

## **SELECTMEN'S MINUTES JANUARY 7, 2013**

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, January 7, 2013 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectman Malloy, Selectman Gaudiello, Selectman Hatch, Chairman Clark, Administrator Scruton and Clerk McNeil. Selectman Pratt was absent.

Chairman Clark welcomed everyone and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were approximately 35 people present including Department Heads and the Advisory Budget Committee.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BOND FOR RENOVATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE OLD TOWN OFFICE.**

Chairman Clark opened the hearing at 6:33 p.m. Administrator Scruton supplied copies of the Report of Town Offices Building Committee, a proposed drawing, the default budget, proposed 2013 budget with revenue figures, a draft of the operating budget and a the proposed warrant. Administrator Scruton noted that there has been a building committee working on this process. Bonding will be under 3% which is low along with low construction costs. Chairman Clark asked for any public comments. Steve Conklin stated "we should speak as one voice". Ken Grant was concerned about how the Board wants to spend his money. He spoke of the drainage at the old town office and that contract. He would like to see a breakdown of the estimated costs with detail. Brian Lenzi responded with paperwork for Mr. Grant. The information is also on the town website and more of his questions can be answered on the H. L. Turner website. Charter Weeks noted his concern with the Board having a public informational meeting and then ignoring what the majority of those present wanted. The ABB felt that a combined facility was the better idea. Bob Ott stated that he is disappointed that he didn't know what the town would be paying for and that his taxes would be going up. He further noted that the drainage would be done again after the town already paid \$60,000 for that work. "The plan needs more detail not on the internet but on a piece of paper." He is not for or against it. He would also like to see three bids for the project. Selectman Gaudiello asked about the impact on the tax rate. It would be in the .20 to .25 range. Brian Lenzi explained the reasoning for the outside of the building not being brick. Brian Lenzi further explained the committee's vote after the public informational hearing as there was really no strong consensus one way or another from those present. Ellen Conkin disagreed and felt that the very few people wanted the old town office renovated. This choice was more economical than the other options of going new. Selectman Hatch stated that this is something that the town could afford to do using the money from the rent that the town is currently paying and that building would go back on the tax rolls. The hearing closed at 7:03 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2013 PROPOSED BUDGET AND WARRANT ARTICLES**  
Administrator Scruton noted the increases in earned time, benefits, pay changes and changes in hours and a correction from last year in the heating oil line. Steve Conklin

commented on the paving line and the warrant article from last year. He would like to see the continued funding for paving and that money should come out of fund balance. Ellen Conklin asked about having money set aside for employees who go over and above. Administrator Scruton stated that nothing is included at this time. Charter Weeks had reviewed the budget and felt that it was pretty standard at this time. Ken Grant felt that the town office is only open four days a week and for three months only three days a week because of holidays on Mondays. Ron St. Jean, Library Trustee, said the trustees would like to add a new warrant article. The proposed warrant articles were reviewed. Administrator Scruton felt that there is \$350,000 of fund balance that could be available to offset warrant articles. Administrator Scruton spoke about Article 20 to establish a bridge capital reserve for the Green Hill Road Bridge. The town needs to appropriate money in order to get on the list for New Hampshire Bridge Aid. Article 23 is to establish a Cemetery Capital Reserve for future cemetery expansion with \$51,910 coming out of general fund. The \$51,910 is currently in an account held by the Treasurer. Article 22 is to modify a previously established revolving fund to have two employees cover weekends for fire/rescue. The revolving fund would pay these employees from 50% of the ambulance revenues. Rick Walker stated that the town should put money away from grave sales to purchase more land for another cemetery. Administrator Scruton noted Article 24 is about placing the anticipated tax impact on each money article. Article 25 is to change the compensation for the town clerk from fees and salary to only salary and that amount to be set by the Board of Selectmen. The town clerk supports this change. Article 26 is a Petition Article to establish a committee to draft a rights based ordinance to protect the Isinglass River. Article 27 is a request to increase the current level for the Disabled Veteran's Credit from \$1,400 to \$2,000. Article 13 is to change the office of Tax Collector from an elected position to an appointed position. Denise Hart asked about the bridge warrant article. This article would apply to any "bridge" in Barrington of which Barrington has eight. Dan Ayers felt that it is a good idea to prepare for the future. Selectman Gaudiello stepped down and spoke as a library trustee. A Petition was being passed around requesting a Library Replacement Capital Reserve Fund for \$50,000 for developing plans for a new library building. She asked that the Board of Selectmen support that article and possibly vote to use fund balance. Administrator Scruton asked what articles would the Board like use unreserved fund balance. Treasurer, Peter Royce agrees with Administrator Scruton and the use of fund balance. Selectman Hatch moved to use unreserved fund balance for Articles 15 – 19, & 21, seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Selectman Gaudiello recused herself from that vote. There was discussion whether the Board would put the Library Replacement article on the Warrant or should a Petition be turned in. The Board suggested the article be a Petition article to show how much support the article has. Ken Grant stated most libraries are built by public benefactors not on the backs of taxpayers. Denise Hart agrees that the library is one of the centers of the community and she would like to see the Board support the warrant article on the warrant. Carolyn Robbins supported the library and hoped the Board would include it in the Warrant. Ellen Conklin asked the Board to reconsider and support the article. Ken Grant stated that it should be a petition warrant article.

