

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES NOVEMBER 16, 2015

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, November 16, 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.

Chairman Clark opened the public hearing on the issuance of a building permit for Valmore Brooks at 6:35 p.m. Mr. Brooks would like to place a modular home on his lot on Small Road – a private road. Clerk McNeil reported that the Road Agent, Planning Board, Police Chief and Fire Chief have reviewed this request. Selectman Bussiere moved to grant the building permit with Peter Cook's recommendation, seconded by Selectman O'Brien. Abutter, Ron St. Jean, asked about the septic system - it has been approved. The public hearing closed at 6:38.

APPOINTMENTS

There were no appointments

BUDGETS

Police – The Board thanked Interim Chief, Joe McGivern, for filling in and leading the group through this transition. Interim Chief McGivern presented the budget along with Lt. Joy. The budget is up 4%. He stated the goals and objectives that had been noted by Chief Conway. Selectman Gaudiello asked if they are currently interviewing and hiring an officer. They are, as there is another Police Academy starting up in January and they want the candidate in that session. In the operating budget the earned time buyout is at the full amount – it is up 85%. The telephone line increased because of the mobile data terminals in the cruisers. A new vehicle has been included in the budget as in other years. The life of a police cruiser is usually not more than 100,000 miles. Bids for the 2008 cruiser will be opened this Wednesday. Peter Royce asked a few questions. He noted that he is disappointed that the comments made by the ABC have been ignored. The information has not been made available prior to the meeting. He feels that the process is flawed. He also felt lines with large balances should be explained. As for the budget, Mr. Royce asked about the benefits lines as only \$260,702 has been expended when \$413,245 has been requested for 2016. Chief McGivern noted that contract discussions are still ongoing and the result of that discussion may affect that line. In some lines they are waiting until the end of the year for their purchases as some of the other lines have been overspent. Under the equipment lines they are looking at purchasing new Tasers. Under vehicle maintenance they may be purchasing snow tires. Selectman Gaudiello was concerned

about the overtime budget that has been overspent and should that number be increased as the department will still be in the hiring process. It was asked about the amount in the salary line for the Chief. That number was on the high side of what is being offered for the new chief. Selectman Gaudiello asked about adding a contingency in the Police budget for flexibility if needed. Dale Sylvia asked about step increases – has there been any thought to that. Chairman Clark stated that the Board waits to the end of the budget review to make that decision. Paul Mausteller asked about revenues from outside details. Administrator Scruton explained that there is a revolving fund for this revenue. Mr. Mausteller would like to see operating budget expenditures on the web site. Chris Vachon asked who is responsible for updates for the health insurance lines. Administrator Scruton stated that he and the finance director have to estimate any increase until the insurance company can provide a true figure for the town. The new figures take effect July 1st. Administrator Scruton explained the process. Selectman Gaudiello stated that it is early in the budget process and the numbers will get refined. Ken Grant asked about percentage of employees that have the “platinum” health insurance plan. Administrator Scruton stated that our plans are not rated that way through Health Trust.

Fire/Rescue – Chief Walker presented this budget. This budget has an increase of 15%. The vehicle maintenance line is overspent due to unanticipated expenses on two of the vehicles. The equipment purchases will be put off to next year so that he can remain within the bottom line. Chief Walker would like to have staff available to be on call in the evening. This is why the part-time hourly wage line has such a large increase. These on-call hours would also be available to the two full-time firefighters. Chief Walker explained the responder stipend that is used to pay the firefighters and EMT’s. Chief Walker is requesting money in three capital reserve accounts that have already been established. Chief Walker noted the following goals: complete Emergency operations Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan update, increase income from medical transports, working with ISO for the town’s insurance rating, and writing a grant for a new portable pump for the tanker. Selectman Gaudiello asked about the protective gear line. He reviews his gear later in the year so that expenditure will be increased. Mr. Royce asked about the responder stipend line, the benefits line and the equipment line as they are grossly underspent. Steve Sanders requested additional financial information on the stipend line. Margaret Mausteller felt that the two firefighters that work over 40 hours should make overtime.

Cemetery – Trustee, Rick Walker presented this budget. A bill hasn’t been received from the School District for mowing and money used from with operating supplies line. In improvements & expansion – this includes work by the Highway Department and the rental of an excavator to stump the area, level it and over seed it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Justin Purpora asked for the dollar amount spent on legal fees for the Calef well issue and Court case. The amount was noted.

Steve Jeffery presented a Petition for zoning ordinance change.

Ken Grant asked where the additional \$5 (transportation fee) from car registration is used for. It is in a separate Capital Reserve and is being used.

Selectman O'Brien asked why someone was at the old town office. The company doing the demolition work was showing a perspective buyer the boilers.

Chris Vachon asked when we would know when the Building Inspector will make a decision on wells. What is needed to put in a well in this town.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – November 9, 2015 – Selectman Gaudiello moved to accept the minutes of November 9, 2015, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. Administrator Scruton noted he needed a non-public session at the end of the meeting.

Clerk McNeil

1. Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: abatements #55, #56 & #57, an Intent to Cut for UNH, payroll manifest dated 11/10/2015, vendor manifest dated 11/12/2015 and acknowledgement of the county tax.

OLD BUSINESS

Tax Deeding – tabled

NEW BUSINESS

There was no old business

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Hatch stated that she will be attending a Library Trustees meeting and a ZBA meeting this week.

Selectman Bussiere will be attending the Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Selectman O'Brien noted that the Fire Department had a good pancake breakfast on Saturday. The snowmobile club has been doing trail work and recently worked on the old railroad bed.

Chairman Clark stated that the town will have a permanent meeting place at the ECLC. Selectman Gaudiello asked why the Board isn't using the same meeting room as the school district. If the town used the same meeting room the school district would have use of the sound system and the camera.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Selectman Bussiere moved to go into non-public session at 9:14 p.m. per RSA 91 A: 3 II for personnel, seconded by Selectman O'Brien. Chairman Clark asked for a roll call, Bussiere – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch –aye, O'Brien – aye, Clark – aye. The motion passes.

Discussion of contract for new police chief.

Selectman O'Brien moved to come out of non-public session at 9:30 p.m., seconded by Selectman Bussiere. Chairman Clark asked for a roll call, Bussiere – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, O'Brien – aye, Clark – aye. The motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.