

APPROVED MAR - 1 1999

**TOWN OF ANTRIM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
February 1, 1999**

6:00 p.m. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Chairman Carol Cote opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Cote, Selectman Denise Dargie and Town Administrator Kelley Collins

ABSENT: Selectman Tim Seeger

6:30 P.M. MEET WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO CLARIFY SOME 1999 BUDGET ISSUES, AT THE REQUEST OF THE SELECTMEN

• **Rescue Squad Budget**

The Selectmen met with Fire Chief, Mike Beauchamp, Assistant Chiefs Bob Bethel and Dick Edmunds. Rescue Captain Patricia Lovering was unavailable but did send a memo outlining her department's needs. Considerable discussion took place regarding the Rescue Budget. It was Chairman Cote's recollection from last year that the Rescue Squad requested \$8/call and the Selectmen agreed to \$5/call. This was to be a one-time payment in appreciation of services rendered and Captain Lovering was going to approach both Bennington and Stoddard and request additional funds to help defray some of this expense. Discussion also took place regarding the number of calls in each community vs. the amount of their contribution. Some concern exists because Antrim is budgeting \$9500 and Bennington and Stoddard are both around the \$4000. In addition, Antrim budgets \$3000 every year for an ambulance replacement capital reserve fund and the ambulance and ambulance personnel are covered under the Town's insurance. Fire Chief Beauchamp took exception to the fact that past Selectmen never questioned the amount budgeted to the Rescue Squad and he doesn't understand why it is an issue with this Board. Chairman Cote pointed out that this is the Selectmen's job.

• **Second Floor of Fire Station 1**

The Fire Chief submitted a quote from Bryer Construction for \$16,000 for the second means of egress from the fire station (covered fire escape) and hardwood (oak) flooring for the second floor of the fire station. Some discussion took place regarding the reason for hardwood floors. The Fire Chief would like to see the second floor turned in to useable public space. Chmn. Cote noted that there is no handicap access to the second floor so this would not meet ADA requirements. Assistant Chief Edmunds brought up the need to address generator(s) for the fire station and perhaps the Town Hall. There was discussion regarding emergency operations and needs during such an event. Asst. Chief Edmunds also mentioned the computer for the fire station and whether it could be temporarily set up in the Town Hall for training purposes. The Town Administrator is does not have a problem with this.

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7:00 – 8:30 p.m. 1999 Budget Work

Considerable discussion took place regarding the budget. Draft copies of the Warrant were also reviewed.

GENERAL BUSINESS

• **Review & discuss possible members for an Economic Development Advisory Council**

The Board of Selectmen reviewed David Essex’s memo from October 1998 regarding his recommendations for candidates to an Economic Development Advisory Council. Some general discussion took place regarding the number of members. The Selectmen would like to hold the membership to 5 or 7 members. After discussion the Selectmen instructed the Town Administrator to contact the following people to see if they would be interested in participating on such a Council: Bob Edwards, Dennis or Katie Mayo, Mark Tenney, Andy Paul, Dave or Paul Boule, Ian Johnson, Steve or Leslie Crowell and Bruce Cuddihy. The Selectmen want to make sure that the Antrim Arts & Business Council is represented but they are concerned that there be a good mix of other business owners, as well.

• **Review & discuss Regional Selectmen’s Meeting date.**

Chairman Cote-Smith is the representative to the Regional Selectmen’s Meeting and was made aware of the next meeting in Jaffrey.

8:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Aiken Project Advisory Committee will meet with the Selectmen, at their request

The Board of Selectmen met with the Ruth Zwirner, Martha Pinello and David Penny as representatives of the Aiken Project Advisory Committee (APAC). Mr. Penny noted that the APAC requested this meeting in an effort to improve communications after reading some troubling newspaper reports. This is also the reason the APAC wanted a Selectmen on the committee. The Selectmen explained that they had a meeting with Bob Bernstein on December 21, 1998 and they assumed that he shared the outcome of that meeting with the committee. Chairman Cote-Smith also noted that the committee was set up as advisory to the Selectmen and if a Selectmen has to sit on the committee what is the point in having an advisory committee. Mrs. Pinello pointed out that Mr. Bernstein is a great resource. She also noted that there is a wonderful mix of talents in the original group that met regarding the Aiken House but that Mr. Bernstein helped make the leap from just a concept. There was also discussion regarding the Selectmen’s apparent discomfort with having the APAC meet directly with the grant administrator. The Selectmen admitted that in the past they feel they have been circumvented and discussions have taken place (with both the Office of State Planning and Southwest Region Planning Commission) that they knew nothing about. That is why the Selectmen feel so strongly that the grant administrator answer directly to them and not through the committee. The Committee noted that they are willing to help in any way they can to get this project off the ground. Some discussion took place regarding the future of the Aiken Barn property now that it has been decided that it is not feasible to make it a part of the

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Aiken House project. Mr. Penny noted that the Barn Trust can hold on to the property for about a year but will have to develop an idea for it in that time. Mrs. Zwirner noted that the Library Trustees may be approaching the Selectmen about the Aiken Barn after Town Meeting.

10:01 – 10:10 P.M. NON-PUBLIC SESSION UNDER RSA 91-A:3,II, TO DISCUSS THE HIRING OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE (BUILDING AGENT)

Chairman Carol Cote-Smith made a motion to go in to Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II-a the hiring of a public employee at 10:01 p.m. Selectman Dargie seconded. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Cote-Smith – yes; Selectman Dargie – yes.

The Selectmen reviewed the applications for the Building Agent job, as submitted by the Town Administrator. The Town Administrator made a recommendation on hiring and discussion took place regarding a rate of pay.

The Selectmen agreed unanimously to hire Mr. Tim Lang in the position of Building Agent and to offer him \$10/hour.

Chairman Cote-Smith made a motion to leave Non-Public Session at 10:10 p.m. Selectman Dargie seconded. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Cote-Smith – yes; Selectman Dargie – yes.

10:10 – 10:30 NON-PUBLIC SESSION UNDER RSA 91-A:3, II – a TO DISCUSS AN EMPLOYEE’S PERSONNEL EVALUATION

Selectmen Dargie made a motion to go in to Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:II, 3-a to discuss Sherry Miller’s personnel evaluation with the Department Head at 10:10 p.m. Chairman Cote-Smith seconded. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Cote-Smith – yes; Selectman Dargie – yes.

The Town Administrator submitted the written evaluation of Mrs. Miller. There was some discussion. The Town Administrator will meet with the employee to discuss the evaluation and solicit employee comments. The Selectmen approved a \$.25/hour increase with an additional review in six months (end of probationary period).

Chairman Cote-Smith made a motion to leave Non-Public Session at 10:30 p.m. Selectman Dargie seconded. Roll Call Vote: Chmn. Carol Cote-Smith – yes, Selectman Dargie – yes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

Submitted by:



Kelley A. Collins
Town Administrator
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