Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes April 10, 2019 4:00pm Memorial Hall

**Call to Order**: Chairman Manners called the meeting to order at 4pm. Others in attendance included Matt Marchese, Andrew Baker, and Town Administrator, Terry Narkewicz.

**Executive Session**: Matt presented a motion to enter into executive session in Accordance with M.G.L. c30A, Sec. 21 for negotiating contracts with non-union personnel. Bob seconded the motion. A roll call vote followed: Matt – yes, Bob – yes, and Andrew – yes. The Board will convene in open session.

5:05 pm Members of the Board convened in open session.

**FY’20 Budget Review**:

Budget Appeals – Members of the Board sent a memorandum to the Board of Assessor’s and the Board of Heath notifying each of their decision to reduce their stipends. The Board based their decision on the recent reallocation of duties outsourced to a professional consultant, frequency and length of meetings, as well as comparable stipends in neighboring communities. Both Boards received notice of the proposed reductions and were instructed to submit a written appeal by April 1. The Board of Assessors requested a meeting with the Select Board to discuss their appeal. Matt met with their Board on Monday, April 8. The Assessor’s requested that the Select Board defer any budget reductions until after the Department of Local Services has an opportunity to review their office structure. Board of Health Chair, Deb Coutinho submitted an email requesting an appeal but did not provide any substantiating documentation nor did she request a meeting. In an email to the Select Board Chair and Town Administrator, the Finance Committee agreed to maintain the budget reductions as proposed. Andrew presented a motion to maintain the budget reductions as proposed. Matt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Omnibus Budget:

S.F. Village Partnership requested $10,000; Andrew recommended that the budget be reduced to zero in keeping with the Town of Buckland’s decision.

Capital Requests:

Highway Department – Andrew recommended reducing the $85,000 allocation to the Highway Equipment Stabilization Account to $42,500 with the hopes that Chapter 90 funds would cover the remaining $42,500 needed for the Front End Loader. Andrew also recommended allocating $32,540 for the first year payment on a new JCB Backhoe. The Town would fund the purchase over a five-year period. Matt questioned the need for both pieces of equipment in the same fiscal year as well as the need for new equipment rather than used. Both Andrew and Bob spoke to Matt’s concerns

Senior Center Capital Fund – Matt recommended that the $15,000 remain on Shelburne’s warrant despite the fact that Ashfield cannot contribute unless their Free Cash is certified and Buckland is uncertain whether they will commit the full amount. Matt will speak to the Expansion Committee about the disparity between each contributing town.

25kW Solar Array – the Board supports using the remaining Green Community Designation Fund balance of $33,000 for this project.

Memorial Hall Theater Renovation Project – the Board agreed to support the full $50,000 request.

Other Articles:

Arms Academy Lot – Attorney MacNicol has reviewed the article and noted several concerns. Matt will follow up with Expansion Committee to see if the Select Board should remove the article.

Collector of Taxes – The Collector is supportive of placing the article on the warrant to change the classification of the position from elected to appointed. The Town Clerk will also place the question on the election ballot in accordance with M.G.L.

Excise Tax – the Town will seek approval to impose a 3% tax on all marijuana products and a 6% occupancy tax on lodging establishments including short-term rentals.

Arms Library Association – Donna has reviewed the warrant article and lease. She has recommended changes to both documents.

Other Business:

Public Forum – Bob has arranged for a public forum at the Shelburne Grange on Wednesday, May 1st at 7pm. The forum will allow attendees to ask questions about the annual town meeting warrant.

6:25 pm **Executive Session**: Matt presented a motion to enter into executive session in Accordance with M.G.L. c30A, Sec. 21 for negotiating contracts with non-union personnel. Bob seconded the motion. A roll call vote followed: Matt – yes, Bob – yes, and Andrew – yes. The Board will not reconvene in open session.

The Town Administrator left the meeting at 6:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Narkewicz

Town Administrator