



Town of Randolph

Town Hall
41 South Main Street
Randolph, MA 02368

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Monday, June 27, 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Meoni.

Present: 8 - Council Member Paul J. Meoni, Council President Jason R. Adams, Council Member William Alexopoulos, Council Member James F. Burgess Jr., Council Member Paul K. Fernandes, Council Vice President Kenrick W. Clifton, Council Member Arthur G. Goldstein and Council Member Edward Gilbert

Absent: 1 - Council Member Andrew Azer

Moment of Silent Prayer

Announcement from Council President

Councilor Adams thanked Councilor Burgess for the flags outside the council office. Very interesting and historical.

Motions, Orders, and Resolutions

Public Comments

Tom Binnall, Randolph Firefighter - Would like to thank the community, councilors, firefighters for the fireworks fundraiser held on June 17th at the Elks. Presented check for \$6,200 for the funding of the town fireworks.

Brian Howard - Thank the community and Local 1268, the fireworks over the last few years have been tremendous. Been to the parade for decades and this year they have done a real nice job of planning the parade. Want to thank the community and men and women of the fire department for supporting the event. Fireworks happen 9:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. the streets will start to be shut down.

Town Manager's Report

Brian Howard presented Town Manager's Report.

1) Another event that occurs the night before the 4th is the Women's Club Shortcake Festival. Keep in mind the street closing.

- 2) Power Farms programs begin 6/28. Last year popular; guided trail walks, kayaking, etc. More information on the town website.
- 3) Main Street Market has begun. 3 to 7 every Wednesday. Residents need to support local vendors to continue to have a successful program.
- 4) Summer recreation - except weeks 3 and 5, there are some availability. Reach out to the recreation department.
- 5) Arts in the Park starting up at the gazebo, information on the town website.
- 6) Both public safety projects are progressing forward. Fire Station a week and a half ahead of schedule. Have had tremendous weather, been there on Saturdays doing work, been able to advance the schedule. Roofing has begun, brick/concrete work should start in 2 to 2 1/2 weeks. Police Station - all the sheet rock is complete, wiring complete, phase 1 is almost done. Ahead of schedule.

Councilor Goldstein - Are they going to have the Pow Wow and Civil War enactment this year? The Pow Wow is an event that gets rotated, not eligible to hold again. Civil War discussions have been going on. Henry Cook and Pat Harrison, hoping to bring back to Randolph. Have they started the de-weeding? Started last week, been removing quite a bit, project began earlier than anticipated. Councilor Burgess - Conservation had a meeting to specifically go down and make sure the water raking was happening on time, walked the site, went down to the pond. Lot of removal and then that has to sit for a while and then DPW will remove that.

Councilor Gilbert - De-weeding, is this in ongoing process? Will it last the whole year? Councilor Burgess - Maintenance will be ongoing, looking at something at Belcher Pond that cuts back on the growth of weeds, will see how long this one lasts and then will see if we need water raking.

Councilor Clifton - Respect to the Civil War enactment, ongoing discussions on terms of having it this year? That is my understanding. My suggestion would be to reach out to the school and see if we can encourage our students to attend. Remarkable event, better understanding of the Civil War. I agree, take my kids to Plymouth and honestly Randolph enactment better than Plymouth.

Councilor Adams - A few vendors and customers mentioned relocating the Vesey Road crosswalk to in front of Powers Farm would be good. Moving it down or adding a second one. I will reach out to the police chief and get

their input.

Old Business

Council Order 2016-016 FY'17 53E 1/2 Revolving
Accounts - presentation/vote

Attachments: [2016-016 53E Revolving Accounts](#)

Councilor Goldstein - Motion to approve council order as printed.
Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Basically similar to what it was last year.

Councilor Meoni - My only question is recreation revolving. I thought we were moving away from that, keeping recreation in the budget? The intent I believe that when the community center is opened then that and the recreation revolving account will be put into the budget.

Vote: 8 - 0 - 0

Council Order 2016-014 - FY'17 Water Enterprise
Budget - presentation/vote - Public Hearing
- Read Notice
- Public Comments

Attachments: [2016-014 Water Enterprise](#)

Council Clerk Debra Ward - Read the notice published in the June 15, 2016
Patriot Ledger.

Public Hearing Public Comments:

Mr. Burke - Last meeting someone mentioned paying 15 months on the water this year. Councilor Adams - With the initial conversion to quarterly billing some residents were paying what seemed to be an extra bill, now everyone is caught up.

