

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the twentieth day of March 2017 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Frank Landolfi at 6:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Frank Landolfi, Thomas Buck, Barbara Capalbo, David Husband; Town Solicitor Kevin McAllister; Town Manager William McGarry; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin. Absent: Sylvia Thompson.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(A) (1) BOARD/COMMISSION INTERVIEWS – ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW.

POLL VOTE:

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Buck, Capalbo, Husband

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Council President Landolfi reported that the person or persons being discussed have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they have the right to have the discussion held in open session.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Buck, Capalbo, Husband

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

No votes were taken during the Executive Session.

The regular session opened with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag at 7:00 P.M.

**HEARINGS**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO MOTION TO SIT AS A LICENSING BOARD

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Buck, Capalbo, Husband

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**MULTI -EVENT PERMIT**

The Council opened a hearing on an application for a Multi-Event Permit for a series of three Free Concert's filed by Christine Anderson on behalf of the Friends of the Hopkinton Land Trust scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 2017, Saturday, June 10, 2017 and Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM to be held at Depot Square Park, 1 Mechanic St., Hope Valley, RI 02832 identified as AP 27 Lot 176.

The applicant was not present. The application is complete, and waivers are requested. Council President Landolfi indicated he had attended the concert that they had last year and it had been pleasant and music was low key. Parking had been managed well and port-o-johns were available. Councilor Capalbo would like to see them file proof of liability insurance certificate with the Town of Hopkinton named as additional insured. There were no objectors present.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO APPROVE THE MULTI-EVENT PERMIT FOR A SERIES OF THREE FREE CONCERT'S FILED BY CHRISTINE ANDERSON ON BEHALF OF THE FRIENDS OF THE HOPKINTON LAND TRUST SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017, SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2017 AND SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017 FROM 4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM TO BE HELD AT DEPOT SQUARE PARK, 1 MECHANIC ST., HOPE VALLEY, RI 02832 IDENTIFIED AS AP 27 LOT 176 CONTINGENT UPON THE FILING OF PROOF OF LIABILITY INSURANCE WITH HOPKINTON NAMED AS ADDITIONAL INSURED; TO WAIVE THE MULTI-EVENT FILING FEE AND PERMIT FEE.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Buck, Capalbo, Husband

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

The Friends of the Land Trust will be billed out the \$87.13 advertising fee.

**SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT**

The Council opened a hearing on an application for a Special Event Permit filed by Martin Liese on behalf of the Ashaway Sportsmen’s Club, 45 Gun Club Path, P.O. Box 257, Ashaway, RI 02804 to hold the annual Huck Finn Day scheduled for Sunday, June 4, 2017 from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM (rain date June 11, 2017) at Crandall Field, 188 Main Street, Ashaway, RI 02804.

The applicant was not present. The application is complete. This event is co-sponsored by the Recreation Department. Councilor Capalbo commented that this event was well done, the children were charming and the event has a 1920’s feel. There were no objectors present.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FILED BY ASHAWAY SPORTSMEN’S CLUB, 45 GUN CLUB PATH, P.O. BOX 257, ASHAWAY, RI 02804 TO HOLD THE ANNUAL HUCK FINN DAY SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2017 FROM 8:00 AM TO 3:30 PM (RAIN DATE JUNE 11, 2017) AT CRANDALL FIELD, 188 MAIN STREET, ASHAWAY, RI 02804.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Buck, Capalbo, Husband

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO SIT AS A LICENSING BOARD TO ADJOURN AS LICENSING BOARD AND RECONVENE AS COUNCIL

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Buck, Capalbo, Husband

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Town Council Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2017 were removed from the Consent Agenda as they are incomplete.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS FOLLOWS: Approve Executive Session Minutes of March 6, 2017; Accept the following monthly financial/activity report: Town Clerk; Approve refund due to an overpayment at closing submitted by the Tax Collector; Approve request of National Grid/Verizon for an anchor on a joint-owned pole located on Lynch Lane.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Buck, Capalbo, Husband

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

No one spoke during the first public forum.

