

Sean E. Powers
President
At Large



Charles B. Ryan
Vice President
At Large

Shannon L. Hume
At Large

Stephen C. O'Brien
District 4

CHARLES C. Kokoros
District 1

Michael J. Owens
District 5

John C. Mullaney
District 2

PAUL "DAN" CLIFFORD
District 6

Thomas M. Bowes
District 3

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

February 2, 2016

MINUTES

A meeting of the Town Council was held in the Cahill Auditorium, Braintree Town Hall, on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 beginning at 7:00p.m.

Council President Powers was in the chair.

The Clerk of the Council conducted the roll call.

Present: Sean Powers, President
Charles Ryan, Vice President
Thomas Bowes
Paul Dan Clifford
Shannon Hume
Charles Kokoros
John Mullaney
Stephen C. O'Brien
Michael Owens

Also Present: Thomas Reynolds, Light Commissioner
Bill Bottiggi, BELD General Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 19, 2016
 - Motion:** by Councilor Ryan to Approve Minutes of January 19, 2016
 - Second:** by Councilor Bowes
 - Vote:** For (9), Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND TOWN BOARDS

- 012 16 BELD: UPDATE on Various Projects (Tom Reynolds & Bill Bottiggi)
Tom Reynolds, Light Commissioner stated a Quarterly Update with BELD for improved communications will take place. Contact any Commissioner or GM with any questions.

Bill Bottiggi, BELD General Manager gave a general update of what is happening at BELD.

Bill spoke about the Electric delivery and Broadband budget, the electric rate, Pole Inspection results, Community Solar Array, other Capital Projects, and the Potter II Development.

BELD's Budget is \$85 million for 2016. Broken in two parts: Transmission & Distribution Business (\$60 million capital and expense) and the Generation Business (\$25 million).

Transmission & Distribution expense: rebuild substation at Mahar. It needs to be up to safety standards. We are replacing all the LED Street Lights in Town over the next couple years. Hawthorn Avenue and Quincy Avenue have all been replaced. The Utility Pole replacement project we will spend about ¼ of a million dollars on that. We have to buy a new line truck for about ¼ of a million dollars. We will be doing system and line upgrades. We will be getting a lot of work done.

The Generation budget includes a big chunk to repay debt service on Watson units. This is about \$9 million a year. Fuel for the generators are about \$8 million per year. Also doing upgrades and spending some time on the Potter Repowering Project.

Our budget is down from 2015 by \$3 million because cost of energy is down.

Broadband is about \$5.2 million. Our rates - no increase anticipated. That is a savings of about \$50 per month per household.

Pole inspection was of 6,081 poles. 283 rejected and need to be replaced fairly quickly plus another 377 getting to be in poor condition. Our goal is to replace the 283 rejected poles replaced in 2016. 72 poles replaced to date.

Community Solar Project – having solar power available without having to put the panels on resident's roof. Just installed on the High School for 600 kw.

Potter II Redevelopment – 3 Options:

- Proceed as we were to build a gas fired plant; retire Potter II
- Analysis of Potter II and keep for 5 to 10 years
- Convert existing Potter II into a single cycle plant.

We would like to discuss options with Council in the next few months after review by Commissioners and discussed with the Mayor.

OLD BUSINESS

• 033 15 Council President: Town Auditor Job Posting or take up any action relative thereto

Council President Powers referred to Chairman O'Brien, for an update on what was discussed at the Committee on Ways & Means last week. Chairman O'Brien stated the committee met on January 20 for Executive Session interviews. At that time we only interviewed one candidate. That candidate decided not to pursue the opportunity with us and us with him.

A meeting was called on January 27 because the municipality experience and CPA requirement seemed cumbersome for a contractor. It was discussed to possibly move forward with and RFP. The following Motion will be read as a favorable recommendation to the full Council. We did receive information from the Town Solicitor, Carolyn Murray:

A motion made by Councilor Hume reads:

To move forward with the Town Auditor Position and CPA is no longer required and per Town Solicitor Carolyn Murray “neither the Charter nor the Town Auditor Ordinance require that the Town Auditor be a CPA, and both of those documents prevail over a job description. You have advised that the Council voted to add this requirement to the job description in 2011. Similarly, the Council could vote to remove this requirement from the job description or to amend the requirement to state "CPA preferred, but not required"”

This Motion was Seconded and voted for favorable recommendation to the full Council.

Councilor Ryan asked if this would be a RFP with a job description but the CPA requirement removed. Councilor O’Brien stated yes, more or less. Due to MGL and taking out the CPA requirement we need to do it this way. The applicant can be an independent contractor or it can be a firm.

Councilor Owens asked why take the CPA requirement out?

Councilor O’Brien stated because we feel we would better be served with someone with strong municipal experience and this individual may not have a CPA.

Councilor Clifford stated none of the work we do requires certification that a CPA customarily signs.

