Natick or even more.

Mr. Mabardy countered that he was concerned about this community and noted there was an operation override not just the debt exclusions.

Mr. Jennett reminded Mr. Mabardy that the citizens voted the operation override. It was not the government's lack of spending control, it was the vote of the majority of the people.

In response to Mr. Mabardy's comment that the operation override was compounding and it won't go away and in addition to that the Town continues to increase taxes, Ms. Gloff noted that costs go up and employees were given raises.

Mr. Jennett agreed that the 2.5% was a variable that the Town didn't have to add, but if that didn't happen the level of service would be receding. It was a balance and he thought the Town had done an excellent job of balancing.

Mr. Ostroff thought Natick provided an extraordinary value to everyone who lives and works here. He was proud of the citizens and grateful for all the people that deliver the services every day. For the \$6,000 average tax bill residents got public safety, great DPW services, and the opportunity to put their own oar in the water and make a difference to help maintain good value.

Driving the budget increase was an increase in staff. The Schools were obviously a big chunk. Benefits were up over \$1 million and that was the fastest growing thing in anyone's budget. Retirement pensions were up over \$1/2 million, and the Retirement Board was better managed now than it was six years ago.

The Board was here to make good on the promises made. Debate was normal and he (Mr. Ostroff) thought it was fine to raise the issues. Everyone will have a different perspective but looking at the cost of adding positions and then looking at the things people do, Mr. Ostroff said he was very proud.

He recognized the work of the folks in the DPW and hoped there would be healing.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.



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Nicholas S. Mabardy, Clerk