
Board of Selectmen
Minutes of April 11, 2016

I. Call to Order

Chair Mary O'Donoghue called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Offices: Present from the Board of Selectmen: Paul Salafia-Y, Alex Vispoli-Y, Dan Kowalski-Y, Robert Landry-Y, and Mary O'Donoghue-Y. Also present: Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, Town Clerk Larry Murphy, Town Counsel Tom Urbelis, and Attorney John Foskett. The meeting was duly posted and cablecast live.

II. Opening Ceremonies

A. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Communications/Announcements/Liaison Reports

The Town Manager made the following announcements:

~The Chamber of Commerce is holding a forum at the Public Safety Center on Wednesday, April 13th at 6:30 PM Chamber related to moving Town yard and future benefits for the downtown area.

~The Town Manager has received several emails regarding use of the Cormier Youth Center. The CYC is a state-of-the art building built for the primary use of serving the youth of Andover. Other uses of the building for the Andover Community, when there is no youth programming scheduled, will be figured out as time goes on.

~Mr. Flanagan is moving forward with the plan to move the independent Town Departments (DCS, Veterans Dept, Senior Center, and the DYS) under the umbrella of the Department of Community Services overseen by the Director of Community Services, a newly created position, allowing the people who are experts within these departments more time to make them even better.

Larry Murphy reminded everyone that the last day for voter registration to vote at Town Meeting is Tuesday, April 12th and the Town Clerks' office will remain open until 8:30 P.M. that day.

Paul Salafia is pleased to hear the Town Manager's comment on his ongoing commitment to the Cormier Youth Center being for the youth. Mr. Salafia also commented that the forum this Wednesday night on the Town Yard and Downtown area is being co-sponsored by the Economic Development Committee, Andover Chamber of Commerce, and the Andover Business Association.

Alex Vispoli who met with the Youth Services Council said the students will be coming to the Board of Selectmen on April 25th to talk about their charter, what they do, and provide a preview of the opening of the Cormier Youth Center (CYC) on May 13th.

Dan Kowalski said the Board of Selectmen are not allowed to deliberate outside of a public session and it is important the Board utilize the Board of Selectmen meetings as an opportunity to discuss concerns and issues as a Board as opposed to discussing them in certain forums. Emails on multiple topics have been received and should be put on an agenda to discuss in public as a Board.

IV. Citizens Petitions and Presentations

Anil Navkal said the signing of the Solar Energy Agreement is a great moment for the Town, and saving the town money over for next 3 years. He would like to see the savings used for seed money for energy management. Janet Nicosia, Town Energy Director, has been a wonderful steward of the town.

Bob Lavoie, Attorney, Pulte Homes and Melmark, spoke about the overlay district on River Road, and the lack of sewer access which has to be provided from Tewksbury through an inter-municipal sewer agreement between Tewksbury and Andover, and that they are close to reaching an agreement. The question is on the structuring of the IMA and the distribution of the sewer for Pulte, the Franciscans, and Melmark. Town Counsel Tom Urbelis agreed that they are very close to reaching an agreement and explained that the main issue regards the actual use of the area the agreement provides for, and that the use of the Pulte property is very specifically defined. A draft of the agreement was provided and next steps discussed.

V. Public Hearings

On a motion by Paul Salafia and seconded by Alex Vispoli, the Board of Selectmen voted 5-0 to open the Public Hearing at 7:40 PM.

A. New England Power Company Franchise Rights Petition

The petition of New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid requesting it be granted locations for and permission and consent to construct, maintain, repair, operate and use, such lines for the transmission of high and low electric current, data and other intelligence, upon, along, through, over and across public ways in the Town of Andover; the wires to strung along through over and across said public ways between structures located on private property as shown on: Plans # 247801P007E-004 and 247801P007E-005 – Bailey Road and River Road. Prior to construction, the petitioner must obtain a street opening permit from the engineering department of Municipal Services.

National Grid representatives provided a brief overview of the project, which is a high voltage transmission system carrying electricity over long distances and designed to address the liabilities in the system. National Grid is proposing to construct a new kilovolt transmission line at an overall distance of 24.5 miles for data and other intelligence, designing the project to site the new line through Andover. The duration of the entire project will take about 15 months. Notices have been sent to all abutters and those adjacent to the right of way.

