



Town of Randolph

Town Hall
41 South Main Street
Randolph, MA 02368

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Town Council

Monday, April 11, 2016

7:00 PM

Chapin Hall
Town Hall, 2nd Floor

Call to Order - Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Adams called the meeting to order and Councilor Fernandes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: 7 - Council Member Paul J. Meoni, Council President Jason R. Adams, Council Member William Alexopoulos, Council President Paul K. Fernandes, Council Member Arthur G. Goldstein, Council Member Andrew Azer and Council Member Edward Gilbert

Absent: 2 - Council Member James F. Burgess Jr. and Council Vice President Kenrick W. Clifton

Moment of Silent Prayer

A moment of silent prayer was observed for Dorothy (Dot) Sullivan who passed away at home on April 8th. Dot ran the council on aging, developed the senior tax abatement program, thoughts and prayers for her and her family.

Announcement from Council President

None

Motions, Orders, and Resolutions

None

Public Comments

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Murphy - remind folks about annual town wide clean up. Saturday, April 30th at 8am Town Hall; information on website. Also the 6th annual William Pasquantonio Road race is Saturday, May 7th. Excited to announce that they received word that part of Youth Works grant - provides state funds to employee 20 at risk youths. Master Plan Steering Committee - heard from a few people, real diverse prospective for the committee relative to the master plan process. Finally would like to take a minute to mention Dot Sullivan - friend, seniors relied on her for tax process, true inspiration figure, very much missed.

FY 16 Budget Update

Town Manager David Murphy - Briefly walk the council through FY16 and trends and forecasts in FY17. Beth Mosely been extremely helpful as primary finance accountant for the town; stepped up and helped compile the info for the budget process. 1) Health Insurance Budget positive - Ann/Celina targeted and had educational campaign for the employees, affordable plans were trending to better services, educated enough folks to move to plans, substantial savings to the town. 2) Unemployment Insurance - surplus, pay as you go basis with the state. 3) Street light budget - still negotiating with National Grid to change in LED lights. 4) Public Safety Departments - doing fairly well, budget requests have been reasonable for transfers. 5) Special Council - uptick for a variety of purposes, might need a transfer at year end for unanticipated legal costs. 6) Veteran Benefits - holding steady; new office Kevin Cook, making sure all are receiving what they need. 7) Recreation Revolving Account - deficit, set targets, plan to get even. 8) Collection outlook for FY16 - Motor Vehicle/Excise commitment is up 12% from FY15 to FY16. Hotel/Meal Tax - become important parts of budget, slightly above expectations. Building Permits - high above expectations for FY16, solar panels submit to building permits, sign that people are investing in their property. Specifically like to mention the work Jean Richard is doing on some of the tax title work, cleaned up old accounts town had, \$500,000 in tax title work this year.

Councilor Gilbert - quick question on building permits - besides solar panels, is it residential or commercial coming in? Mostly residential, permits have been on new homes and subdivisions, remodel on homes. Street light conversion? We are just waiting for National Grid to give us a blessing that we did the job. A certification that was proposed was completed, once certified they reduce delivery cost, receive full rebate for money saved already and adjustment going forward.

Councilor Goldstein - talking about solar, how are we with the project we are investing in? The state has not lifted that cap for new projects; talked to them and they are ready to go, permits in place just waiting for cap to be lifted. That saving is not reflected in FY17 budget? No, it is not.

FY 17 Budget Outlook

Town Manager Murphy - upcoming 2017 levy limited increase a shade over \$1.7M; activity in assessors office that needs to be done - 5 year plan DOR guidelines; state aid figure is up \$300K - consists primarily funding of charter school reimbursement; local receipts holding steady - positive trend in building permits. Expense Outlook - Health Insurance is up 3% on average, working to educate employees; Debt Service up \$441,277 - 3 year window it will increase. Councilor Meoni - health insurance, are we in

a situation in that with the Cadillac Plans we are getting fines? Not likely on some of the plans we are seeing for the foreseeable future. Retirement assessment - \$430K increase from last year. Randolph Public School request 3.5% more. Blue Hills assessment increased \$314,867, going up based on increased enrollment. Town side general budget - no increase; 4 contracts in negotiations (Fire, Police) slightly unknown. Snow/Ice - adopted months ago that can be addressed recap sheet in November. Request a formal authorization from the council to submit the budget at a later meeting.