#### **COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT**

Town Council President Landolfi reported he had received a letter of thanks from Mr. Donald DelBene with regard to his dealings with the Town Manager and Tax Assessor Liz Monty; that they were quick to respond relative to his revaluation at 275 Main Street; he was treated respectfully and cordially and his issue had been resolved. He reported on March 9, 2017 a Town Council Budget Workshop was held with the non-profit Agencies and the Council allocated an additional \$500.00 to one additional non-profit; He reported on March 16, 2017 he and Councilors Husband and Capalbo attended the last School Committee Meeting where they could consider further budgetary cuts. He reported that Councilor Capalbo's constant presence at their meetings finally resonated with the School Committee and they finally got it; even the core parent contingent from Richmond who wanted no cuts finally relented saying there has to be a balance. He noted he had not spoken at the meeting but Councilor Husband and Councilor Capalbo did and he felt the message was loud and clear that there needed to be some kind of balance and the taxpayer had to be taken into consideration and they ultimately did that. He felt they could have cut a little more, but he was happy

with some of the cuts they made. In totality they cut \$525,000.00 from various areas both on the revenue and expense side. They are allowing five students with J-1 Visas to go to school at Chariho - \$89,000.00 in revenue; they were to add three teachers to the elementary school system but decided to add two which saved \$63,000.00; they eliminated mandatory field trips - \$18,500.00; they added in an additional \$15,000.00 in Medicaid revenue that they receive through the Career & Technical Center. Councilor Buck questioned why they couldn't add this amount in ahead of time. Council President Landolfi noted the \$600,000.00 Richmond Elementary School traffic turn-around redesign project that he has been a vocal opponent of as he did not feel there is a need as there has not been any issues with the kids at the school, they will postpone the project and have reduced the amount by \$50,078.00; middle school furniture - \$16,500.00; a three-hour clerk \$2,700.00; they are going ahead with the teacher assistants but instead of going with six hours, they will hire them at five hours - \$74,805.00; an assistant to the assistant - \$10,309.00. They reduced expenses by \$236,000.00 and increased revenue by \$289,000.00. They also brought back in the Categorical Aid of \$185,000.00 which is not necessarily a given, but has a better than a 50/50 chance of receiving it. Councilor Capalbo noted with the original proposed budget the tax raise for the Town was over \$1.7 million dollars then they added the three teachers and took away the \$185,000.00 in Categorical Aid, adding almost \$400,000.00 to the \$1.76 million; the ultimate tax increase they were going to ask the Towns for was, \$2,097,000.00 above last year, so they have effectively cut \$1,100,000.00 and they are down to \$996,000.00 with the revenue and the cuts so she felt they have done a substantially fine job because they have a big NEA contract and health care this year to deal with. She felt they listened to the parents and towns who spoke for the citizens who can't afford that kind of tax increase in one year. Councilor Husband noted the \$50,000.00 cut from the \$600,000.00 Richmond Elementary School Project was cut from the initial allocation of \$150,000.00 so they were still putting \$100,000.00 away for that project. Councilor Buck noted that with regard to familiarity with budgets and his issue with overestimating revenue; he questioned why they would wait to last minute to include the revenue. Council President Landolfi indicated his goal is to have more

collaboration with the Hopkinton Members on the Chariho School Committee and have them give the Council a head's up on what is going on. Councilor Husband commented that at that school committee meeting, several members abstained from voting and he felt there was no reason to abstain unless you don't know the subject matter or you were not at the meeting where it was discussed; he was pretty disgusted why anyone would abstain from a vote constantly.

### **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Town Manager William McGarry reported during March, he and Finance Director Brian Rosso worked closely with PRISM and National Grid official on the anticipated purchase of 539 streetlights and transition to LED lighting. There are a few loose ends to tie up with the Office of Energy Resources and National Grid. Councilor Buck commended Mr. McGarry on the countless hours that he and Finance Director Brian Rosso had spent on finding answers to his questions. He reported on March 10, 2017, he and many other employees attended a luncheon at Town Hall for Deputy Town Clerk Lauri Arruda who is retiring from Town service. A recruitment process to fill the position was conducted and the deadline date for the receipt of applications was March 15, 2017. A selection process will follow. Councilor Husband asked how many people had applied. Mr. McGarry could not provide any details as it is a personnel matter.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET FY 17/18 ASHAWAY AMBULANCE ASSOC.**