Councilor Goldstein - Moved that the FY17 Water Enterprise budget be accepted. Seconded by Councilor Meoni. Vote: 8-0-0

Council Order 2016-015 -- FY'17 Sewer Enterprise
Budget - presentation/vote Public Hearing

- Read Notice
- Public Comments

Attachments: [2016-015 Sewer Enterprise](#)

Council Clerk Debra Ward - Read the notice published in the June 15, 2016 Patriot Ledger.

Public Hearing Public Comments:

Mr. Burke - What percentage are we going up? Mr. Gardner - Less than 4%. Some town have two meters, would Randolph do? No discussion to have irrigation meters within the town. Charges are on whatever water passes through the meter calculates the sewer bill. Irrigation meters costly to install and regulate.

Councilor Goldstein - Moved that the FY'17 Sewer Enterprise budget be accepted. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote: 8-0-0

Council Order 2016-017 -- FY'17 Water/Sewer Rates - presentation/vote

Public Hearing

- Read Notice
- Public Comments

Attachments: [2016-017 FY 17 Water Sewer Rates](#)

[Randolph Rates FY 2017](#)

Council Clerk Debra Ward - Read the notice published in the June 15, 2016 Patriot Ledger.

Public Hearing Public Comments:

Mr. Burke - Presentation last time said cost of a gallon of water was 1. something. Mr. Gardner - Less than one penny. We have the 3.5% sewer increase that will be 4 cents a gallon. That is incorrect. Cost of gallon of water I proposed two weeks ago is .00071, the cost for sewer is 1.1 cent, if you combine the two it's less than two cents per gallon per water and waste water. Trying to build up surplus for treatment plant? Senior discount? Yes recommending it stay the same. Discount is based on base charge not the flow rate.

Councilor Goldstein - Moved to accept the FY'17 Water/Sewer rates. Seconded by Councilor Fernandes.

Councilor Clifton - How much more can the average house expect to pay? Mr. Gardner - Approximately \$8 if they use 2,500 cubic feet. Sewerage would be \$24.

Councilor Burgess - Last week we had a question on the surplus on the water, have you come up with better numbers? Mr. Gardner - I have. FY'16 does not close for another 3 business days, began the year with negative balance of \$423,812, based on my projections (conservative) surplus will be in excess of half a million dollars. Bills come in after the close of the fiscal year, auditors come in and find bills that should be paid in FY'16. 2016 bills won't be collected until 2017. Reserves are healthy part of any enterprise fund. Used for capital, anything you can pay cash for will keep bonding costs down and keep the rates lower.

Councilor Goldstein - Same calculation for the sewer? Mr. Gardner - Sewer is in much better shape. Close of FY'15 was \$1.2M not negative, in addition collective revenue, sold bonds. Expect to see over a million dollar increase in the sewer department.

Councilor Burgess - No problem with surplus fund as long as that surplus is going into the stabilization fund for the water treatment plant. Mr. Gardner - That is my recommendation. We have not been consistent with that on our vote. If we are not going to put it into a fund for water treatment then it should go back to the consumer in a reduction in rate.

Councilor Goldstein - My recollection is that we put money into the water/sewer stabilization. Councilor Burgess - The first year we voted to save we spent it 15 minutes later. Mr. Gardner - Would not recommend transferring everything over, some of it in a restricted fund.

Councilor Burgess - You are anticipating a surplus in FY'17? Mr. Gardner - yes. We should be having this discussion as a council that money go to the water treatment plant or it should go to a reduction in rates. You may say we should keep money aside, we are going to spend \$24M on a water treatment plant, I do not want to burden them later on a huge increase. Committed with the surplus going to the water treatment plant.

Councilor Goldstein - Do bonding agencies add the enterprise fund from water/sewer when they look at stabilization fund? Yes, they evaluate your balances.

Councilor Fernandes - I don't think anyone is disputing the point that Councilor Burgess is trying to make, council should be deciding, do what we need to do.

Councilor Gilbert - I agree, any surplus should be put into the enterprise account for the plant. I would like to move the question and vote on this.

Vote: 8-0-0.

New Business

Council Order 2016-018 MOU with Local 1268 Firefighters

Attachments: [2016-018 MOU with Firefighters](#)
[Local 1268 MOA FY17 19 2](#)

Councilor Burgess asked that New Business 2016-018 be taken out of order. No objections.

Brian Howard presented contract between Firefighters Local 1268 and the Town of Randolph. Meetings were held between Town Manager, Local 1268 and Mr. Howard over a 4 1/2 to 5 month period. 3 year contract, feel one of the best in the state and have the opportunity to strike a balance between fiscal responsibility and recognize fine work done by the department.

