

## SELECTMEN'S MINUTES MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, October 26, 2015 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectman Bussiere, Selectman Gaudiello, Selectman Hatch, Selectman O'Brien, Chairman Clark, Administrator Scruton and Clerk McNeil.

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

### APPOINTMENTS

### BUDGET REVIEWS

#### **Tax Collector -**

Linda Markiewicz presented this budget. This budget is down 1%. The contracts line will be going out to bid for mortgage searches. There is an increase in office supplies due to the price of ink cartridges. Postage line has been reduced by \$1,000. Mileage and expenses is reduced by \$150 as they have already completed their certification training and don't need to attend. Ms. Markiewicz presented her semi-annual report. She thanked the Board for the approving the hardship abatements.

The Board discussed the deeding of a lot for unpaid property taxes, River's Edge – Cedar Creek lot 9. This lot is still owned by the developer. The developer of the subdivision also has the road plowed and we need leverage in him maintaining the road. The owner is looking to pave the road and has been asked to post a bond. The plowing has not been consistent. We would like the road to get finished. Does the Board want to proceed with a deed waiver and not take the property for unpaid taxes? Through the town's attorney, the town is trying to reestablish a bond to get the road finished. Selectman Bussiere feels the town should take the lot for non-payment of taxes. It was recommended to wait for the attorney's response. It will be reviewed at the meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Markiewicz noted that the tax office and assessing office sent out courtesy letters to people who were on the deeding list notifying them of the chance of losing their property. Property owners came in to resolve and/or make arrangements to make partial payments to avoid deeding. To date the office has collected over \$52,000 from the payment plans.

A memo was received from a property owner who did not receive a June bill and wants a waiver for the accrued interest. The tax bill was not returned to the tax office “undeliverable”. The property owner has owned property for many years and would know that the town bills semi-annually. Selectman Bussiere stated this could be argued both ways. The Board denied the request to waive the interest.

**Highway Department –**

**Highway Wages/Operations** - Peter Cook and Erin Paradis presented this budget. The 2016 budget shows six lines that have changes – three show an increase and three show a decrease. Mr. Cook is proposing an increase in the Administrative Assistant position from part-time to full-time (40 hours).

Highway Part-time – this line would be reduced with the movement of the AA from part-time to full-time. The Employee Buyout line has increased as this reflects if all the time available were bought out. This part of the budget is up 7%

**Road Maintenance** - The Paved Road line is the same as 2015. Mr. Cook stated that with this amount and the warrant article he should be in line with DuBois & King’s recommendation in the next two years. This section of the highway budget is down 1%

**Highway Winter** – There is no change to this budget from 2015. The warrant article emergency line will help if needed.

**Highway Street Signs/Bridges/Culverts** – There is no change to this budget from 2015.

**Highway Equipment & Vehicle Maint** – There is no change to this budget from 2015.

The total highway budget has an increase of 2% from last year.

Mr. Cook reviewed the following projects that need to be done that are not included in the budget:

Nute Road - \$300,000, Highway Building Floor - \$35,000, Grinding - \$40,000, Crushing Gravel Pile - \$35,000, (chance that it might get done out of this year’s budget), Turn-Arounds - \$60,000, Three Phase Power - \$500,000, this will allow all of the machines to be run at the transfer station at one time which would speed

up the process, Addition to Fuel Station - \$20,000 (town ran out of fuel because the tank is too small – need better storage capacity).

**Warrant Articles/Capital Reserve Funds** that have already been established:

Highway Heavy Equipment - \$60,000 for the purchase of a rubber track excavator and other equipment when needed.

Bridge Work - \$50,000 for various bridge work. The 25% town portion of the Young Road culvert will come out of this Capital Reserve.

Paving and Reconstruction - \$125,000

Emergency Road Repair - \$50,000.

