Board of Selectmen
Minutes
Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 7:00pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Lucy Wallace in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Selectmen Ken Swanton and Alice von Loesecke were in attendance as well as Town Administrator Tim Bragan and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet.

Minutes
On a Swanton/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to approve minutes of 1/30, 2/6 and 2/15, as presented.

Town-wide clean up
Residents Paul Green, Brian McClain and Libby Levison came to announce dates for the third annual roadside clean up and garlic mustard pull. They are planning for the weekend of April 28th and 29th. They will distribute supplies on the 25th at the General Store and ask residents to finish by end of day Sunday. They are requesting the DPW pick up bags on Monday.
On a Swanton/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to support contributing $340 for supplies.

Public Communication
Jennifer Finch, Codman Hill Road, said her family participated in the clean-up last year and are excited to do it again.

Town Administrator Report
Bragan announced recent requests the board will need to act on at upcoming meetings. This included an entertainment license request for the Apple Blossom Festival to be held on May 12th and a one-day liquor license request for the Ken Harrod Bike Ride to be held on May 12th as well.

Bragan informed the board a liquor license hearing will be held at their March 20th meeting for the Harvard General Store. The store is requesting a change of premise for their off-premise all alcohol license and a new beer/wine on premise license.

Bragan announced the Planning Board will hold public hearings for protective bylaw amendments on March 5th.

Bragan presented the board with a landscape plan developed by local landscape architect Mamie Wytrwal. This will complete the Town Hall renovation. He has reviewed the plan with the Garden Club. The board members were pleased with the plan.

Bragan explained the free cash number was high again this year. He attributes this in part to a back out from the Department of Revenue of $350,406. Bragan does not anticipate this high of a number in the future.

Bragan distributed the most recent omnibus budget, recap sheet and health insurance FY19 projection sheet. There is currently a surplus of $71,301. He indicated the recent personnel study done on all public non-union employees will require use of a portion of these funds. He and Sobalvarro will meet with von Loesecke and Wallace to review the outcome from the study. Bragan said typically this type of study is conducted every ten years but it has not been done in Harvard for twenty.

Bragan informed the board of upcoming MMA legislative breakfast meetings with the closest one being held in Hudson on March 9th.

Legislative/budget update from Senator Jamie Eldridge

Senator Eldridge said even though revenue is trending upward there continues to be a gap between revenue and expenses. He is supporting closing corporate tax loopholes and breaks, sustaining community preservation revenue (CPC), and reasonable proposals to raise revenues on hosting services (such as Airbnb), water use, transportation and water bottles. Wallace asked the Senator to assist our Town Administrator with his efforts to solve issues with Montachusett Area Regional Transportation (MART). They talked briefly about Harvard's home rule petition for senior property tax relief, housing initiatives related to 40B (affordable housing initiative), retiree freeze on health/life insurance and gas tax. Eldridge spoke about the millionaire tax which they estimate could raise up to $2,000,000,000. The plan will be to utilize funds for transportation and education. He expects an increase in Chapter 70 for universal pre-k and to assist in reducing community college costs. Wallace told the Senator about Harvard's initiative to create a plan for resuming jurisdiction of Devens.

Transfer Station Committee charge

Committee members Libby Levison and Tom Philippou joined the discussion on this agenda item. Swanton proposed: The Transfer Station Committee is to develop a proposed implementation plan for the SMART recycling program for the Board of Selectmen to consider, and then help guide any resulting implementation plan. They defined the membership to be comprised of five members; two Board of Health members, two Board of Selectmen members and the DPW Director who will serve as the project lead. BoH member Tom Philippou will serve as Chair. Philippou admitted this is an aggressive campaign to have a proposal ready for July 1. All agreed the proposal to move to the SMART program cannot be rushed and must be fully vetted. Levison said they are preparing an FAQ document to answer many of the common questions. Swanton added this program has been adopted in 147 communities thus far.
On a Swanton/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to adopt charge.

Devens Jurisdiction Committee

On a von Loesecke/Swanton motion, the board voted unanimously to adopt charge as written dropping names. They will advertise the need for volunteers on the town website.

On a von Loesecke/Swanton motion, the board voted unanimously to appoint Kara Minar and Lucy Wallace to the committee.

Old Library Accessibility
Wallace reported negotiations continue with the Abacus Architects to finalize a contract.

Eagle Scout proclamations
On a Swanton/ von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to issue proclamations to Jonathan McWhite and Jason Lancellotti.

Caucus warrant
On a Swanton/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to approve caucus warrant for Saturday, March 24th 2018.

Annual town meeting draft warrant
Bragan reviewed the draft warrant. Board members had some questions and comments. They discussed removing the article submitted by Sklar on changing the budget process. They talked about the school article and the possibility of needing to order additional chairs and capability to set up classrooms to accommodate overflow. Bragan will find out the capacity of the gymnasium. He will revise the warrant and send a final version to members on Monday for approval at their meeting next Tuesday.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm.

Documents referenced:
Transfer Station draft charge – email from Swanton dated 2.22.2018
Devens Jurisdiction Committee charge – dated 2.8.2018
Proclamation request – dated Nov 2017 & Dec 2017
Caucus warrant – dated 2018
Draft warrant – dated 2.23.2018