

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES NOVEMBER 10, 2014

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, November 10, 2014 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectman Bussiere, Selectman Gaudiello, Selectman Malloy, Chairman Clark, and Clerk McNeil. Administrator Scruton was absent.

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

Chairman Clark opened the public hearing on the acquisition of the Calef property (Town Farm Road) by the Conservation Commission at 6:32 p.m. John Wallace from the Conservation Commission noted that the project started in 2011. Funding is coming from many different sources. He further commented that this is a fabulous parcel and it will be used by the town for many generations to come. Gregg Caporossi from the Trust for Public Lands showed a power point of the project. They are a national land trust and help foster a connection between people and conservation. This is a private/public partnership. The parcel is approximately 300 acres with 2.2 miles of frontage on the Isinglass River. A small hammer head at the end of Town Farm Road will be included on the property for parking and snow removal. The Isinglass River provides drinking water to Dover through the Cocheco River. Recreation values of the property include the following: hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and snowmobiling. He also noted the step structure to the project. Jeremy Lougee of the NRSC presented the structure of the project. Mr. Caporossi noted the funding with the total project costs at \$1,110,000. The town will be contributing \$150,000 through the Barrington Conservation Fund. There was a question of allowing snowmobiling. It is up to the landowner. Management of the property will be by the Conservation Commission. Hunting cannot be restricted unless it is a concern of public safety. Restoration costs will be picked up by the NRCS. NRCS will do the monitoring. Selectman Hatch supports the purchase to protect the property and leave it in its natural state. It is an asset to the town. Selectman Bussiere was concerned about spending the extra \$50,000 as the Conservation Commission originally asked for \$100,000. He feels that the town is wasting \$50,000 – the deal would still close without the additional \$50,000. Selectman Bussiere also disagrees with the appraisal that was submitted. Mr. Caporossi stated that the “clock is running” on funding for this project. The funding will go away and be put towards another project. Ken Grossman from the Conservation Commission stated that the Commission has no other project in place that would use the saved \$50,000. Selectman Gaudiello moved to authorize the expenditure of a total of \$150,000 from the Barrington Conservation Fund, seconded by Selectman Hatch. Chairman Clark asked for a roll call, Malloy – aye, Hatch – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Clark – aye, Bussiere – nay. The motion passes. Selectman Gaudiello moved to accept \$431,000 in public and private grants to support this project, seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Selectman Malloy moved to enter into a purchase and sale agreement with the Trust for Public Lands and authorize Administrator Scruton or Chairman Clark to sign the purchase and sale, seconded by Selectman Hatch. Chairman Clark asked for a roll call, Selectman Malloy – aye, Selectman Hatch – aye, Selectman Gaudiello – aye, Selectman Bussiere – nay, Chairman Clark – aye. The motion passes. Selectman Hatch moved to take ownership of the Calef property subject to the easement held by the NRCS, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Members of the Isinglass River Local Advisory Committee thanked the Board for supporting this project. The hearing closed at 7:22 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

Chief Walker – BFA Donation – The Barrington Firemen’s Association has the opportunity to purchase \$18,000 worth of equipment for \$7,000. Selectman Bussiere moved to accept the donation of a cutter and power unit from the Firemen’s Association, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Selectman Bussiere moved to allow the Fire Department to sell a backup rescue stretcher to the Madbury Fire Department for \$1, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – October 27, 2014 – Selectman Bussiere moved to accept the minutes of October 27, 2014 with corrections, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

2015 PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION

Recreation – Tara Barker presented this budget. There is a minimal increase to this budget. There was a correction as the mileage line should show \$500. There are no proposed staffing changes. Peter Royce asked what parts of the budget are not covered by the revolving fund. Ms. Barker stated most permanent employees and \$10,000 of the budget. The revolving fund generated approximately \$300,000 to \$350,000 this year.

Police – This was presented by Lt. George Joy. There is a 2% increase in this budget. The largest increase in this budget is in the part-time hourly wage line. One of the current officers will be retiring and he may be willing to come back part-time. This will help to keep the overtime line level funded. The police contracts line has an increase and that is for computer contracts, servers etc. Office supplies has a 15% increase with the increasing paperwork coming from the Courts. Operating supplies is the bulk purchasing of ammunition. Highway Safety Grants is a revolving fund issue and that is down 67%. It was asked if an older cruiser could be used for detail to save on a new vehicle. It is something to look at in the future. A Warrant article will be asking to remove \$30,000 from the revolving fund and placing it in an expendable account to purchase cruiser equipment. Peter Royce asked if a new full-time officer will be hired when Sgt. Neenan leaves – yes. Rick Walker encouraged the Board to support the additional money in the part-time hourly. It helps when there is a medical call and the police are usually on scene before the ambulance.

Library – Amy Inglis and Trustee, Ron St. Jean presented this budget. The technology employee has a proposed increase in salary to keep him competitive with other communities. The same is true with other employees. Mrs. Inglis did a salary survey and these proposed increases are putting people at the base rate of other communities. The contracts line is up due to an increase in software costs and new programs. There will be a warrant article to add \$3000 to the technology fund capital reserve. Under revenue, anticipated fees and fines is \$10,750 plus grants of \$5,022. This money is not for books but for CD, DVDs etc. The library has been serving the kindergarten classes and ECLC students. The library is also looking at more programing beyond their doors.

STAFF REPORT

Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: abatements #37 – 41, vendor manifests dated 10/30 & 11/06, payroll manifests dated 10/26 & 11/02 and an Intent to Cut for Cabernet Builders

Selectman Hatch moved to appoint Steven Saunders as an alternate to the ABC until March, 2015, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. 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 Hatch and Selectmen Gaudiello will be attending the NMHA conference this week in Manchester.

Selectman Bussiere spoke about the Envisioning/Economic Committee. They are working with a representative from DRED regarding ERZ (economic revitalization zoning). This is a tax incentive for businesses that give them a tax break on their state business tax. The committee will be bringing this request to the Board for approval. It was asked why aren't other communities offering this tax incentive.

The committee also would like to interview a commercial broker to promote the property on Route 125 that the town currently owns.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Maustellar stated that the communications committee will also be meeting with a representative from DRED.

Mr. Maustellar had a concern regarding building codes with the construction of the new highway garage. He questioned the garage door sill plates.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.