Councilor Burgess - Move to fund the contract between Local 1268 and Town of Randolph as negotiated by the Town Manager. Seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.

Councilor Goldstein - Give highlights of the contract, what has changed? Sick leave buy back - believe it rewards good behavior, controls costs when they retire and reduces OT when less call-outs. 1% employee stakeholder. Field training differential - small amount; classes at academy; deadline on paramedics - now 28 month window. What about salary? Shareholder agreement still in place; 1% base, revenue growth area compressed by 1%, no longer a cash certification, now definitive numbers.

Kevin McDonald, Union Representative - great sessions with Brian and Mr. Murphy; give and take, good conclusion at the end.

Councilor Meoni - Enhance communication pay? There to keep it in the contract, pre-dates my involvement with the contract. Article 15, is that \$5,400 maximum per firefighter? In the first year of the contract you would max out. Article 18 ALS agreement, describe that. When you are hired you have 28 months to get your paramedic and if you leave voluntarily would have to pay back the training. Article 29, duration, does mention any changes shall be retro to beginning of new contract? Language is there to keep everyone moving forward.

Councilor Clifton - Would you say that this contract is essentially compatible

with neighboring towns? Some sections of this agreement but not applies to apples. The Fire department has the busiest fire department per capita. Do we line out this agreement towards other agreements, certainly the unions look at other towns. What would you say is an outstanding distinction between our contract and neighboring communities? Employee stakeholder option specific to Randolph, has no layoff clause, no other town has.

Councilor Adams - On the motion to ratify the contract. Vote 8 - 0 - 0.

Correspondence

None

Committee Reports

Library

Councilor Gilbert - Day one of free breakfast at the Turner Free Library run by project bread, 5 or 6 children, open to the public.

Councilor Burgess - Working on childrens amphitheater, fall-early spring.

School Committee

Councilor Clifton - School committee met on 6/23. 1) End of year budget discussion and approved. 2) Initial discussion on cap on charter schools. 3) Superintendents evaluation - 4 criteria that was considered, edits were made, will give council copies. 4) Presentation on guidance - only 3 counselors, 750 students, problem, recommending to look at matter and come up with initiative so our kids can get effective guidance. 5) School committee voted to accept 2% increase for paraprofessionals and 1.75% cafeteria workers. 6) Middle School had it's moving up ceremony last Friday, 208 students.

Councilor Goldstein - Final budget, do they project a surplus or a deficit for FY'16? My understanding it was a deficit and some monies are going to be used. Have they identified why a deficit? Director of Finance spoke to bills not yet coming in from certain vendors. What program? Special needs.

Councilor Gilbert - Middle School sign is up, in place, not working but looks great.

Councilor Burgess - When School Committee has a discussion on charter schools are we invited? Important for this matter to be discussed; keep informed when advocates coming to the meeting to address.

Councilor Fernandes - Need to get more involved and trust you will keep us informed. Does this mean you have already made up your mind when it comes to charter schools? Yes. I am encouraging my colleagues to keep an open mind and hear both sides of the argument and make a reasoned decision on how we go forward.

Councilor Meoni - MASC and MMA policy committee have been unanimously opposed increasing the number of charter schools. Reach out to them and make sure we get all the information.

Councilor Adams - Last meeting Councilor Burgess raised the question of staff reductions, were you able to look into that? There have been reductions in some areas and additions in other areas.

Council Comments

Councilor Burgess - I am hopefully moving to a next step if you would let me and announce my candidacy for state representative. If anyone has any questions feel free to give me a buzz.

Councilor Meoni - Wish everyone a happy 4th of July and safe as well.

Councilor Clifton - Happy 4th of July.

Councilor Gilbert - Now that the senior olympics are over Diane White looked like Michael Phelps with all her medals. She went into the pool tournament and there was no one in her group so Marc Craig met her in a match and she handed it to him. Great lady.

Brian Howard - Marc Craig was following along and texted: 1) Arts in the Park starts July 5th at the Gazebo. Movies on the off weeks, start at sunset. 2) Main Street Market - if you spend \$10 you get a punch on your card and get into a lottery for gift and prizes. 3) Mayor of Randolph - Lucas Walker, a student who lives in the community was the winner. Lot of community support for Lucas.

Councilor Adams - Thank Councilor Meoni and the community band for an excellent concert.

Adjournment

Councilor Goldstein - Motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Fernandes.

Future Town Council Meetings

July 11, 2016
July 25, 2016
August 8, 2016
August 22, 2016
September 12, 2016
September 26, 2016
October 17, 2016
November 14, 2016
November 28, 2016
December 5, 2016
December 19, 2016