

Date: 12/03/03

Minutes of Board of Selectmen's Meeting:

Meeting held at Antrim Little Town Hall @ 7:00 p.m. on 12/02/03

Selectmen Present: Michael Genest - Chairman, Michael Oldershaw and Bill Prokop.

Others In Attendance: P. Vasques, C. Craig Jr., R. Varnum

Agenda Items Discussed:

1. The selectmen approved the minutes of the last meeting.
2. The selectmen appointed Ms. Brenda Slongwhite to the position of Welfare Director.
3. The selectmen voted to increase the cost of providing ambulance service to the Town of Bennington to \$10,000 per year effective 01/01/04, and to the Town of Stoddard to \$8,000.00 per year. This increase is due to the increase in operating cost. The board agreed to work closely with the Ambulance Squad in preparing the administrative requirements for implementing their suggestion of going to direct billing to the patients as of 2005.
4. P. Vasques presented the budget request for the Planning and ZBA to the selectmen to consider. The budget showed a net decrease in operating cost. The budget was well thought out and met the guidelines established for this year.
5. C. Craig Jr. presented the budget for the ARTS center. Even though some cost have increased, the revenues being generated are keeping the net cost in line with the guidelines established for the up coming year. Mr. Craig will give some thought to the long- term capital needs and will get back to the selectmen with his recommendations. There was further discussion on the follow up needed to comply with the inspection of DES last September. It was agreed that Mr. Craig will report back to the selectmen on this by the middle of December, so a written response can be submitted to DES.
6. R. Varnum presented the budget request for the Highway Department. The proposed expenses are a reduction on the 2003 budget and actual expenses, without any loss of services. R. Varnum also presented a schedule of the long-term capital needs of the highway department. In 2004 it is planned to purchase a new backhoe for a cost of approximately \$65,000. M. Oldershaw asked R. Varnum if that cost was with the "municipal discount"? R. Varnum thought that it was, but would check and get back to the board.
7. The selectmen were very pleased with the efforts being put forth by the department heads to reduce or maintain the current spending levels. This shows that everyone is concerned about increasing cost and we are all trying to do our share to keep cost down and therefore keep our tax rate as low as possible.
8. The selectmen reviewed a request by Ms. Shelly Nelkens for the Board of Selectmen to sponsor a warrant article in support of the "Freeing of Mr. Pelliter". The board voted not to sponsor this. It is the feeling of the board that if it is the

will of the Towns people to put this on a warrant article they will insure that it is done properly.

9. The selectmen approved the payroll and accounts payable for the week and reviewed other informational documents.
10. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'M.G.' or similar, located in the right-center portion of the page.