

BOARD of SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING – DECEMBER 21, 2009

TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM – 9:00 A.M.

REVISED/APPROVED MINUTES

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

In attendance: R. Marconi, A. Bodner, B. Manners, J. Plock, D. Masters

Agenda

1. Appointment of Assistant Town Treasurer
2. 2010 Ambulance Billing Rates Approval
3. Executive Session—Schlumberger Discussion

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

J. Plock moved to change the order of the agenda to discuss Item #2, Ambulance Billing Rates Approval first. B. Manners seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

1. 2010 Ambulance Billing Rates Approval

J. Plock moved to approve the proposed 2010 ambulance billing rates. A. Bodner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-1 with B. Manners opposed.

D. Masters arrived at 9:06 a.m.

2. Appointment of Assistant Town Treasurer

J. Plock moved to approve the appointment of Linda Hannah, Deputy Treasurer; B. Manners seconded.

Maureen Kiernan, Treasurer, was present for the discussion. Additional discussion lead to the withdrawal of the initial motion. Several succeeding motions were made and then withdrawn. Discussion focused on the required qualifications of the Assistant Treasurer. David Grogins, Town Counsel, pointed out the Charter's definition of the responsibilities of the Town Treasurer as "the Treasurer shall exercise the functions of the Town deposit fund." Attorney Grogins went on to state that several years ago the state legislature had removed the phrase "Town deposit fund" and therefore the Charter does not accurately describe the duties and responsibilities of the Town Treasurer.

B. Manners called the question and a vote was taken on the calling of the question. The calling of the question passed 3-2 with B. Manners, R. Marconi and J. Plock in agreement and A. Bodner and D. Masters opposed.

J. Plock moved to approve Linda Hannah to fill the vacancy of Assistant Treasurer. B. Manners seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-2 with A. Bodner and D. Masters opposed.

A. Bodner, using his Blackberry, researched Robert's Rules of Order on the issue of the calling of the question and determined that 2/3 majority is needed to pass the item. Because only 60% of the Board approved, the question did not pass. A. Bodner did not, however, want to revisit the issue at this time.

3. Executive Session—Schlumberger Discussion

J. Plock moved to go into Executive Session at 9:45, inviting David Grogins, Town Counsel, and Rick O'Brien, Economic Development Commissioner, to join. B Manners seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board exited Executive Session at 10:20 a.m. No vote was taken.

Discussion resumed to the vote on the calling of the question of Item #2. R. Marconi stated that if, in fact, 2/3 majority is needed to approve the calling of the question, then the question failed and the Board should not have suspended debate and the vote to approve Linda Hannah as Assistant Treasurer did not pass. D. Grogins informed the Board that they may "reconsider" the question within 24 hours. J. Plock, the original maker of the motion, agreed to reconsider, and R. Marconi agreed also. Additional discussion ensued. It was determined that further legal research would be needed to investigate the current charter language as to the job description with Town Counsel and Bond Counsel

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve Linda Hannah as Assistant Treasurer as recommended until further clarification was received from Counsel. Motion failed 3-2 (A. Bodner, R. Marconi, D. Masters opposed; B. Manners and J. Plock in favor).

J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 10:50 a.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gannon Lionetti