

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES JANUARY 5, 2015

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, January 5, 2015 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectman Bussiere, Selectman Gaudiello, Selectman Hatch, Chairman Clark, Administrator Scruton and Clerk McNeil. Selectman Malloy was absent.

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

Chairman Clark opened the public hearing at 6:33 p.m. on the proposed \$2,500,000 bond for the construction of a town office to replace leased spaces including but not limited to building construction, site work, architectural fees, engineering, permitting, inspection, furniture, commissioning and other expenses to occupy the building. Chairman Clark stated that there is no cost for buying any property as this will be on the property of the old town office on Ramsdell Lane. The payments for the bond will not show up on the tax rate until 2016. That cost would be approximately \$37.50 on a tax bill based on a home with an assessed value of \$250,000. Administrator Scruton showed a power-point presentation and gave a history of what had been discussed over the past several years. A conceptual drawing was shown along with what is located on the proposed site. The proposed building has more efficient use of space, is more efficient for energy use, the building is on one floor, meeting rooms can be used separately, and there will also be expansion for recreation as it is close to the fields. The layout of the different offices was shown. Administrator Scruton also spoke of what the town would be saving as we are currently paying rent for office space along with rental space for storage. The hearing was opened for public comment. Dan Ayer asked the capacity of the meeting room – a total of 75. Paul Mausteller asked if the Board decided on construction manager or design bid – they chose construction manager. Steve Saunders asked about the warrant article and what contingencies are in place if the budget is overspent. The town usually goes through the bond bank and the article asks for a bond of no more than \$2,500,000. The town will go out to bid and hopes that the bids come out under the bond request. Len Turcotte asked the total square footage – 11,000 sq. ft. - plus the basement space. The operating costs of the new building should be less than we are currently paying. Margaret Mausteller asked if anyone has talked with the current landlord to see if he would renew the contract. Len Turcotte asked if the board had looked at any rental options. Other spaces have been looked at but they do not meet the town's needs. Dan Ayer asked about the empty building on Commerce Way. It was noted that it is currently only a shell and not big enough. It would also need an elevator. The bond hearing closed at 6:45 p.m. Selectman Gaudiello moved to recommend the town office bond article as drafted, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Chairman Clark opened the public hearing on the 2015 proposed budget and warrant articles at 6:50 p.m. It was noted that the Board has worked on this budget for weeks. The budget has a 2% decrease. If the budget and warrant articles all pass, the increase in the tax rate would be about .08 per thousand. Chairman Clark summarized the budget. Dan Ayer stated that a road assessment had been done and is it used in the paving bid? Administrator Scruton stated that the road assessment is used as part of the paving schedule with minor adjustments based on weather damage and other

issues. Peter Cook spoke of how the bids are handled and reviewed. DuBois & King also inspects the roads through the paving process.

Steve Saunders is concerned about the big tax increase this year and feels there has not been full disclosure. It was stated that the big tax rate increase was on the school side with issues that are not in their control. The proposed calculation for tax rate increase is based on no change of assessed value. Paul Mausteller asked about articles paid for by fund balance and the warrant articles that have offsetting revenues. Administrator Scruton explained the target for fund balance and what fund balance would pay for in the 2015 warrant.

The budget and warrant hearing closed at 7:08 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Saunders – he noted that the Board does a good job with direct control items. He further asked how the Selectmen can influence the school budget. Chairman Clark explained that the school has a school board to work on their budget, their own public hearing, their own deliberative session and their own budget committee.

Paul Mausteller suggested that the town hire one firm to do all of the assessing work for five years before a revaluation.