Highway Department Goals – Mr. Cook stated that the increase in hours of the AA is to continue to help with organization and to get time to work on computer programs that will help track cost. She is also certified as a Solid Waste Facility Operator. She has been an asset to both Highway and the Transfer Station Dept. saving time and making both departments run smoother. Another goal is to get back on track with the equipment replacement along with getting a mid-size excavator. The third goal is to level fund the paved roads to match the DuBois and King report.

2016 Cost Savings – FEMA grant for the replacement of the Young Road Culvert. Reimbursement of \$30,000 from FEMA for the January snow storm. Coming in under bid for paving by \$14,000 which allowed fog line striping on a few town roads.

Mr. Cook noted that 2015 has been their busiest year for regular maintenance. He further stated that he is proud of the tower project along with the parking lot work at the Library/Rec area.

**Transfer Station/Recycling Center** – There is an increase of 14% due to increases in part-time hourly wages, earned/time buyout, employee benefits, recycling, and bulky waste disposal. Mr. Cook noted the anticipated revenue for 2016 is between \$125,000 - \$132,000. He expects to be over budget this year by about \$10,000 because the 2015 budget had been cut. It was asked if there had been any thought of increasing the cost of the trash bags – no. It was changed three years ago. Mr. Cook explained the need for the part-time person is to monitor what is recycled through single-stream. ABC member, Peter Royce, asked for a

breakdown of the overages under Transfer Station – Recycling for e-waste vs. the wrong materials going into the single stream. Mr. Cook is constantly asked why the town doesn't have curbside pick-up for residents, the reason being it would cost an estimated \$1,400,000!

**Dam Budget** - No increase over 2015 budget. Mr. Cook was able to meet with DES when they did their dam inspections. A few minor changes were recommended, but they are in really good shape. The building at Swains Dam needs to be stained and some minor repair work to be done in 2016.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Maustellar asked if Chairman Clark would recuse himself on any discussion/vote on solar energy. He presented documentation showing Chairman Clark has a relationship with Seacoast Energy. Jack Bingham of Seacoast Energy stated that Chairman Clark has no interest in Seacoast Energy. It is Barrington Power that is working with the town.

Chris Vachon asked about moving money around in the various budgets. The town has to live within the bottom line. It is the bottom line that is approved at Town Meeting. Some lines are overspent and other lines are underspent. It is hard to project budgets when they are proposed seven months before they are voted on.

George Calef stated the town abandoned his old well for a new well on an "open space" that may be legal or not. He read a letter to the Board. Mr. Calef feels he is being held to a higher standard.

Margaret Mausteller would like the exhibits presented at the meetings be attached to the minutes on the website. The Board will consider this request. George Calef felt that would be openness in town government. All documents are available for public review at the Selectmen's Office.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES – October 5, 2015 and October 19, 2015. Selectman Gaudiello moved to accept the minutes of October 5, 2015, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Selectman Gaudiello moved to accept the minutes of October 19, 2015, seconded by

Selectman Bussiere. Selectman Hatch abstained from this vote as she was not present at that meeting. The motion passes.

## STAFF REPORT

### Administrator Scruton

1. Chairman Clark opened the bids for auditing services. Five bids were received. The prices range from \$8,997 to \$14,500 for the first year. The bids will be reviewed further and references checked before a recommendation is made.
2. Administrator Scruton noted that four bids were received for demolition of the old town office. After review, Administrator Scruton is recommending S & R Corporation of Lowell, Massachusetts. Fairpoint is expected to do their work this week for the tower project. Eversource and Metrocast will need to disconnect before any work is to begin. Selectman O'Brien asked about the property after the building has been removed to prevent wash out, etc. They are to leave the property safe when they finish the project. Paul Mausteller asked about the time line of the bid. It will be discussed when the contract is signed. Dan Ayer asked who would do the stabilization if the bond didn't pass in the spring for the proposed town office. The highway department would help with this process. If something is found that is hazardous it will be an additional cost. Chris Vachon is bothered by the fact that monies come out of other budgets when in fact some lines will be overspent and other lines will be underspent. Selectman Bussiere moved to proceed with the demolition and hire S & R Corporation, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. Chairman Clark asked for a roll call, Bussiere – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, O'Brien – nay, Clark – aye. The motion passes.
3. Peter Cook explained the big difference in the bids for the paving in front of the new highway building. One bid was submitted earlier in the year. It was later noted that the specifications changed on thickness and area. It was recommended that the town hire GMI. The town has never worked with GMI. Selectman O'Brien has heard good reports regarding GMI. Selectman O'Brien moved to support hiring GMI with Peter Cook looking at references and GMI supplying a performance bond, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
4. Administrator Scruton noted two issues regarding the solar project: does the Board want to proceed with a power purchase agreement and does the