Questions from the Board

Dan Kowalski asked what data and other intelligence means. The representative from National Grid said the primary purpose is to carry high voltage lines, and they need communications to operate the system requiring a fiber optic network for transmission of data.

Attorney Joshua Lee Smith said they filed a petition in January and worked with Town Clerk Larry Murphy and Town Counsel Tom Urbelis. The greater parts of project are in Tewksbury and Dracut who provided a unanimous vote for franchise rights. The Orders of Conditions is in compliance. Alex Vispoli requested the tree line be maintained.

Audience:

Jim Pluckett, 418 River Road has concerns with the tree line, the plot plan is fairly generic. What will the height of the new line be? *The height of new line will be about 85'.*

Tom Obrien, 426 River Road, asked how they will install a new line in between the old line and wants to make sure nothing will be used to pollute wells. *There is a Maintenance program they have to be in compliance with and will make sure everything will be used safely.* Susan Stott, 30 Pasho Street and also of AVIS, distributed a map of the area to the Board showing the Bay Circuit Trail as it goes along the Merrimack River. Avis has just signed a P & S with Melmark and will be abutters. She is asking to have a permanent easement 300' to 500' back from the river that won't have any effect on National Grid lines. This is an opportunity for the Board of Selectmen to lock in the easement/permanent protection for current and future walkers.

The Board would like to schedule a 'field visit' of the area with National Grid. Alex Vispoli wants to make sure expectations are all confirmed before anything is done and to let them know when the field visit will occur. All abutters will be notified that a site visit is being held and that National Grid understands that the citizens understand all aspects before the Board of Selectmen takes action for approval. Larry Murphy said notices of when/where will be sent out to residents and they will have a designated point person within National Grid to contact with specific concerns related to individual property concerns.

Alex Vispoli moved to continue the Public Hearing to April 25th with feedback from the field visit. Paul Salafia seconded the motion and the Board voted 5-0 to continue the Public Hearing.

VI. OPEB Work Session

The Town Manager said tonight's workshop is to determine the Town's interest in proceeding with OPEB and to develop policy recommendations from the Board especially regarding retirees. A report on OPEB from March 31st was provided to the Board of Selectmen.

Kathy Riley, Segal Consulting, distributed the OPEB report and shared current available information and the analysis for the baseline in plan changes. She provided information on the fully funded assumption and the pay-as-you-go assumption (valuation, asset allocation, PRIT and expectations long and short term). When you lower the discount rate the liability rises. She also distributed three separate memos to the Board with information related to her report including changing retiree contributions to 50% of the premium, an increase from 14% to 50% or 35% to 50% depending upon the plan the retiree has. The second change they looked at was the percentage of the premium that surviving spouses pay that lowers the liability by approximately \$19M or only for future surviving spouses on the rolls, the decrease would be a little less. Scenario Three looks at part-time employees (51 people identified who work 20 hours a week for 10 years) and eliminates coverage for those in the Andover Retirement Program (not Mass Teachers Program) eligibility would require a change in Retirement System Rules, the decrease in the liability would go from \$188M down to \$184M. The March 30th Memo provided schedules for the Liabilities and Assets showing how they are projected to change (projected benefit payments, accounting calculations, impacts on financial statements, and actual benefits). Ms. Riley gave a review of Schedule B, change in liabilities, and Schedule C which reflects retirees paying 50% instead of the current funding rate. If you can afford it, accelerating funding towards the OPEB liability will lower the liability, she also suggests the retirement system assets could have a better chance of generating a higher return if invested differently.

Insurance Consultant, Ken Lombardi explained various ideas on cost shifting which has to be looked at in pieces and explained the different groups of retiree populations. He talked about a timeline to present materials on phasing-in changes to premium contributions from the Town to 51%, and the advantages of the Town having a 51% contribution policy. Attorney John Foskett explained how changes in the legislature would change the rules.

