

November 23, 2004

Selectmen Meeting Minutes –11/22/04

Present: M. Genest-Chairman, M. Oldershaw, and B. Pratt

Also in attendance: W. Prokop, S. Chatfield, B. Brown, R. Varnum, R. Haggett, M. Beauchamp, C. Craig, J. Parsons, J. Souillier, K. Chisholm, C. Kerwin

The selectmen voted to accept the minutes of the 11/15/04 meeting.

Mr. Genest read a press release regarding the new town website >www.antrimnh.org< which will go live on December 6th.

The selectmen began their review of department budget request: The first department reviewed was **Police**. Chief Brown presented his request explaining that the increases in the proposed budget are coming from three areas; 1. Hiring the services of secretary. 2. Increase cost in dispatch services, gasoline, and training. 3. The increase in wages.

The Highway Department was the next department reviewed. Bob Varnum explained the rationale behind each line item. The budget is increased mainly in the salary area, with the addition of 1 additional person, and in the road improvement area.

The Library was next to present their budget. They are requesting a 23.4% increase. This is due to increased hours needed to staff the library, wage increases, and additional expenses for automation of the library systems. **The Ambulance** budget was then reviewed and being that the new billing system will be implemented, as of 01/01/05 the net cost of the ambulance will drop to 0. This will be a saving to the Town of approximately \$30,000 per year. Chief Beauchamp presented the **Fire Department** request which had a 10% increase built into it. The increases are in salaries paid to the officers and in the increased cost of dispatch services. **Mr. Craig presented the ARTS department budget.** The requested budget showed an increase of under 5% and was in wages and in the contracted fees of the disposal service. **The Building Inspector, Jeff Parsons,** presented his request, which showed an increase in wages and in workshop fees.

The selectmen will be reviewing all the request and will be formulating questions for each department prior to the next budget review round with each department.

The selectmen then reviewed various correspondences and signed the accounts payable and payroll for the week.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

