

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES DECEMBER 17, 2012

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, December 17, 2012 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectman Malloy, Selectman Hatch, Chairman Clark, Selectman Pratt, Administrator Scruton, and Clerk McNeil. Selectman Gaudiello was absent.

Chairman Clark welcomed everyone and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPOINTMENTS

John Wallace – Mr. Wallace had several issues to be reviewed by the Board. He asked the Board if they would include \$75 annually from the Land Use budget as the Conservation Commission is switching the host for their website to a different server. Mr. Wallace has been doing the monitoring of the town's conservation easements at a cost of \$2200. This money has come from the Land Use budget. It was asked if the monitoring money could come out of the Conservation Fund. The Conservation Commission did not want to expend money out of the Conservation Fund and felt that Fund should be used for conservation easement purchases. Selectman Hatch stated that she was amazed that the members didn't want to take care of what they currently have by using that money towards monitoring. The Conservation Commission has been discussing an amendment to conservation easement deeds. Mr. Wallace wanted feedback from the Board. Mr. Wallace is not in favor of the amendment as he feels a conservation easement should be difficult to change. The Conservation Commission will be reviewing this at their next meeting. The stewardship fund that is started when pieces of land go into conservation easement would be used for legal defense and not for monitoring and there is not enough money in the account for easement monitoring. Mr. Wallace updated the Board on land that is being considered for easements.

REVIEW OF MINUTES - December 10, 2012. Selectman Hatch moved to accept the minutes of December 10, 2012 as amended, seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jill Hilfiger commented on the public information forum previously held to discuss options for the town office, library SAU and Recreation. When she left that meeting she felt that the town office renovation option didn't have the public's support and then found out that the building committee recommended that the town office be renovated. She suggested that in the future if you ask people to attend meetings and make comments, you need to support their opinions.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. The Board approved the Default Budget.
2. Administrator Scruton explained the funding for the Highway Administrative Assistant and the difference in various salary lines.
3. Administrator Scruton noted the dates for public hearings and upcoming meetings as follows: Budget hearing on January 7th and 14th (if necessary), Deliberative session on February 2nd with a snow date of February 4th, Selectmen's meeting on January 21st (if necessary), January 28th, February 11th, 25th, March 11th and 25th.
4. Chief Conway has prepared a memo showing the benefits of increasing the amount of earned time that could be bought out to 60% or 70%.
5. Administrator Scruton noted that one potential for cost savings on health insurance is to increase the "buy out" for employees that are eligible for health care but don't take it because their coverage is with their spouses. If the amount is increased, it could make it less likely employees will take town insurance and more likely they will stay on their spouse's plan. Does the Board wish to change the policy.

6. The Board accepted the proposed revenue projections for 2013 for use at the public hearing and on State forms.

Clerk McNeil

Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: Intent to Cut for Edward Lemos and Mark & Marla Lemos, Real Estate Transfer Tax Declaration for acceptance of Hearthside Drive, Homeland Security Grant for the Police Department, vendor manifest dated 12/13/2012, payroll manifest dated 12/09/2012 and Supplemental Property Tax Warrant in the amount of \$4,058.

PROPOSED 2013 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Police - Selectman Malloy moved to decrease the overtime line to \$60,500 and increase e/t buyout line to \$33,982, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Recreation – Tara Barker, Recreation Director, supported the ABCs recommendation of Contract Facilities Maint. at \$3,000. The Equipment Maint. line will be renamed software/security as it is for the server, software and Burns security.

Library – The ABC would like to decrease this budget as every other department has made adjustments downward. Library Trustee, Ron St Jean, stated that he had polled the other trustees and they feel that everything in the budget is a reasonable request. The library will be selling some shelving and the money can go on the revenue side of the budget. The ABC suggested a reduction of \$5,000 to \$10,000 in the books and media line. Amy Inglis noted that is a decision by the Trustees. Selectman Pratt supports the library budget as is. George Schmalz stated that he had originally wanted to reduce the budget, but reviewed the library budget and noted how tight the budget was and he supports the budget as it. Selectman Hatch, again stated, that this is not the year to give step increases and raises. Ron St. Jean stated that the trustees advocate for what they believe and they are elected by the people. Libraries have changed over the years, teaching technology, people looking for housing, filling out job applications – it is services for the taxpayer.

Highway Administrative Assistant – Selectman Pratt moved to reduce the Admin. p/t line to \$50,624, the employee benefits line to \$108,439, seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

The operating budget is \$6,247,168 with a 5.29 increase. Fred Bussiere stated that this budget will keep services at par. Selectman Pratt moved to support an operating budget of \$6,247,168 for the public hearing, seconded by Selectman Malloy. Chairman Hatch asked for a roll call, Malloy – aye, Hatch – nay, Clark – aye, Pratt – aye. The motion passes.

Warrant articles – Selectman Pratt moved to accept the following warrant articles totaling \$293,000,: roads – \$175,000, library technology - \$3,000, compactor maintenance capital reserve - \$5,000, highway equipment capital reserve - \$50,000, fire truck capital reserve - \$50,000, fire & rescue capital equipment - \$10,000 seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Additional warrant articles for consideration: Selectman Pratt moved to have a bond article in the amount of \$2,330,000 with a 15 year term for renovation of the old town office, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Selectman Pratt moved to have a warrant article starting a capital reserve account in the amount \$55,000 to come from fund balance for engineering work for the Green Hill Road Bridge. The total bridge work would be 80% state, 20% town expenditure. The motion was seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Selectman Hatch supported this article as the town will be able to charge off-site improvement fees as the town is working on its portion and showing a good faith effort. Selectman Pratt moved to change the ambulance revolving fund article from a straight \$25,000 to 50% of money coming into the ambulance fund, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Selectman Hatch moved include a warrant article that would approve of putting the tax rate impact on money articles on each warrant article, seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Selectman Malloy moved to include an article to establish a special revenue account/capital reserve account for the cemetery and resolving the issue with the current fund into which grave sales are put and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the

affirmative. Selectman Hatch moved to place an article on the warrant to ask that the town clerk's pay go from a mix of fees and salary to fully salaried, seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Mrs. Berryment will run a history of the fees. Selectman Hatch moved to include a change for the totally disabled veteran credit from \$1,400 to \$2000, seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Selectman Pratt moved to bring to the public hearing the change from an elected tax collector to an appointed tax collector, seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

NEW BUSINESS

Tax Deeding Update – As of today, payments and arrangements have been made with all but one taxpayer as discussed at a previous meeting. The town will be recording the tax collector's deed and evicting the property owner.

Land Use Board Appointment – Clerk McNeil forwarded to the Board a recommendation by the Planning Board for a new appointment. The Board suggested that the individual be invited to the next Selectmen's meeting.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Hatch stated that the public hearing on zoning changes is scheduled for December 18th. Most of the changes are housekeeping only.

Chairman Clark stated that he would like to see two groups formed to look into health care options with the school board and development and/or sale of the Route 125 site.

Selectman Hatch moved to go into non-public session at 9:15 p.m. per RSA 91 A:3II a, c, d, or e for the discussion of land, seconded by Selectman Malloy. Chairman Clark asked for a roll call, Malloy – aye, Hatch – aye, Clark – aye, Pratt – aye. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Selectman Hatch moved to come out of non-public session at 9:20 p.m., seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.