The Town Manager will assemble a list of options for moving forward with a policy, mitigation impacts, options, and impacts to individuals by class for the Board of Selectmen's next meeting on April 25th. Dan Kowalski would like to know how it would reduce the taxpayers tax bill.

VII. Water and Sewer Commissioners

On a motion by Paul Salafia and seconded by Alex Vispoli, the Board of Selectmen adjourned from Board of Selectmen to Water and Sewer Commissioners to discuss Water and Sewer rates. Roll call: Alex Vispoli-Y, Dan Kowalski-Y, Robert Landry-Y, and Mary O'Donoghue-Y.

Municipal Director Chris Cronin answered questions from the Board and explained how multiple housing billing would work and for those with one meter or with their own meters (they would have to have their own service). Mr. Cronin also updated the Board on North Reading's usage of water and the likelihood of their continuing to require water from

Andover or moving to the Mass Water System in 2019. The Town Manager said he met with North Reading Town Administrator and Water Superintendent to restart the discussion.

Paul Salafia moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the Tiered Water & Sewer rates as recommended by Warren and Curran Consultants. The motion was seconded by Dan Kowalski and voted 5-0 to approve.

Dan Kowalski moved to adjourn as Water and Sewer Commissioners and return to the Board of Selectmen. The motion was seconded by Paul Salafia and voted 5-0 to approve.

VIII. Private Warrant Article Funding Discussion - HOLD

IX. Regular Business

A. Amendments to Traffic Rules and Regulations

Police Department Safety Officer Ota explained the proposed changes being presented to the Traffic Rules and Regulations as follows:

Request 1: Schedule 1, Article 5, Section 2, Section 2 – Parking

Requesting “No Parking Either Side” signs on Prospect Road from Stonepost to the fire access gate (just East of 42 Prospect Road) *Prospect Road, North from Stonepost, a distance of 1136 ft., no parking either side*

On a motion by Alex Vispoli and seconded by Paul Salafia, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the changes as presented in Request 1.

Request 2: Schedule 1, Article 5, Section 2 – Parking

Requesting “No Parking Either Side” signs on Salem Street from 232 Salem onto Gray Road ending at Tucker Road from 232 Salem Street to Coventry Lane.
Salem Street, North, 232 Salem Street, a distance of 1500 feet Tucker Road, No parking either side
Salem Street, North 232 Salem Street, a distance of 1540 feet Coventry Ln, no parking either side

On a motion by Paul Salafia and seconded by Dan Kowalski, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the changes as presented in Request 2.

B. Syncarpha Amendment

On a motion by Paul Salafia and seconded by Dan Kowalski, the Board of Selectmen voted to authorize the Town Manager to sign the second Amendment to the Power Purchase Agreement between Syncarpha Bondsville, LLC and the Town of Andover as presented.

C. 5 Campanelli Drive Access Agreement

On a motion by Alex Vispoli and seconded by Paul Salafia, the Board of Selectmen voted 5-0 to authorize the Town Manager to sign the 5 Campanelli Drive Access Agreement.

D. Cable Update and Verizon RFP

On a motion by Alex Vispoli and seconded by Paul Salafia the Board of Selectmen voted 5-0 to authorize the Town to issue the RFP to Verizon reaffirming the final ascertainment as well as the RFP.

X. Consent Agenda

A. Appointments and Reappointments

On a motion by Alex Vispoli and seconded by Paul Salafia the Board of Selectmen voted 5-0 the following appointments by the Town Manager be approved:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Position:</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>DOH</u>
<u>Youth Services</u>			
Alana Ferris	AYS Counselor	\$9.00 hr.	4/1/16
<u>Municipal Services</u>			
Benjamin Cloutier	Maintenance Craftman (W-5-3-0)	\$53,829	4/12/16

XI. Adjournment

At 10: 25P.M. on a motion by Paul Salafia and seconded by Alex Vispoli, the Board of Selectmen voted 5-0 to adjourn the Regular Meeting of Monday, April 11, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: OPEB Report from March 31, 2016
New England Power Company Franchise Rights Petition
Amendments to Traffic Rules and Regulations
Syncarpha Amendment