

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 4, 2021**

**6:35PM**

**Memorial Hall**

Present: Robert Lavigne, Anthony Renzoni, Tyler Gibbs

Not Present: Chiara Barnes and Geri Herlihy

Others Present:       Peter Lukes, Town Manager  
                              Stephanie King, Assistant Town Manager  
                              Stephen Madaus, Town Counsel  
                              Liz Fotos, Town Recorder

Chairman Lavigne called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Lavigne stated that Sel. Barnes and Sel. Herlihy intended to dial in and participate remotely however there were some technical issues that prevented that from happening.

**1. Citizens Address**

Dr. Joe Sabato, 47 Boulder Hill Road, was present at the meeting. He stated that he wanted to bring up and offer his help with Safe Communities. He stated that he thought it was a tool in other communities with traffic safety and other issues. He suggested that perhaps the Board could appoint a group of people to see what they could do to exercise this option and offer to help the Town in this positive way.

**2. Appointments, Licenses, and Permits**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE GODA'S PIZZA FOR AN ANNUAL COMMON VICTUALER LICENSE AS PRESENTED.**

**3. Water/Sewer Expense and Revenue Accounting Update**

John Woodsmall Director DPW was present at the meeting along with Ryan Mouradian Water/ Sewer Superintendent.

Mr. Woodsmall stated that when they left off last, there were some questions on the YTD Finances. He provided two handouts to the Board. He stated that at the end of October revenue was above and expenses were a little below which is what they like to see. He stated that there was nothing to highlight except that expenditures were below and revenue was slightly ahead.

Chairman Lavigne asked if taking care of parks and fields was out of the DPW Budget or out of the Recreation Budget.

Mr. Woodsmall replied that within Buildings and Grounds there was a park line item that was primarily funded through the General Fund. He stated that there was also a line item for treatment, fertilizer, and weed application but he does not remember if it was a separate line item or not.

Chairman Lavigne stated that these reports were helpful and asked for them going forward.

#### **4. Discolored Water Discussion**

Mr. Woodsmall stated that speaking about discolored water, Ryan Mouradian, Water/Sewer Superintendent wrote a memo summarizing complaints that they receive and the history of water being discolored.

Mr. Mouradian stated that what they were talking about was naturally occurring iron. He stated that water comes out of grounds and wells and that iron will accumulate overtime. He stated any change; high or uncommon use can stir up some of the discolored water along with hydrant usage, fire training, and street sweeping. He stated most of these issues can be taken care of by flushing the system, which they do for areas that are known to be impacted.

Mr. Mouradian stated that looking at a two year timeline; the Jefferson water tank was taken off line in September 2019. He stated that with this offline, they were forcing water through the maze and down Quinapoxet. He stated that at the time they treated the issues with spot flushing. He stated with this impacting three homes, they did not want to cause problems for 60+ other houses.

Mr. Mouradian stated that February 4<sup>th</sup> it came up again and they flushed the system again. He stated that there was work in the spring of 2020 that got pushed to fall of 2020. He stated that knowing this was going on they did a whole system flush before it was taken off line and then once again when it was put back on line. He stated the system was flushed November 12.

Mr. Mouradian stated that they flush Jefferson two times a year, usually before Memorial Day when people run irrigation systems and then again in the fall before the ground freezes.

Mr. Mouradian stated that in the summer they received 9 reports of brown water but none of them past the initial report. He stated that he reviewed the list of Water Quality Calls from CY 14 all the way to October 27, 2020 and there were 225 logged reports that he narrowed down to 97 unique addresses.

Mr. Mouradian stated that there were 19 addresses that reported more than once and 29% reported more than three times. He stated that they were not throwing away those reports but that it was not a large scale issue. He stated that any minor change can cause the system to be temperamental and that to help those homes they offered an in home water filtration system. He stated that this system was reviewed by the Town Manager and Town Counsel and it would provide a filter and year supply of cartridges. He stated that they did offer this system to one resident and they received no response from them.

Mr. Mouradian stated that there were other options such as taking a system offline or using a treatment facility that would add chlorine but these would be contractual changes. He stated that right now they feel the best way to move forward with this was to alleviate the sporadic concerns that came up.

Chairman Lavigne asked what other towns were doing.

Mr. Mouradian replied they were doing the same or less. He stated he does not know of other towns that were offering to install filters. He stated most towns are flushing their areas.

Chairman Lavigne asked the cost of flushing.

Mr. Mouradian replied that it was 3-4 operators tied up and then about 250-300 gallons of water that goes to UAW.

Mr. Woodsmall stated that the flushing was meant as maintenance and that they were always looking to monitor the frequency of flushing needed. He stated that it is easy but it takes time to do and they need to do a Code Red and get operations in place. He stated that for ongoing problems they have the water filtration system in place and it may be the most effective and cost effective way of solving the issues without investing millions of dollars.

Chairman Lavigne asked the cause.

Mr. Mouradian replied that on Main Street there was a little valley that was low lying and that the pond on Muscuapog Road used to be the water source. He stated that it was oversized and not a lot of water running though. He stated a cause could be water filling back and forth and gravity pulling iron in. He stated that there were many other reasons it could happen as well.

Sel. Renzoni asked if they would make the pipe smaller when they replaced it.

Mr. Mouradian replied that they would more than likely down size but that it was not currently on the schedule because of other mains breaking.

Sel. Renzoni asked how long the run of 12" was.

Mr. Mouradian replied it was thousands of feet down Rt 68 and all the way up Muscuapog Road. He stated that it was a mill old and there has always been a tank online with water moving through.

Sel. Renzoni asked if we provided the people who were receiving brown water a discounted price.

Mr. Mouradian replied we were not.

Mr. Lukes stated that other towns were not offering their residents a filter system. He stated that the water meets standards federally. He stated that they suggested a filter as a reasonable approach to the 2%. He stated the town did not need to offer it but they were.

Mr. Mouradian replied that it was difficult to estimate how much water would be effected to determine any sort of discount.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he was not talking about discounting the brown water he was talking about discounting all their water for being inconvenienced. He stated that the filtration system if someone chose to take advantage of it would be at the meter. He stated that he appreciated the information from the Town but he did not know how he felt about it right now. He stated that he takes resident concerns seriously and he will let them know any further questions or concerns he may have.

Chairman Lavigne stated that he understands that this will not be perfect and that he thinks the Town needs to take a reasonable approach to correcting it. He stated it is good to know that there are options.

Mr. Mouradian stated that there will be a whole town flushing that will take place in the spring of 2021 and will take months to do. He stated they will advertise this.

Mr. Woodsmall stated that they do take these complaints seriously and they want people to call in and continue to call in when it is happening so that DPW can track the events and have a baseline for data. He stated real time data is the most helpful.

## **5. WRSD Roundtable**

Chairman Lavigne stated that on January 7<sup>th</sup>, the Town Manager, himself and Paul Challenger would meet for a budget roundtable. He stated that any concerns that the Board had they should forward along so they can hopefully get some insight for next year.

Sel. Renzoni stated that things had changed from a year ago. He stated that with regards to the feasibility study, the town has learned that people can operate remotely and even thrive in that environment. He stated that there should possibly be some option for virtual school and the town could push back on the district's insistence that they needed an \$80 million new school.

Chairman Lavigne stated that they have reports from the Light Department about savings of tens of thousands in electricity alone. He asked for more insight in this. He stated that he was underwhelmed with the plan of getting district children back in school and he is not confident that the district will pull this off.

Sel. Renzoni stated that if the District was not planning on going back they needed to let parents know. He stated that the School Committee was not talking about this and needed to be.

Chairman Lavigne encouraged the Board to send questions to Mr. Lukes or himself so they could have those issues addressed.

Mr. Lukes stated that this will be a virtual meeting and that it would be broadcasted on Holden TV.

## **6. Town Manager Update**

See Attached

## **7. 2021 Goal**

Chairman Lavigne stated that the Plan for Eagle Lake non-water moved to a subsection of the recreation goal.

He stated that there was a new goal for the Funding Formula for 2021.

They eliminated C and D from Town Operations.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADOPT THE 3 GOALS WITH SUBSET GOALS AS PRESENTED IN THE DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> EMAIL.** (See email).

## **8. Response to Citizen Address**

Sel. Lavigne stated that he thinks this conversation can happen when they look at a committee structure and get some input from the Chief of Police.

Mr. Lukes agreed and stated that he would speak to Chief Sherblom.

## **9. Selectmen Minutes**

None

## **10. Selectmen Miscellaneous**

Sel. Gibbs: none

Sel. Renzoni: none

Sel. Lavigne: none

**11. Selectmen Subcommittee**

None

**12. Town Manager Review**

Chairman Lavigne stated that he would reach out to Sel. Herlihy with regards to this. The Board agreed that the narrative formula worked for their purposes.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJORN THE JANUARY 4, 2021 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 7:45PM.**

**APPROVED: July 12, 2021**