

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, December 7, 2015 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectman Bussiere, Selectman Gaudiello, Selectman Hatch, Selectman O'Brien, Administrator Scruton and Clerk McNeil.

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

APPOINTMENTS

South East Land Trust – Duane Hyde, Land Conservation Director for the SELT gave the background of the Land Trust. The mission of the Trust is to protect and sustain the significant lands in our communities for clean water, outdoor recreation, fresh food, wildlife and healthy forests. Their service area is Strafford and Rockingham Counties. SELT has executed a purchase agreement with the landowner for 1500 acres near Stonehouse Pond. The property is undeveloped except for one inhabitable cabin. The property was originally purchased to be a private hunting preserve. The SELT would have the property open to the public – it is currently posted. The property has critical wildlife habitat, and high quality watershed. SELT will be the owner/manager of the property and New Hampshire Fish and Game will hold the easement. They recently held a public hike that was attended by 45 people. There will be another walk in February. The total cost for the project is \$3,300,000. They would like a financial commitment from the town of \$675,000. The Conservation Commission has agreed to put \$200,000 toward the project. SELT would like to close on the sale by September, 2017. Doug Hatch, Jr. asked how much money was in the Conservation Fund – about \$298,000. Marcia Gasses asked if the property would be open for use by snowmobile clubs. Mr. Hyde said that they would be reaching out to the local clubs and establishing a snow mobile corridor. Brian Hart, Executive Director of SELT, noted that having the SELT own the property would take a lot of the burdens off of the town if they were to own the property. Their ownership would ensure the Town's investment is protected while limiting the Town's ongoing responsibility and potential costs. Various funding sources would like to see a financial commitment by the town. It shows the town's interest in conserving the property. John Wallace stated the Conservation Commission supports this project - this may be the largest project of its kind for Barrington.

Report from the Advisory Budget Committee - Peter Royce noted that the ABC still has questions to be resolved and will be ready at the next Selectmen's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Wallace would like to donate the money he would receive for monitoring the town's conservation easements to be put towards the Stonehouse Forest Project. Selectman O'Brien moved to accept Mr. Wallace's donation, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Dawn Hatch questioned why the Board of Selectmen chose to rebid the Leach property on Pond Hill Road. The bids were submitted, they were opened, made public and the high bidder wanted to negotiate because his bid was way over the other bids. She further stated that she finds this procedure quite odd. Dan Ayer was a bidder and feels no other town would have done it this way. Margaret Mausteller stated that the previous high bidder should be excluded from the bidding process. Doug Hatch, Jr. asked why the bid didn't go to the next bidder. Administrator Scruton stated that he presented the Board with several options including negotiating with the top bidder and the Board thought the fairest would be to rebid.

REVIEW OF MINUTES - November 30, 2015 – tabled.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. Administrator Scruton updated the Board on his discussion with the City of Rochester and their PILOT. The Board agreed to a 50% PILOT on the balance of 2015 taxes and all taxes in the future be at 50% until a new PILOT is drawn up.

2. Administrator Scruton noted that Access Group is managing a bid for electric suppliers. The bids should be in this week. Administrator Scruton will bring the information to the December 14th meeting.

Clerk McNeil

1. Clerk McNeil requested signatures on abatement #60, vendor manifest dated 12/03/2015 and vendor manifest dated 12/03/2015

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Gaudiello stated that she was attending the Conservation Commission meeting when they had to meet at Millo's. She questioned how access to the meeting room is going to work. Administrator Scruton stated that it is a security issue and the School District may not want to distribute too many keys. The Conservation Commission may have to go back to meeting at the library.

Selectman Bussiere noted that he attended the Planning Board meeting. They were busy with minor plans; the Calef site plan for the well was accepted as final. They also discussed proposed zoning ordinance changes.

Chairman Clark noted the nice swearing in ceremony of Police Chief, Robert Williams. It was very well attended. Chairman Clark also attended the Barrington Soiree last Friday evening that was also very well attended.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Ayer was offended by the statement that Conservation Commission Chairman, John Wallace was not getting a key for the meeting room.

Peter Royce commented on the South East Land Trust project. The purchase of the properties for the game preserve started when Mr. Royce was on the Board of Selectmen. He stated that there are a lot of wetlands on the property and it doesn't have good access. He feels there needs to be a firm appraisal done.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.