The Council held budget discussions regarding the proposed FY 17/18 budget. Relative to the Ashaway Ambulance Association, Inc. request under the Grants & Contributions Budget. Ashaway Ambulance Assoc., Inc. Lieutenant Jesse Perry was present and apologized for missing the March 9, 2017 appointment stating the miscommunication was his error. Council President Landolfi noted he had reviewed their numbers and felt the organization had really turned around their finances resulting in a six-fold increase in revenue. Councilor Capalbo was also pleased their revenue was up and hoped it continued. She commented it appeared there were not as many people on staff as the previous year and felt this was a major change. Lt. Perry noted they had experienced a lot of transition over the course of many years and in the last eight months to a year, they had made major

strides. Councilor Buck asked about their grant coordinator. Lt. Perry stated it was Jody Perrin, and she served as President. Councilor Buck asked how many subscribers there were. Lt. Perry did not have a specific number but they had at least as many as last year and explained they had formed a committee to handle subscriptions. Councilor Buck asked about Medicaid and Private billing. Lt. Perry stated there is no internal billing. He stated he fields most phone calls; that the President was on top of the operation of the organization and revenue was up. Councilor Buck asked about how many volunteers belong to ambulance corp. Lt. Perry indicated there were 48 volunteers on the roaster; he is the only 40 hour person; that they cannot afford to provide more than Monday through Friday staffing, so no staffing is available at night. He noted he tries to have the Ashaway Ambulance Association volunteers listen in. Councilor Buck felt that was a good idea. He questioned how often the Westerly Ambulance Corp and the Hope Valley Ambulance Corp had covered for Ashaway. Lt. Perry indicated there had been a spike of calls; last year they responded to 520 calls and in previous years, 598 calls, 520 calls, 521 calls, 474 calls; so their calls range between 500 and 600 calls per year. With the opening of Saugatucket Springs, the call volume increased. He stated he tries to get the trucks out the doors with volunteers as often as possible. Councilor Buck stated he was in favor of the Ashaway Ambulance Association, Inc. but doesn't like to throw good money after bad but he felt they were going down the right path and hoped they prospered. Councilor Husband referred to a suggestion he made last year about more coordination between the two ambulance corps in Town as it pertains to supplies. Lt. Perry stated the only problem with that is they are not able to purchase bulk medications for distribution, as it was against Federal Law. He stated they could purchase some things in bulk, like bandages, but not medications. He commented that consistency has been beneficial. Councilor Capalbo hopes he will stay on with the organization. Lt. Perry pointed out that the ambulance association is working with outdated trucks and has had to accommodate mandatory updates to equipment. Council President Landolfi was aware there were new regulations and requirements that had to be incorporated from the State's new protocols. Lt. Perry stated these were big changes that were long overdue and it did cost a lot of

money; they were still working on the changes. Council President Landolfi asked about the Board of Directors terms. Lt. Perry responded Board members serve two year terms; interns serve one year terms. Council President Landolfi asked if they were staggered terms; Lt. Perry did not know. Council President Landolfi recommended that they be staggered; Councilor Capalbo agreed. Council President Landolfi informed Lt. Perry that the Town Council had scheduled a final budget workshop for March 21, 2017 at 6:30 PM where they will decide on the funding amount and suggested he attend. Lt. Perry indicated he would be present. Councilor Capalbo suggested he bring the Chief of the Ashaway Ambulance Association, Inc. with him.

### **PROPOSED RIDOT TRANSIT HUB UPDATE**

This matter had been scheduled to provide an update on a meeting with RIDOT Officials held on March 15, 2017 relative to the proposed Transit HUB. Council President Landolfi reported that at 12:30 PM today, the Town Manager received a call from RIDOT Director Peter Alviti that the Transit Hub was no longer on the table. Mr. McGarry reported that his dealings with Director Alviti had always been amenable and gracious; he reported that he had received a phone call from him letting him know that they were not going to pursue the Transit Hub anymore. They would be placing some attention on the existing facility to make it a little more user friendly. He stated he thanked him and the Governor's Office and added that Director Alviti had always been very professional. Council President Landolfi noted that this was a great weight off of his shoulders. He noted Mr. Leach from the Governor's Office had been in attendance at a meeting held on March 1, 2017 at the meeting, and he assumed it was because the Governor had been given conflicting information. At the end of the meeting, Director Alviti mentioned there was not going to be a technical solution, but a policy decision would be made very soon. Councilor Capalbo noted the Town had a good relationship with RIDOT. Mr. McGarry agreed and added there were a couple of big projects coming up: the reconstruction of Woodville Road and repair of the immediate area over Route 95 around Exit 2. Councilor Husband noted he had received an email from Representative Brian Kennedy who informed him the Welcome Center had been withdrawn and he thanked everyone