Councilor Owens asked where the idea came about?

Councilor O’Brien stated I am fairly confident this came about because of the lack of resumes we got. Budget season is around the corner and I want help for the Committee.

Councilor Kokoros said he feels it is improper to remove the requirement of a CPA. Last time we talked it was about interviews not about changing a job description. I find it would be the wrong thing to do to post anything without the proper procedure being met.

Councilor Hume stated the last meeting of the Committee on Ways & Means was not to meet to discuss changing the job description. That is not what it was about. At the MMA Auditing firms asked why we required a CPA. They would have applied if CPA was not required. According to the Town Solicitor the job description from 2011 was not even valid because the Charter supersedes all others.

Councilor Kokoros stated POINT OF ORDER. I have to disagree. What is relevant is there is a job description. There was no approval of this item to be sent to committee to be discussed. I hope we will send this back to committee to review the job description and if it needs to be revised, revise it and then bring it back up at a future meeting.

Councilor O’Brien stated on the agenda it reads: 033 15 Council President: Town Auditor Job Posting or take up any action relative thereto

Councilor Bowes made a Motion to refer 033 15 to both the Committee on Personnel Matters and then back to the Committee on Ways & Means for clarification on the job description.

Second by Councilor Owens.

Councilor Clifford stated he would like to have the meetings this week and back before the full Council next Tuesday.

Motion: by Councilor Bowes

Second: by Councilor Owens

Vote: For (7), Against (2-Mullaney, O’Brien), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

NEW BUSINESS

- 16 002 Town Clerk – Call of the Election, March 1, 2016 (SAME NIGHT ACTION)

Council President Powers stated there are no objections Order 16 002 will be taken up this evening.

James Casey, Town Clerk stated you can change the political party you are currently registered for by 8pm on February 10, 2016. Unenrolled is the only designation that can choose any ballot on voting day. There are three scheduled elections this year: March 1, 2016 the Presidential Primary Election, September 8, 2016 the State Primary Election and November 8, 2016 the State Election.

Councilor Ryan read the following Motion:

TOWN CLERK: CALL OF THE ELECTION MARCH 1, 2016.

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, THE TOWN OF BRAINTREE IS HEREBY REQUIRED TO NOTIFY AND WARN THE INHABITANTS OF SAID TOWN WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION ON TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016 FROM 7:00 AM TO 8:00 PM, FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

To cast their votes in the Presidential Primary for candidates of political parties on the official ballot for the following offices: Presidential Preference for the Commonwealth; State Committee Man for the Norfolk Senatorial District; State Committee Woman for the Norfolk Senatorial District; Town Committee for the Town of Braintree.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan

Second: by Councilor Bowes

Vote: For (9), Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Refer to the Committee on Ways & Means

- 16 003 Mayor: FY2016 Supplemental Appropriations #1 Debt Service or take up any action relative thereto
- 16 004 Mayor: FY2016 Supplemental Appropriations #2 Operating or take up any action relative thereto
- 16 007 Mayor: FY2016 Supplemental Appropriation #3 For the Expanded Scope of the East Middle School Feasibility Study or take up any action relative thereto

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer the above items

Second: by Councilor Bowes

Vote: For (9), Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Refer to the Committee on the Department of Public Works

- 016 16 Councilor Mullaney: Lead Contamination (Flint, MI) or take up any action relative thereto
- 017 16 Councilor Mullaney: GPS in Snow Removal Trucks or take up any action relative thereto
- 018 16 Councilor Mullaney: Ability to Monitor Snow Plows via Computer or take up any action relative thereto
- 019 16 Councilor Mullaney: Input of District Councilor on Which Streets Get Reconstructed or take up any action relative thereto
- 020 16 Councilor Mullaney: Input by Councilor on Stop Signs/Right on Red Signs for Streets in their District or take up any action relative thereto

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer the above items
Second: by Councilor Bowes
Vote: For (9), Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Topics the Chair does not reasonably anticipate will be discussed

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Next Council Meeting - **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016@ 7:30pm**

Committee on Ways & Means Meeting - **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016@ 6:30pm**

Motion: by Councilor Owens to Reconsider (the Motion to send to both committees)
Second: by Councilor Bowes
Vote: For (9), Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Motion: by Councilor Owens to Amend (motion to send to only Committee on Ways & Means)
Second: by Councilor Mullaney
Vote: For (2-Mullaney, Owens), Against (7), Absent (0), Abstain (0)
MOTION FAILED

Motion: by Councilor Clifford to send to both committees)
Second: by Councilor Bowes
Vote: For (8), Against (1-O'Brien), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Council President Powers stated there will be meetings of the Committee on Ways & Means and Committee on Personnel to meet prior to a special scheduled meeting of the full Council on Tuesday, February 9, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Cimino
Clerk of the Council

Documents provided for Meeting

- January 19, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes
- 033 15 Council President: Town Auditor Job Posting