

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 18, 2013

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, November 18, 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 opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Clark opened the public hearing on the issuance of a building permit (garage) on Lady Slipper Lane, a private road at 6:30 p.m. Clerk McNeil explained that the required paperwork had been submitted; Chairman Clark asked if there was any public comment – there was none. Selectman Bussiere moved to grant the building permit for Stephen and Carol Blain, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Chairman Clark opened the public hearing on the amendment to the personnel plan at 6:32 p.m. Administrator Scruton noted that a sentence in the middle of the Personnel Plan needed to be changed. Selectman Hatch moved to split the personnel plan and the safety plan and make the related change in wording, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. Chairman Clark asked if there was any public comment – there was none. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Chairman Clark opened the public hearing to amend the snow and ice policy at 6:38 p.m. The amendment to the policy would change the fine from \$25 to a maximum fine allowed by law as "up to \$1,000" and add language to include causing water to flow onto the street where it can freeze causing a safety hazard. It was asked how many fines were issued last year - none. Selectman Hatch felt these are excellent changes and supports them 100%. Selectman Bussiere moved to modify the ordinance and make the fine \$100 for first offense (there would normally be a prior warning) and up to \$1000 for each one after, and to include language prohibiting water flowing onto the street where it can freeze, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. The hearing closed at 7:43 p.m.

#### APPOINTMENTS

Clayton Bousquin – Commander of American Legion – The driveway has been built into the property. The members are installing a flag pole along with lights and gates. Currently there is a temporary construction trailer on site. Mr. Bousquin stated that he feels the driveway needed a guard rail and could use some gravel to improve the surface. Administrator Scruton stated that the driveway is the easement owner's responsibility. In the future, they plan to build recreation area with a pavilion. He feels the Legion will be in compliance with the RSA so that the property will be exempt from property taxes for 2014. He asked to either waive taxes or reduce the assessment to be the same as 2012. Mr. Bousquin invited the Board to tour the site with one of their officers.

#### BUDGETS

Fire – Chief Walker presented this budget. There is a 1% increase in this budget. Chief Walker explained the highlights of the budget especially noting the contracts line. For November, the ambulance service is responding to an average of two calls per day. Chief Walker noted that it costs \$2,500 to outfit one firefighter. Chief Walker is proposing two capital reserve warrant articles - one for \$50,000 for fire truck replacement and \$10,000 for the fire/rescue equipment.

Cemetery – Rick Walker presented this budget. There is no increase in this budget. The trustess have split out the mowing work and the burial work and put it out to bid. Next year they would like to look at waterline expansion. They are also trying to put in place some long range plans.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Ken Grant commented on the wearing of the tires on the fire truck and recommended rotating inside to outside tires. He also commented on the awarding of the sand bid and the hiring of a winter plow driver. He does not see the consistency in hiring local.

Chief Conway and Chief Walker have been working with the State of New Hampshire DOT regarding installing a generator at the traffic lights to keep them working when the power goes out. There will be a contract coming to be signed by Administrator Scruton. Selectman Gaudiello moved to authorize Administrator Scruton to execute the document, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Peter Cook responded to Mr. Grant's comment. Mr. Cook said that he looked last summer for a plow contractor for winter and found someone from Strafford. This year two people left the highway department, one retired and one went to another job. Six people were interviewed for one full-time position. The town advertised for a contract plow truck and driver and there was no response. Mr. Cook had concerns that we are moving into winter and with the staff he has, two routes won't get plowed. From the interviews, he had two or three good candidates and he was asking for direction from the Board regarding hiring. Administrator Scruton recommended filling two positions to have the routes maintained. Selectman Bussiere moved to fill both vacant positions, seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Mr. Cook also commented on the work that will be done to the dam. No one answered the advertisement, but he found a local resident who hopefully will be able to start work this week.

REVIEW OF MINUTES –November 4, 2013 – Selectman Bussiere moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Selectman Dawn Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

#### STAFF REPORT

##### Administrator Scruton

1. Selectman Hatch moved to approve the name Village Place Drive as the main road in the Village Place subdivision instead of Turkey Ridge Road, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
2. Administrator Scruton asked the Board if they supported the one-time fee for audio streaming of the Selectmen meetings on our web page. The cost is \$1,260. The Board did not support audio streaming.
3. Selectman Gaudiello moved to support the 2014 holiday schedule proposed by Administrator Scruton based on Federal holidays, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
4. Administrator Scruton noted that he would like to schedule a holiday party for the Selectmen and town employees. The town would pay for the selectmen and employees and guests would pay their own way. Selectman Gaudiello was concerned about the public perception when people just got their tax bills. Administrator Scruton felt there was a need to show employees that they are appreciated to help bring up poor morale. Selectman Gaudiello felt that the Board may need to talk about merit increases that affect more people than going out to dinner. Selectman Hatch would support a COLA but not a step increase because we all have to work

together to get funding for a new town hall. Selectman Bussiere stated that the town's costs for our employees are increasing with retirement and health insurance paid by the town. It was noted that a lot of town employees are part-time and do not get retirement and health insurance so are not increasing town costs. Selectman Bussiere supported a Christmas party with paying for both the employee and guest. Chairman Clark stated there did not appear to be a consensus on this matter

5. Administrator Scruton proposed the following upcoming schedule for meetings and hearings: January 6, 13 (public hearing), 20<sup>th</sup> if needed for review of petitioned articles, and 27<sup>th</sup>; February 1<sup>st</sup> for deliberative session, if needed, the 3<sup>rd</sup> as a snow date, and regular meetings on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>; March 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### Warrant Articles

Bridge & Culvert - \$50,000, Svenson Land Bond - \$500,000, Road Warrant Article - \$231,910 this may be discussed further, Library Tech - \$3,000, Highway Equipment - \$50,000, Fire Truck - \$50,000, Fire/Rescue Capitol Equipment - \$10,000. Selectman Gaudiello would like to see more money in paving and put the highway garage as a warrant article. Peter Cook submitted a quote for the building at \$200,000. This would be a shell with no electricity

OLD BUSINESS – There was no old business

#### NEW BUSINESS

Selectman Hatch would like to commend Peter Gould for picking up trash on Pond Hill Road, Gwen Erley on Daniel Cater Road, Marsha Hatch on Second Crown Point Road and Hank Dombroski for Hall Road. Selectman Hatch asked if there is any way we can thank these people and noted there may be others who have assisted the town in this way.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ken Grant asked if the Board would consider publishing the salary and benefits package for each town employee in the town report.

Selectman Bussiere moved that since the Holiday party is good for morale for the employees, to authorize Administrator Scruton to set up the party with the town paying for the employee and guest, seconded by Selectman Hatch. Chairman Clark asked for a roll call – Bussiere – aye, Gaudiello - nay, Hatch – aye, Clark – nay, Malloy - aye The vote passes 3 to 2.

#### SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Hatch recently attended the Library Trustees meeting. Two people have come forward to be alternates. They also may change the evening of their meetings.

Selectman Bussiere attended a Conservation Commission meeting that was a lot of fun and he learned a lot.

Selectman Malloy attended the public hearing for the Planning Board.

Chairman Clark noted two illegal signs near the junction of Route 125 and 9,

Selectman Bussiere moved to go into non-public session at 8:45 p.m. per RSA 91 A: 3 II a, and also for a non-meeting, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. Chairman Clark asked for a roll call, Bussiere – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Malloy – aye, Clark – aye.

The Board recessed to a non-meeting.

The Board resumed their non-public meeting to discuss personnel issues.

Selectman Bussiere moved to come out of non-public session at 9:25 p.m., seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.