involved for staying on top of the issue. Council President Landolfi added that the fuel component had been back on the table and he suspected that after the RIDOT spoke to potential bidders and they pulled out bidding on it without the fuel aspect, so he knew the decision was either going to be really good or really bad.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION RE: CATEGORICAL TRANSPORTATION AID**

This matter had been scheduled to discuss, consider and vote on a Resolution in support of restoration of Categorical Transportation Aid to Regionalized School Districts. The Town of West Greenwich had approved a resolution. Since the funding formula had been revised and the categorical transportation aid was to help regionalized districts but it is consistently lowered every year and we must ask for it. The hope is our legislative delegation can submit legislation that would make it law. Councilor Buck's solution is to use the \$30 million dollars the Governor wants to spend for free tuition for in-state students. Councilor Capalbo indicated all the superintendents were working on this issue to get it passed and she supports it. Councilor Husband added that it was not just our Town; there are four regional school districts in the State representing lot of voters. The regionalized school districts are Chariho, Exeter-West Greenwich, Foster-Glocester and Bristol-Warren.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESTORATION OF CATEGORICAL TRANSPORTATION AID TO REGIONALIZED SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Buck, Capalbo, Husband

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

The Resolution follows:

**TOWN OF HOPKINTON, RI  
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE FULL FUNDING  
OF TRANSPORTATION CATEGORICAL AID AS OUTLINED IN R.I.G.L 16-7.2**

**The Town Council of the Town of Hopkinton, Rhode Island hereby resolves the following:**

**WHEREAS,** The regional incentive was promised to local districts when the regional districts were formed; and

**WHEREAS,** The regional incentive was phased out in 2010 with the passage of the new funding formula; and

**WHEREAS,** Transportation Categorical funds were provided to regional districts to partially offset the loss of the regional incentive by partially reimbursing the higher transportation costs of regional districts; and

**WHEREAS,** R.I.G.L. 16-7.2-6e “requires that the state and regional school district share equally the student transportation costs net any federal sources of revenue for these expenditures”; and

**WHEREAS,** The Transportation Categorical funds allocated in fiscal years FY 2010 through FY 2017 did not result in the full funding of R.I.G.L. 16-7.2-6e and were often less than the allocation the RI Department of Education had predicted for a given fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS,** The Transportation Categorical funds requested to be allocated in FY 2018, the final year scheduled increases in the funding formula , do not result in full funding of Transportation Categorical Aid to “share equally” transportation costs as outlined in R.I.G.L. 16-7-.2-6e; and

**WHEREAS,** The Regional School Districts have designed and implemented a number of innovative educational programs that meet the learning needs of students; and

**WHEREAS,** The investment of resources in our regional school districts has yielded positive education results and innovative educational programs and services for students and adults that have been a wise investment of local and state resources; and

**WHEREAS,** To ensure that students attending the regional school districts continue to receive a high quality public education and to reduce the burden on regional taxpayers, that the Bristol-Warren Regional School District, the Chariho Regional School District, the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District, and the Foster-Glocester Regional School District formed a Regional Coalition in 2016; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of the Town of Hopkinton joins with the Chariho Regional School District School Committee and members of the Regional Coalition to:

1. Request our State legislatures introduce legislation that codifies in state law the full funding “equal sharing” of transportation costs between the State and Regional Districts to protect the interests of regional school districts and advance the educational mission of our schools; and
2. Seek the support of all town councils and legislators that comprise the Regional School Districts regarding this matter of mutual interest to the schools and taxpayers of our regional districts; and
3. Request that our State legislature act on the proposed legislation in 2017 legislative session.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

No one spoke during the second public forum.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO ADJOURN IN HONOR OF LAURI ARRUDA.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk