

Board of Selectman February 18, 2020 Meeting

Present: Angevine, Nelson, Papp

Regrets:

Recording: C Frisbie

Meeting was called to order at 5:02pm by Angevine

- 1) **Minutes:** *Motion (Angevine/Nelson) to accept the minutes February 4, 2020 All Approved*

T Angevine introduced Attorney Brian McCormick from Ebersol and McCormick. Ebersol and McCormick are counsel to the Town of Warren. Attorney McCormick said how he read in the paper the issues in the town hall and was here merely as an observer and/or resource tonight.

- 2) **Public Comment:** None at this time, but would like to speak at the end.

- 3) **Additions to Agenda:** Motion (Angevine/Papp) to add T Angevine's letter of reconciliation and to submit his statement as public record. *All Approved*

- 4) **Addition Letter:** T Angevine read his letter - see attached.

- 5) **Resignations:** Board of Selectmen received a letter of resignation from Brenda Zampaglione (land use clerical employee) and from David Kramer (Planning and Zoning Alternate Member).
Motion (Angevine/Nelson) to accept both resignations All Approved

- 6) **Beach Committee meeting:** *Motion (Papp/Nelson) to meet immediately following the March 3, 2020 Board of Selectman's meeting All Approved*

- 7) **Budget Workshop:** During the budget process we send out to the departments a request for budget allocations and then each department sends them back. We have a few that came in and deferred the budget explanation to C Frisbie. Frisbie spoke briefly on the couple of departments which we received information from and the 2.5% drop from LCD (Litchfield County Dispatch).

- 8) **First Selectman's Report:** (a) DOT installing markings, curve warning signs at 236 Cornwall Rd – lower speed limit/curve signs (b) Eversource released a grant opportunity for non-profit organizations. Contact the Selectman for information – believes it's a grant for a refurbished laptop (c) Fire Company had their Venison dinner this past weekend (d) outlet in kitchen near freezer needs to be fixed.

- 9) **Public Comment:**

a. R Sarsfield would like to know who gave the paper the information on the town hall incident.

b. B McQueen –what is the process or procedure to follow if this happens, possible mediator?

Nelson stated that the town operates under state statues, we do not have a charter. Town would have to set up a policy- we've never had anything like this before

c. J Shaw- in her experience there are three steps in filing a complaint.

d. S Palladino – would like to have an explanation on the wi-fi practice. *T Angevine gave an explanation. D Murphy interjected with what took place with the wi-fi discussion.*

e. J Garvey – thought that there should be a committee to develop a policy regarding conflict. *T Angevine would like to make a motion that we create a policy in house to at least address primary complaints Nelson seconded the motion All Approved Nelson said it should include all three selectmen and maybe Brian or Peter (Ebersol and McCormick) Angevine amended his motion to create a policy with the selectmen with the assistance of the Town attorney group to address complaints within the town employees. J Garvey feels it should include some citizens too. C Frisbie stated that we would need to look at the DOL employment regulations. Attorney McCormick stated that there all types of laws concerning public involving discrimination, harassment and those types of laws that the Town has to follow. Nelson- should let the attorneys find out what policies are out there and then we can move on. Nelson second the amended motion All approved*

f. R Schnell – complaint that the acoustics in here are terrible – could you repeat what you said *Angevine reiterated the motion and findings.*

- g. B Levitt – question for town Attorney regarding the last BOS meeting, that the executive session has to be on the agenda. - McCormick: It is the majority of the selectmen to vote to go into an executive session.
- h. S Perssonatti – who is the one to find a mediator and hopefully it’s not you (Angevine) who would find or appoint one. Angevine said it would not be him solely making the choice and he had names from C Leone, Superintendent for RSD6.
- i. Leslie Fisher stated that no one should be going to the paper before trying to fix the problem before hand. – How this town has never had this before and it shouldn’t happen in the paper.
- j. E Schoenfield: there is a difference between mediator and counseling – Mediator is more of a legal step and counseling is more of a “help”. Schoenfield also stated that no one “leaked” the information to the press. It was all public information from the last BOS meeting which makes it public information.
- k. S Warshaw-read a letter regarding the incredible workers at the Town Hall and would like to make sure that these situations are not in executive session but out on the table – letter attached. We should operate this Town Hall like John McKenna (press) lives here – it should be an open book.
- l. S Perssonatti: feels that the incident is being played down and that raising your voice to a women, especially the tax collector, who is a strong women, should not happen.
- m. S Palladino: question on what is the status of the cell tower – Angevine went over all the information regarding the lease. Homeland Towers is currently working on a cell tower in Kent. Homeland Towers told Angevine would be a hand-off tower, so we are still waiting on what is happening with Kent. Warren’s tower is still 2 years off.

Motion (Angevine/Nelson) to adjourn at 5:51pm All Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Frisbie

Submitted attachments are available at the Town Hall, Town Clerk’s Office