Councilor Adams - so moved, motion has been made to hear the budget at a later time. Vote 7 - 0 - 0.

Old Business

Councilor Azer - requested info relative to our charter limits, our attorney provided some information. It appears that there is no cap for number of students a district can send, but a spending cap of 18% - currently 200 students attend charter school we pay net \$3.6M; currently up to 18% for under performing districts. Attorney Griffin - right now statute says 9% to 18% depending on how your district has been performing; we are up to 18%. We are getting difference of opinions, can we follow up? Attorney Griffin - definitions to get there are different, my initial reading say we qualify for 18%, 4 other proposals out there all different; not my area of expertise; yield to town manager. Councilor Azer - would like to understand the number, council needs to take a position on various articles, send back to you to report back what it is today and what the various proposals are.

New Business

Appoint Interim Town Council Representative to the School Committee

Councilor Adams - we have to appoint an interim town council rep to the school committee - prudent that we have rep to bring back info to the council, have not gotten enough communication through the school because of the unfortunate absence of Councilor Clifton. I have time to spare until Councilor Clifton (who I spoke to today and doing much better) and will only be a short stint for myself.

Correspondence

Received a letter from Xfinity, changing the name of some of their packages; you will get a letter, not changing the prices.

Committee Reports

Economic Development - Councilor Meoni - meeting this Thursday at 7pm.

Library Committee - Councilor Gilbert - work going smoothly, on time, on budget, met last week and walked around. Library putting out a new publication called Turner Talk. Megan and staff did a great job putting together. Lots of programs for children.

Councilor Adams - Attorney Griffin, do we need to take any action on South Street. Attorney Griffin - no, council authorized the purchase at the last meeting, so pursuant to that a purchase and sale agreement has been signed by the seller/buyer; there are a number of things to be done before we convey the deed, closing date at end of June, seller pleased with the result.

Town Council Clerk Subcommittee - Councilor Goldstein - subcommittee of 1 doing an initial screening of all the resumes, ads on Craigslist and town website, 40 responses, of those responses nothing to bring before the Council. Councilor Adams - Mr. Murphy can you help me put an add on the MMA. Yes

Councilor Adams - update on schools - watched last meeting and spoke to the chair. Exciting development - school committee authorized busing for students in the 7th and 8th grade who live 2 miles away; cost about \$150K/yr, if it passes, step in the right direction.

Council Comments

Councilor Azer - expressed disappointment with the Randolph Herald's article on the Town Council's position relative to the Lyons School submission. The headline created an unnecessary adversarial position. We listed a boatload of reasons why we were not in favor and the Herald only reported that it was based on poor timing. Take the reporter at his word that his submission did have some of the facts but in this day and age media and everyone reads the headlines and attacks and I don't think all the facts were out there.

Councilor Goldstein - continue well wishes to Councilor Clifton and hope he continues his speedy recovery.

Councilor Meoni - great event, Wednesday, April 13th Attorney General Maura Healy coming to Stetson Hall, free event, issues that her office is currently working on and Q&A. Wish everyone in the Randolph Public School system a great vacation next week. Have lots of fun, sleep late and don't forget about trivia family movie fun night/Showcase Cinemas on April

20th.

Councilor Adams - Councilor Meoni is being modest about his performance in the Community Band concert, wonderful event, vintage vibes. Had the pleasure of seeing the Randolph Middle Schools performance of Legally Blonde. Very impressed by the performers, stage hands and student advisor.

Adjournment

Councilor Goldstein - motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Gilbert.