

**SELECTMEN'S MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 25, 2013**

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, November 25, 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.

**APPOINTMENTS**

There were no appointments

**BUDGETS** – Review of the Proposed 2014 Budget Including Warrant Articles – Chairman Clark noted that there had previously been discussion about putting paving in the budget at a figure of \$325,000 instead of a warrant article and putting the town garage building into a warrant article and out of the operating budget. It was agreed to put \$750,000 in the paving line in the operating budget and \$175,000 in a warrant article. Selectman Gaudiello noted the cost of the building without electricity would be in the amount of \$200,000 but this excludes site work and various other options. All of the current equipment would fit in this new space. It was suggested to add money for minimum work i.e. electricity. Selectman Gaudiello suggested plugging in \$250,000 and the Board agreed. Selectman Bussiere would like to see line item detail for the building options. Selectman Gaudiello spoke about Executive Building – Design and asked if there is enough money in that line. Administrator Scruton will check with SMP for a figure to do some design work. This work would be for a combined facility for a library and town hall. The Tax Collector postage line was reduced to \$8,000.

General Government Buildings – Building Maintenance - \$50,000 – all but \$2,000 of that money was accounted for in Paul Sander's recommendation of work that needs to be done to the various building. The Health Department is made up of requests from various health organizations. The Board approved supporting A Safe Place with \$1,000 and declining the funding request from SASS.

In the discussion of steps and COLA, Administrator Scruton recommended both steps, for those not in a collective bargaining unit, and a 1.5% COLA which would total \$48,697. Selectman Gaudiello is concerned that steps are 3.5% and COLA 1.5% which is a total of 5% and that may be high for what is happening in the market. Selectman Bussiere and Selectman Hatch supported COLAs only. Selectman Malloy agreed that 5% is not reality in this market. Chairman Clark felt that the employees deserve recognition and 5% may be too much, but could we divide merit and COLA in half. Selectman Gaudiello likes to look at the whole compensation package. Administrator Scruton was asked to get a history of the steps and COLA over the past several years.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ken Grant noted that the town voted for Obama but the town's employees won't be coming under the Affordable Care Act and what are their cadillac plans going to cost the town. Administrator Scruton stated that this comes up in 2018 and the town does not know what the costs would be. The town is looking at an alternative health insurance plan with the school to save money.

Selectman Hatch supports \$250,000 for the highway building in the budget over a two year period and wants the cost for any of the town employees working on the construction of this project noted.

The Board approved Chief Walker waiving the bid process (getting three telephone quotes) for the purchase of air bottles because he is going with the Massachusetts state bid. Chief Walker stated that

he is expecting notification in the next few weeks that the town is receiving a \$2,000 forestry grant with a 50/50 match.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – November 18, 2013 – The minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

#### STAFF REPORT

##### Administrator Scruton

1. Selectman Hatch moved to authorize the Conservation Commission accept a donation of \$100 for conservation maintenance around the area of the sign at the Goodwill easement, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
2. Selectman Gaudiello moved to amend the town's Welfare Guidelines to include changes by the State as recommended by the welfare director and Administrator Scruton, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
3. A price was quoted for the Town Common being mailed to 3,865 boxes at a cost of \$4,400 an issue. The Board did not support adding this to the budget.

##### Clerk McNeil

Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: four abatements, an Agreement Pursuant to RSA 80:80, VI for Wixon and a Quitclaim Deed transferring property back to Wixon, payroll manifest dated 11/17/2013 and vendor manifest dated 11/19/2013.

#### SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Hatch recently attended the ZBA meeting where 2 variances were granted and one was continued for more information.

Selectman Bussiere will be attending the next Conservation Commission meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Clark stated that the public safety building was without water recently and a pump and wiring were replaced. He also commented on Barrington's Dancing with the Stars. It was very well attended and five town employees participated.

Administrator Scruton updated the Board on the negotiation of Orchard Hill Road. The Browns want a new location for the road. The town is looking at what has to be moved out of the right of way and how wide the right of way needs to be for maintenance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.