Selectman Malloy stated even if it is a Petition Article the Board of Selectmen and the ABC can still note their support on the warrant. Library Trustee, Susan Gaudiello, noted that this is for a Capital Reserve which is forward thinking. Selectman Malloy moved to place the Library Replacement Capital Reserve on the warrant, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Do we want to have this \$50,000 taken out of fund balance? Selectman Mallory moved to support the \$50,000 coming out of fund balance, seconded by Selectman Hatch with reservations. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Public hearing closed at 7:50 p.m.

#### PUBLIC HEARING TO ACCEPT PERSONAL PROPERTY

The public hearing opened at 8:25 p.m. Chief Conway commented that used military equipment is turned back to the Federal Government. The Strafford County Sheriff's Department has a Hummer available which just needs to be registered and insured in Barrington. It would be good on some of our Class VI and private roads. They also have a motorcycle which is an on/off road vehicle. This is an opportunity to get something at very little cost. It can be turned back in at any time. Selectman Gaudiello was concerned whether the town should have a Hummer and she does not want to spend money if it needs repairs. It is not a highway patrol vehicle. It is for back road "patrol". Selectman Malloy had concerns of the cost for repairs and hoped it would function. Knights Garage will inspect it. If it becomes a "money pit" it can be returned. Michael Hastings asked if this could be jointly used with the Fire Department. Chief Conway stated if they need it, another department can use it. Selectman Hatch moved to accept the Hummer and the motorcycle and show that it is a value to the town, seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Public hearing closed at 8:45 pm.

#### PUBLIC HEARING ON A REVISION TO THE PERSONNEL POLICY REGARDING EARNED TIME

The public hearing opened at 8:46 p.m. An amendment to the Personnel Policy is proposed that an employee of the police and fire departments will be able to buy out 60% of their total annual accrual due to the nature of their work hours. The public hearing closed at 8:47 p.m.

Selectman Gaudiello moved to support this amendment, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

#### APPOINTMENT

Daniel Ayer – Planning Board Appointment – He stated that he has a lot of knowledge about the town. He can read a set of plans and is good at finding errors. He does residential and commercial maintenance. The Board decided to wait and make the appointment in March with all of the other appointments.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – December 17, 2012 – Selectman Gaudiello abstained from the vote as she was not present at that meeting. Selectman Hatch moved to accept the

minutes of December 17, 2012, seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Charter Weeks asked the Board to have the corners marked on the town owned Route 125 piece of land and to have the Highway Department cut the brush and have a sign placed to market the property.

Ron St. Jean stated that the Chamber of Commerce and Public Library would like to have a candidate forum in February and asked what dates are open.

Chairman Clark noted that Ron Seaver and Betty Seaver recently passed away. They both had been very active in the community.

#### STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. The court hearing for Orchard Hill Road is scheduled for January 28, 2013.
2. The school auditors would like the custodians that work for the town under the school's facility manager to come out of the town budget and not the school district budget. We will create additional payroll lines in the budget, moving the budgeted amounts around, but there is no increase in the budget.

Clerk McNeil

Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: Intent to Cuts for Joseph Carbaugh and Nichola Phaneuf, abatement #1, vendor manifests dated 12/20 and 1/3/13, payroll manifests dated 12/16, 12/23 and 12/30.

#### OLD BUSINESS

A letter was received from the Long Shores Lot Owners Association regarding violations. The letter was forwarded to Code Enforcement Officer, Tom Abbott, for his review.

#### NEW BUSINESS

The Town Clerk's office will be changing Wednesday hours immediately to 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Instead of 2:00 – 7:00. This change is due to cut backs at motor vehicle at the State and their closing hour to 6:00 p.m.

Peter Cook stated that the recycling center was broken into again, but they were unable to gain access this time. A new door will be installed on Tuesday. Cameras may be installed in the future.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT – nothing to report.

Chairman Clark moved to go into non-public session at 9:10 p.m. per RSA 91 A: 3 II a, c, d or e to discuss reputation and land, seconded by Selectman Malloy. Chairman

Clark asked for a roll call, Malloy – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Clark – aye. The motion passes.

Selectman Hatch moved to come out of non-public session at 9:40 p.m. and to seal the minutes for six months, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.