Board want to proceed with a PILOT. Selectman Hatch will abstain as she needs more information. Selectman Bussiere will be abstaining as he is the realtor selling the property. He further suggested that this be a warrant article to be voted on by the residents to also include the PILOT. The warrant article would be more detailed. Selectman O'Brien questioned other requests for PILOTS and he hopes it "doesn't open a door". He feels that Barrington Power is making money on their power purchase agreement and should be paying taxes. The assessor feels with the current tax rate the PILOT would be between \$3,600 and \$5,220. Margaret Mausteller has a problem with Selectman Bussiere commenting as he stands to make a profit on this project and he said that he will be recusing himself. JoEllen Gallant asked who will get the power and it may be different entities than the town. She wants to know why they would be paying a PILOT when they are a business making money and the town might not be using this power. Chris Vachon feels we are artificially making this profitable especially for 25 years. He suggested waiting a few years. Paul Mausteller stated that he has done his homework and he passed out paperwork showing there are other companies that have cheaper power. He offered other options and suggested looking at other power suppliers. James Jennison felt that the town shouldn't discourage solar energy but he doesn't support the PPA as proposed but could "stomach" the PILOT. Selectman Gaudiello feels that there is too much lack of comfort for a PPA at this time but still would like to support a solar project. There are scenarios to be looked at regarding the PILOT/taxes. Administrator Scruton will review the scenarios/comparisons.

5. The War Dog Memorial sign needs work. A gentleman has offered to refurbish the sign. Rick Walker will call the gentlemen for more information.
6. Administrator Scruton spoke with Jason Lacombe and Tara Barker regarding the basement section of the proposed town office and the use by children. If children are going to use that section, the area would need a sprinkler system. Selectman Gaudiello feels that the section should remain a storage area for Recreation and they should work with the library for their additional space. The Board agreed to keep the space for storage only.

Clerk McNeil

Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: one pole permit, appointment of Dan Ayer as an alternate to the Con. Commission, one Timber Tax Warrant, vendor manifest dated 10/22 and payroll manifest dated 10/20.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Solar – previously discussed

Deed Waivers – previously discussed

#### NEW BUSINESS

Paul Mausteller asked Chairman Clark, as the Board's representative to the School Board, why the school portion of the tax rate increased so much. Chairman Clark replied a lot of the increase is due to higher tuition costs at Dover High School and referred Mr. Mausteller to the Superintendent's office.

#### SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Gaudiello noted that the Conservation Commission and the Southeast Land Trust did a walk at Stonehouse Pond on Saturday. It was very well attended.

Selectman O'Brien commented on the representative from Waste Management that was at the Transfer Station on Saturday to answer questions. Selectman O'Brien also attended Trunk or Treat where there was a great turnout.

Paul Mausteller feels that a member of the Board is abusing his position as a Selectman and Planning Board member. He presented documentation to support his claim.

Selectman Bussiere moved to go into non-public session per RSA 91 A: 3 II for reputation and personnel at 9:26 p.m., seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. Chairman Clark asked for a roll call – Bussiere – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, O'Brien – aye, Clark – aye. The motion passes.

Selectman O'Brien moved to exit non-public session at 10:06 p.m. and to seal the minutes indefinitely, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. Chairman Clark asked for a roll call vote: Bussiere – aye, Gaudiello – aye, O'Brien – aye, Hatch – aye, Clark – aye. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.