

Executive Summary

Date: March 30, 2016
To: Sarah Seelye, Moderator, RTM
From: Kate Clarke Buch, Town Administrator
RE: Updates to the Peddlers Ordinance

At the March 21, 2016 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the Board voted unanimously to recommend the changes proposed by the Police Department to Chapter 46 of the Town Code (known as the Peddlers and Solicitors Ordinance) to the Representative Town Meeting.

The existing ordinance did not provide sufficient time for the Police Department to do checks on the persons applying for a peddlers or solicitors license. The proposed language gives the department 7 days to do a background check. The existing fee structure is also out of date and not comparable to that of other nearby communities. The proposed ordinance increases the fees to a level consistent with other towns in the area. The proposed rules impose new restrictions – such as only allowing the solicitor to go to the front door of a dwelling and limiting the hours of soliciting – to address issues that the department has seen. The department believes that the new rules are not overly restrictive and that they are consistent with what courts have said are reasonable practices. The proposed ordinance also allows a revocation process, which the current ordinance does not currently have.