



## **MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, August 19, 2015 6:30 PM  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room

Members present: Paul Dargie, Gil Archambault, Tim Finan, Matt Lydon, Veeral Bharucha

Members Excused: Joe Oneail, Judy Plant

Staff present: Bill Parker, Community Development Director

Also in attendance: Rick Riendeau (Public Works Director), Mark Bender (Town Administrator), Jack Sheehy (Finance Director)

### **August 19, 2015 Agenda**

1. Follow-up with Department of Public Works – Rick Riendeau
2. Initial Review of Tax Impact Table
3. 2016 Project Prioritization Discussion
4. Approval of Minutes of August 5, 2015 Meeting
5. Other Business
  - a. Determine Next Meeting Date
  - b. Other

Paul Dargie convened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

### **Follow-Up with Department of Public Works**

Public Works Director presented data from Cartegraph regarding the Overall Condition Index of the Town's road network with costs associated with just paving the urban arterials, urban collectors, and urban locals most in need and noted that it is estimated to be \$1.8m years, with the current budget being just over \$300,000. He recommended that there be a warrant article for reconstruction and that the DPW budget be increased for ongoing surface treatment and maintenance. Discussion followed and P. Dargie asked for a recommendation. M. Bender distributed a copy of the warrant article for roads used by Amherst, and then recommended a warrant article for up to \$12m/year, with a drawdown of \$2m/year. Lydon asked if \$350,000 would remain in the budget and Bender replied he would like to build up to \$500k per year into the budget. J. Sheehy added that the Town would go to the voters one time to borrow up to \$12m with a bond proposed each year for up to \$2m. Quite a bit of discussion followed on various monetary scenarios and interest rates. Bender stated that the benchmark goal would be an OCI of 65.

Dargie suggested a bond to catch the Town up as he supported the use of bonds. V. Bharucha asked if a bond was used, would you still need more for maintenance. Riendeau replied that its less costly to maintain improved roads than to rebuild and the Town is now teetering in the middle, the goal is to get to a point of

balance. Right now the Town is playing catch-up, just like with bridges. Lydon added that \$300,000 is not enough and Riendeau replied that the OCI indicates a drop from the 60s to 50s within five years. Bender added the goal is \$500,000 in the budget for next year's maintenance and the Town's infrastructure needs to be addressed now with significant funding.

Dargie stated that if the goal is an OCI of 65 that \$5m makes sense. Discussion followed and Archambault added that you could probably sell this to the voters, and Bharucha said that public roads are used by everyone and he judges a town by how well maintained they are. Discussion continued on reasonable amounts, and terms for bonds. Dargie asked if a \$5m bond for 15 years made sense and Bender, Riendeau, and Sheehy replied that it would.

Discussion then focused on bridges and whether \$175,000 per year made sense. Riendeau replied that there is \$7m worth of work needed on 19 bridges. Bender added that in reality \$175k is not enough. Riendeau added that \$175,000 is needed to define the scope of bridge projects. Lydon asked from a political standpoint did we want the money every year. Sheehy said that was what was good about capital reserves. Lydon said why put more money in if it hasn't been spent and Riendeau replied that it allows fluctuation and flexibility.

Additional discussion followed on what interest rate to use in the tax rate impact table and it was finally decided to use 3.5%.

#### **Initial Review of Tax Rate Impact Table**

Dargie made adjustments to the table based on prior discussions.

#### **2016 Project Prioritization Discussion**

Dargie distributed ranking sheets for those project requests slated for 2016 and each member provided their rankings. It was noted that an additional meeting would be necessary to insure that J. Oneail and J. Plant provided their input and that the rankings would be finalized at the next meeting.

#### **Approval of Minutes of August 5, 2015**

Parker stated that due to staffing cuts he had not been able to do the minutes but would have them for the next meeting. Action was tabled.

#### **Determine Next Meeting Date**

The group discussed if it was possible to meet August 26<sup>th</sup>, and Parker would find out availability to get as many members present as possible.

Dargie adjourned the meeting at 8:20.