

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2013

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

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

Chairman Clark stated that we would like to celebrate and recognize Sheila Marquette for her dedicated service to the Town of Barrington in the town clerk's office for nineteen years. Mrs. Marquette was presented with flowers and a plaque from the town along with and a plaque from the Town Clerk's Association.

John Wallace was present to discuss a possible conservation easement to be donated by Marika Wilde. The Conservation Commission has unanimously voted to hold this conservation easement. The property is near the Turbo Cam Conservation Easement. Ms. Wilde has asked for just the incidental expenses from the town. This is a 10 acre parcel of backland. There will be no deeded public access unless it is given by the owner of the front parcel. Mr. Wallace would like approval from the Board that they are willing to take over the conservation easement. It would cost approximately \$1500. There was concern about access to the property. Selectman Bussiere moved to accept this easement with the stipulation that if any abutting landowners allow public access, that access will be made available to this land seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Mr. Wallace said that Thunder Road Subdivision has come back before the Planning Board. Part of the approval for this subdivision would require the town take over ownership of several easements. The Board is willing to explore the easement option.

Mr. Wallace asked if the Master Plan could be put on the town's website.

Mr. Wallace wanted the Board to know that he had received a call regarding excessive duck hunting on Richardson Pond.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gregg Doane, a member of Boy Scout Troop 358, was present to describe his Eagle Scout project to the Board of Selectmen. He would like to build a shed for use by the Recreation Dept. He will have to fund raise approximately \$1,400 for this project. He will start by having a cookout at Trunk or Treat.

Meri Schmalz and Margie Longus were present to explain Ready Rides, a new transportation program that helps people 55 or older get to appointments, primarily medical appointments at this time. The program is in Barrington, Northwood, Nottingham and Strafford. Barrington currently has 1,586 eligible residents. They are requesting that \$1,500 be put in the 2014 operating budget to support this program. Some money does come from the state through the Department of Health and Human Services. Barrington is the largest community of the three

but has the lowest usage. The other towns have better publicity, and have a year's head start on Barrington. The money is already reflected in the town's proposed budget. Selectman Bussiere supports the program.

Chief Walker would like to apply for two federal grants one for air packs and gear and the other for communication infrastructure improvements to what the town currently has. The grant for communication improvements would be with 3 other communities. Selectman Gaudiello moved to support application of the grants and authorize Chief Walker, Chairman Clark or Administrator Scruton to sign any necessary documents, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Chief Walker would like to schedule a time when the lady who recently saved a drowning fisherman can be recognized. He will try for October 21st.

Peter Cook noted that he recommends the town go with LCG for the 2013/2014 sand bid. The bid is the same as last year. Although \$9.45 is not the lowest bid the material is a better quality and LCG is a local contractor. Selectman Hatch moved to support Mr. Cook's recommendation, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Jill Hilfiker asked if the Board had made a final decision on having an ABC as she knows someone who might be interested. She feels the \$500,000 warrant article is missing what the road is for and the article needs more detail as to what municipal buildings would be going on that property.

Ken Grant noted an article in the newspaper that said that the NH unemployment rate hit a four year low. He is concerned with the welfare budget and questioned whether the people really deserve welfare. He would like to see towns canvass other towns throughout the state to see if these people are using duplicate resources. He would like to see a central database. Selectman Malloy stated that one of the bills that came before his committee may touch on his concern of double checking if someone is getting assistance in another town.

John Huckins stated that the "Visioning Committee" for the Master Plan update will be having their first meeting on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Selectman Hatch will attend.

Tax Collection – Linda Mickiewicz stated that the properties to be deeded have been reviewed and several are not going to be taken because of bankruptcy, payment plans, several owners have deceased, two properties are located by the hazardous waste site, federal tax lien, abatements on two mobile homes that have been removed, and several with small balances. Selectman Gaudiello moved to accept the waiver list as presented, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

BUDGETS

Tax Collector - An increase of 3% for 2014. The office supply line is down along with benefits and telephone. Equipment rental is for photocopies and the folder/inserters. It was suggested

to drop the postage line from \$10,000 to \$8,000. Earned time buyout will be reviewed again in December.

Executive – The bottom line is up 17% due to the addition of funds for building design for a new community building. Executive Dues is for NHMA and dues for organizations that Administrator Scruton is involved with. Selectman Gaudiello would like to see more money in the building design line to get a truer “picture” for people to understand what they would be voting on and to include community presentations of the design.

Administration – The bottom line is up 1%. The Part-time hourly wage line is down due to Clerk McNeil cutting back her hours. Administrator Contracts includes accounting software, assessing software, tax deeding research, and network administration. Mrs. Berryment will breakdown that line to see where the increases are. Revaluation is up 144% due to 2014 being a certification year. The auditing contracts line is down \$250. Legal is up \$26,000 due to utilization and labor negotiations. Payroll administration is unchanged. The insurance line is down 14% and this contract will be going out to bid in the spring for a June 30' 2014 date. There was no change to Strafford Regional Planning Commission dues.

Health Department - The bottom line is up 7% due to an increase in one of the health organizations.

General Assistance – The bottom line is down 4%. The transportation line includes “Ready Rides” at \$1,500. The Board asked to see trending history of the spending in the welfare lines.

Long Term Bond Principal down 61% and Long Term Bond Interest down 70%.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – September 30, 2013 – Selectman Hatch moved acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

STAFF REPORT

1. Seven bids were received for bridge design for the Green Hill Bridge, and - another one came in late having been delivered to the old town hall building instead. Selectman Hatch moved to allow the late submittal, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. A committee will do an initial review of the proposals with a recommendation to the Board. Selectman Bussiere moved to appoint Keith Pratt, Peter Cook, Marsha Gasses and Administrator Scruton to the review committee, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Administrator Scruton suggested adding a resident from the neighborhood to the committee and was authorized to invite a person to serve.
2. The Board reviewed a draft article from Administrator Scruton for the Town Common. The Board will review and get back to Administrator Scruton on Tuesday with any edits. Ken Grant expressed his opinion that Selectman Gaudiello could suggest edits to influence the building of a new library which would be a conflict since she is a trustee.
3. The Deliberative Session will be on Saturday, February 1, 2014.

4. Administrator Scruton stated that starting July 1, 2014 the town will either have to offer part-time employees who currently are eligible for paying into a Flexible Spending Account the opportunity to buy health insurance or discontinue FSA. Several suggestions were offered for further discussion.

Clerk McNeil

Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: payroll manifest dated 09/29/2013, vendor manifest dated 10/01/2013, the deed waivers as previously discussed and a taxpayer agreement.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Hatch recently attended the Library Trustees meeting. She stated that both the Trustees and the Board of Selectmen need to work together and not to blame each other. They need not agree, but we are all individuals and have the right to disagree.

Selectman Bussiere attended a Conservation Commission meeting and stated that "it was fun". He will be dancing for the Dancing with the Barrington Stars. Chairman Clark will be a judge.

Selectman Malloy attended the Planning Board meeting. He stated that there was discussion regarding the well for the gas station and convenience store. The issue may need to go before the ZBA.

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

The meeting was recessed for a "non-meeting".

The meeting reconvened.

Selectman Bussiere moved to come out of non-public session at 10:15 p.m., seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.