

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2014

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, January 13, 2014 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 opened the public hearing on a proposed \$500,000 bond article at 6:34 p.m. The warrant article is for developing a site for a future municipal building including engineering, permitting, design and construction to build a road..... Chairman Clark welcomed public comment. This article will most likely be replaced with another article in the amount of \$50,000. Chairman Clark read the proposed article. John Huckins stated that he spoke with John Svenson and Mr. Svenson was going to pay for all of the subdivision costs and the town would be responsible for the soft costs. Mr. Huckins would like this to be a land transfer article with no cost associated with it. Mr. Huckins spoke further of the PUD and the private/public partnership as described in the town center plan. He would like to have a non-binding referendum asking the public to pick where they want a town office built -the Swenson property or Ramsdell Lane. Selectman Gaudiello moved to withdraw the bond article as written, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. The public hearing on the bond closed at 6:36 p.m.

Chairman Clark opened the public hearing on the operating budget and warrant articles at 6:37 p.m. Administrator Scruton showed a power point presentation of the budget including capital reserve articles where the cost will be coming out of fund balance and having no impact on taxes. Money for the highway equipment garage and for road paving and reconstruction will also come from fund balance and will have no impact on the tax rate. The collective bargaining unit agreement has been completed with an increase in the budget of \$3,291. The warrant includes two Petition articles. One article regarding changing from a Class VI road to a Class A Trail will be deleted after talking with one of the abutters. There is an article to correct how members of the advisory budget committee are established. Chairman Clark asked for questions on the operating budget and warrant articles. Paul Mausteller asked why the legal line is being increased.

Administrator Scruton noted that the town boards have needed more legal advice along with several ongoing court cases. This legal line also includes legal counsel for the collective bargaining unit. Ken Grant had questions regarding the maintenance budget. He thinks that this work should go out to bid. Mr. Grant further stated that \$140,000 was spent for an electrical contractor over the last several years. Mr. Grant claims there was a master electrician changing light bulbs at the town hall. "This causes our taxes to go up." A pump was replaced at the public safety building for around \$3,500. The town could have saved around \$1000 on this work with a smaller pump. He sees room for improvement in this area. Selectman Gaudiello asked the audience about the wording on each warrant article regarding the tax impact. "Was what we did helpful?" Charter Weeks and Paul Mausteller offered several suggestions.

Ken Grant would like the vendor manifest that is signed at every meeting, put on the town's website. Bob Ditursi asked about the power purchase agreement and the supplying of solar panels. He stated that this was discussed several years ago. The town has gone out for an RFQ. The article allows the town to investigate and enter into an agreement similar to what the school is doing.

The Board reviewed the revised wording for the donation of a portion of the Svenson property. Charter Weeks, from the ABB, started that the purpose of acquiring this land is to start building a town center. The details and conditions will be noted in the agreement between the town and the Svenson's. Town Planner, Marcia Gasses noted that the donation of land presents a great opportunity for the town. However; the community profile and visioning committee will not have their public hearing and final input until after town meeting. Jill Hilfiger would like to see the town accept the donation and she supports the money for the engineering and related studies. Selectman Bussiere would like a definition of a town center. "This is a donation with strings attached." Lynda Brushett stated that you get a multiplier when you invest in the Svenson property. The area will continue to grow. The warrant article will read as follows: To see if the Town of Barrington will vote to accept the land to be donated by the Svenson family adjacent to the Christmas Dove and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to pay for engineering and related studies for the development of the property for municipal buildings or other civic purposes. This is a special warrant article and will not lapse until December 31, 2016. The public hearing closed at 8:10 p.m.

The following is the Board's recommendation and/or not for the warrant articles:

Operating budget – Selectmen Bussiere moved to recommend this article, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. Selectman Hatch noted that she was under the impression that this would be a flat line budget and that “seemed to go out the window”. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Capital Reserve Articles – Selectman Gaudiello moved to recommend all of the capital reserve articles, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Highway Equipment Garage – Selectman Gaudiello moved to recommend this article, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Road Paving and Reconstruction – Selectman Gaudiello moved to recommend this article, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Collective Bargaining Agreement – Selectman Gaudiello moved to recommend this article, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Donation of Svenson Land – Selectman Gaudiello moved to recommend this article as amended, seconded by Selectman Malloy. Selectman Hatch stated that she supports the article as two articles not one. Chairman Clark asked for a roll call, Bussiere – nay, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – nay, Malloy – aye, Clark – aye. The motion to recommend passes.

Town collection of cemetery money – Selectman Gaudiello moved to recommend this article, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Solar Energy Power Purchase Agreement and Performance Agreement – Chairman Clark abstained from the vote. Selectman Gaudiello moved to recommend this article, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Petition Article – Adopt an ordinance regarding river ecosystems – Selectman Bussiere moved to not recommend this article on advice of counsel, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Green Hill Road Class VI – Class A Trail – Selectman Bussiere moved to remove this article from the warrant, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Domestic and Farm Animal Ordinance – Selectman Hatch moved to recommend this article with the addition of “farm” animals, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Advisory Budget Comm. – Selectman Gaudiello moved to recommend this article, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Petition Article – amending the US Constitution – Selectman Malloy abstained from the vote. Selectman Gaudiello moved to take no position on this article, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Purchase Back Ownership Article – Selectman Gaudiello moved to recommend this article as amended adding “for a dollar”, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – December 16, 2013, January 6, 2014 – Selectman Gaudiello moved to accept the minutes of December 16, 2013 as corrected, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. The minutes for January 13th will be corrected and reviewed at the next meeting.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. Selectman Gaudiello moved to participate in the Hazardous Household Waste Collection Day in Rochester in 2015, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
2. The Board reviewed Administrator Scruton’s draft report for the town report and approved it with changes.
3. Administrator Scruton stated that Metrocast will be unable to record the Deliberative Session or film it live. He is working to see if the town can do it with the new video server.

Clerk McNeil

Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: abatements #1 – 3, payroll manifest dated 1/17/2014 and vendor manifest dated 1/9/2014.

Clerk McNeil asked that the Board authorize Administrator Scruton to sign the agreements with property owners to pay back taxes on properties that were taken for non-payment of taxes. Selectman Bussiere moved to support Clerk McNeil’s recommendation, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Gaudiello stated that the School Board will hold their public hearing on their budget and warrant articles on Tuesday, January 14th. She stated that there will be a warrant article for the teacher's contract, the high school contract with Dover and a contract with Oyster River.

Selectman Hatch attended the recent Community-Profile-Visioning meeting. They will have a public meeting on April 11th and 12th. They are always looking for more volunteers.

Selectman Malloy noted that the Planning Board is working on the zoning articles. He also commented that the recent Planning Board meeting was a "very inefficient meeting".

Chairman Clark reported that he and Administrator Scruton met with the Chairman of the School Board and the Superintendent to talk about facilities and space needs. At this point the town will proceed with space needs without the SAU.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ken Grant wanted it clarified that the salary & benefits would appear in the town report. Administrator Scruton stated that because of timing that information may not be available when the town report goes to press. However; the information may be put on the website.

Selectman Bussiere moved to go into non-public session at 9:13 p.m. per RSA 91 A: 3II c for reputation, 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.

Selectman Bussiere moved to come out of non-public session at 9:45 p.m., and to seal the minutes, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.