REVIEW OF MINUTES - December 22, 2014 – Selectman Gaudiello moved to accept the minutes of December 22, 2014 with the recommended changes, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. Selectman Bussiere moved to take \$125,000 out of the paving line and put it into a warrant article with the money to come from fund balance, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
2. Selectman Gaudiello moved to support the use of fund balance for the following articles: fire truck, fire equipment, library technology, cemetery, highway equipment, bridge and emergency road and revenue/offset for \$30,000 (police technology for the cruisers), seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
3. The default budget is \$79,355 less than the 2014 budget as the town paid off the bond, reduced revaluation costs and a number of changes in health insurance. Selectman Bussiere moved to approve and sign the Default Budget, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
4. Selectman Hatch moved to approve the application for a grant to pay the cost of an additional firefighter, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. This would not help with this year's request for a fulltime firefighter and it was also noted that the town only has a 30% chance in receiving this grant. There is also a grant to help pay for/retain an additional firefighter. No one in NH got a grant in the last round. This grant was also supported by the Board.
5. Selectman Hatch moved to use cents per thousand and dollars on a \$250,000 home with each warrant article to explain the tax impact, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
6. The Dept. of Revenue Administrator noted that some of the Capital Reserve Articles that the town will be discontinuing can be combined into one article on the warrant.

Administrator Scruton recommends keeping them separate for better explanation. The Board agreed.

7. Administrator Scruton provided two warrant articles regarding Town Farm Road. Article 21 asks that the Class VI section of Town Farm Road be reclassified as a Class A Trail to prevent the passage of wheeled vehicles. This section of Town Farm Road would become a trail through the recently purchased town owned conservation property. The Board supported this article. Article 22 asks that a portion of the Class V section of Town Farm Road is discontinued beginning 50' easterly of the driveway of 81 Town Farm Road and continuing up to the boundary at 128 Town Farm Road. The town would retain the right to use the road for access for forestry and land management purposes to the newly acquired conservation land. There will also need to be construction of a parking lot and a plow-truck turnaround beyond the cemetery on the Calef Reserve property. After much discussion, Selectman Hatch moved to drop article 22 from the warrant but to upgrade a turnaround and construction the parking lot, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
8. A petition article was received asking the town to adopt an Ordinance to Protect the Waterways of the town, including Rivers, Steams, Ponds, Wetlands, Watersheds and Aquifers.....Selectman Bussiere moved to not recommend this article. Chairman Clark asked for any public comments. Seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative
9. There is a need to amend the Green Hill Road Bridge engineering study by \$3,667.06 (the state will pay 80%) for a preliminary archeology study. Selectman Bussiere moved to request the Trustees pay \$3,667.06 from the transportation fund, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
10. The question has arisen regarding the Engineering RFQ if the Board would be willing to divide the services into the two components – (engineer of record for the town and one for the Planning Board) since a member of the firm sits on the Planning Board. The Board did not want to split up the two components.
11. The Board of Selectmen agreed to take the proposed town hall plan to the Planning Board in March for site review.
12. Administrator Scruton asked the Board if they wished to be included in the mailing with the school on the ballot articles for town meeting. The Board felt that with the proposed town office as their major issue they would like to do their own mailing. Bob stock supports having a separate flyer for the town.
13. Selectman Gaudiello moved to have the Board accept revenues from the Cottontail Habitat on the Tamposi property and allow expenditures as previously discussed, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
14. Selectman Bussiere moved to authorize Administrator Scruton to sign the AIA contract with the Architect for the amounts previously agreed upon including a cap on expenditures at the budgeted level if the bond does not pass, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
15. Alicia Lee, a Barrington Girl Scout has agreed to do an improvement project in the Barrington Town Forest. She will be replacing some of the worn signage and doing some repairs and improvements to the amphitheater area. This will be part of her Gold Award Project.

16. Administrator Scruton has met with several people who run an excavation business to talk with them about excavating on the EcoPark site. They were going to review the costs and get back to him.
17. Administrator Scruton noted that Assistant Recreation Director, Jason Hanken, has resigned to take a position in Maine. Administrator Scruton stated the procedure for filling that vacancy.

Clerk McNeil

Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: abatements #1 - #3, a Land Use Change Tax Warrant in the amount of \$19,250, payroll manifest dated 12/21 and 12/28, and vendor manifest dated 12/23 and 12/31.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Gaudiello stated that the public hearing on the school budget is new Tuesday, January 13th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Selectman Bussiere moved to recess into a non-meeting at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Selectman Hatch moved to the regular meeting at 8:29 p.m., seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Selectman Gaudiello moved to agree to only the compensation for the labor negotiation of a 1% COLA and step increases as offered other employees, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.