

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, December 14, 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 at 6:35 p.m. to accept and expend a Forestry Service Grant. The Grant is a 50% match to purchase a portable pump for the tanker. The grant is for \$2,000. The town's portion of the money will come out of the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve. Selectman O'Brien moved, to accept and expend the grant and to ask the Trustees of Trust Fund for the money out of the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. The hearing closed at 6:38 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

Report from the Advisory Budget Committee – Peter Royce noted the following: the ABC did not support funding the three positions going from part time to full time; these are in highway, town clerk and planning. The increase in going full time would add a considerable amount of money to the budget. In General Government Buildings they recommend that fuel oil and vehicle fuel be reduce by \$5,000 each. They looked at the number that was expended this year to get their figures. They would like to meet with the new police chief after he has been in place for several weeks to discuss the police budget. In general assistance they recommend taking out another \$10,000 as the line has been underspent for 2015. Under recreation contracts – much of that operation has been shifted to general government buildings – that line can be reduced by \$2,000. The ABC wanted to see the \$25,000 for the library shifted to a warrant article from the operating budget. The ABC supported the 1% COLA and a step increase. The five individuals that are top step, they recommend longevity be paid. Selectman Gaudiello asked about the cemetery expansion line and why isn't the capital reserve for cemetery expansion being used. Rick Walker feels that the capital reserve should be spent on only expansion and possibly finding a piece of land to purchase in the future. Selectman Gaudiello asked if we should be looking at purchasing land now as the price of land does not go down. Mr. Walker feels that we have enough room for probably 20 years. She would like to use the capital reserve account instead of money from the operating budget. The ABC supported adding the extra part time person at the transfer station. Mr. Royce was also concerned that the recycling of electronic waste that needs to be better managed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chief Walker noted that the Highway Department has done a lot of work at the cemetery for expansion. There are a lot of stumps left that are expensive to get rid of. Mr. Walker, speaking as only one member of the cemetery commission, would like to get in there now and remove the stumps while the weather is good instead of waiting until next year. He is requesting the Board approve the expenditure of not more than \$7,500 from one of the cemetery capital reserve accounts. Selectman Gaudiello authorized the cemetery commissioners to withdraw up to \$7,500 from one of the cemetery capital reserve accounts for the stump removal at the cemetery, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. This is \$6,000 more than previously approved. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Paul Mausteller suggested several companies that deal with the recycling of electronics and stump removal.

John Huckins, Code Enforcement Officer, noted a request for an additional \$2,000 in his salary lines for both the full time and part time lines. His other budget lines are too tight for any money shifting to a salary line if the lines become over expended.

Paul Mausteller asked where the bids for the proposed town office were advertised. He also feels that there is not enough time to get qualified bidders.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES – November 30, 2015 & December 7, 2015 – Selectman Gaudiello moved to accept the minutes of November 30, 2015, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. Selectman Hatch abstained from the vote as she was absent. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Selectman Gaudiello moved to accept the minutes of December 7, 2015, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

STAFF REPORT

1. The town went out to bid, with the help of Doug Langdon, for electric rates (energy generation). Selectman Gaudiello moved to contract for 18 months with Direct Energy, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. Selectman Hatch abstained from the vote. The motion passes. The Board thanked Doug Langdon for all of his work
2. Bid information for the proposed new town office has been advertised. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled for December 21st at 3:00 p.m. at the ECLC and the bids are due and will be publicly opened on January 8th at 2:00 p.m. at the town office. Those meetings will be posted in case a quorum of the Board of Selectmen is present.
3. 2016 budget changes – under the Police Dept. the Police Chief will be moving funds around in the proposed 2016 budget to better reflect his priorities. There will also be an increase in the phone line of \$6,000 to cover the new internet line that ties into the county. The full time salary line will drop \$5,000. In Finance Administration, there is a charge of \$1,482 for the motor vehicle software module. We anticipate \$1,725 for additional expenses with the Strafford County Registry. Our software vendor may start charging more for support calls. The Administration contracts line will need to be increased to \$42,000.
4. With the expansion of Cedar Creek, the Swains Lake Village Water District needs to upgrade the pump house. Ford Motor Company, through the Swains Lake Village Water District, is requesting the town waive the building permit fee. The Board did not approve waiving the building fee.
5. The developer of a proposed subdivision on Tolend Road would like the town to accept the open space that is included in this subdivision. If the town owns the open space it is easier to control as to what goes on with the property. Selectman Bussiere would like continuity with all subdivisions. The Board wanted to hear from the Conservation Commission regarding this request. Peter Royce stated that because of the proximity of two Class VI roads, this area is known for illegal dumping.
6. Administrator Scruton presented the proposed 2016 meeting schedule.
7. South East Land Trust will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Clerk McNeil

1. Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: abatements #61 & 62, State of NH E-911 paperwork, payroll manifest dated 12/6 and vendor manifest dated 12/10.

OLD BUSINESS

2016 Proposed Budget – previously discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Gaudiello noted that the Conservation Commission meets on Thursday.

Selectman Hatch will attend the Library Trustees and ZBA meetings with week.

Selectman Bussiere will be attending the Planning Board meeting on Tuesday.

Selectman O'Brien noted that the Rec. Commission meets on Monday; however, one of the commissioners and two employees are currently present for the Selectmen's meeting.

Chairman Clark stated that he and Administrator Scruton met with the superintendent of schools and the Conservation Commission will be meeting at the elementary school library. The school budget is up 4.1 % from last year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Mausteller – He asked if Metrocast gives money back to the town. Metrocast paid for equipment for the town to put the meetings on the Barrington channel. When the voters were asked to add a franchise fee to their bills, it was turned down. Metrocast does not charge the town for some of the internet service. We rent telephone equipment and connection to the internet from Bay Ring. Mr. Mausteller will do further research.

Selectman Hatch moved to go into non-public session at 7:51 p.m., per RSA 91-A: 3IIA personnel, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. Chairman Clark asked for a roll call, Bussiere – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Clark – aye, O'Brien-aye. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Board discussed various personnel issues.

Selectman O'Brien moved to come out of non-public session at 8:50 p.m. seconded by Selectman Bussiere. Chairman Clark asked for a roll call, Bussiere – aye, Hatch – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Clark – aye, O'Brien-aye. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Board requested the Town Administrator make the following changes in the budget for further review on December 21:

1. Increase the salary matrix 1% and grant a step to all qualifying employees
2. Move the clerk in the Town's Clerk office back to her previous number of hours
3. Reduce General Government building fuel line by \$5,000 and electric line by \$5,000
4. Reduce General Assistance line by \$10,000
5. Reduce the Recreation Contract line by \$2,000
6. Reduce the Cemetery Expense line by \$13,000
7. Increase the Building Inspector lines for full time and part time each by \$2,000

8. Increase the Finance Administration contract line by \$10,250
9. Reduce the Police chief salary line by \$5,500 to \$77,500
10. Increase the Police Department phone line by \$6,000
11. Reduce the additional \$10,859 for labor at the Transfer Station

In addition the Board requested new proposals and numbers on the Planning Admin Assistant and DPW Admin Assistant, however those proposals will not show in the December 21 budget run.

Selectman O'Brien moved, Selectmen Bussiere seconded to adjourn at 9:10 PM. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.