

Selectmen's Minutes Monday, December 21, 2015

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, December 21, 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 wished everyone Season's Greetings and Merry Christmas.

Chairman Clark opened the public hearing to accept and expend a New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency Grant at 6:35 p.m. Administrator Scruton noted that this is a standard 20%/80% grant with the town paying 20%. There is money in the Police budget as a match to the grant. Selectman Hatch moved to accept and expend the New Hampshire Highway Safety Grant and authorize Administrator Scruton or Chief Williams to sign, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. Dan Ayer asked what the money would be used for. Chief Williams noted it will be used for salaries for DWI enforcement. The public hearing closed at 6:37 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

South East Land Trust – John Wallace noted that the Con. Commission voted to use \$230,000 from the Conservation Bond. The Commission also voted to increase the amount from the Conservation Fund to \$220,000. Duane Hyde from the SELT noted that amount would indicate the town has made a substantial commitment. They will continue their fundraising for 2016 and then come back to the town in 2017 for a warrant article if more money is needed. LCIP selected the project and will provide \$420,000. Selectman Bussiere stated that he is on the fence with this project and would like some public comment. Selectman O'Brien doesn't like putting money toward something that doesn't have the town's name on it. Paul Mausteller noted that from the envisioning project, people in this town want a rural community and would like the property conserved. Ron St. Jean supported preserving this property and noted that it is a good investment and good for the environment. Marcia Gasses stated that this is an incredible opportunity for preserving non-fragmented land. Brian Hart suggested that a public hearing be held to get out the full picture of the project and the benefit. They hope in the meantime to get funding from other sources. The Board supported holding a public hearing for input from the public and to expend the Conservation Bond. The Bond hearing will be scheduled at a Conservation Commission meeting on January 7, 2016.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Royce felt that the Conservation Commission should look at finding more funds in the Conservation Fund (LUCT). John Wallace also spoke of the open space that is part of the Chestnut Woods subdivision. The Conservation Commission recommended that the town take the easement with deed restrictions.

Rick Walker showed the Board the proposed sign drawings for the Veteran's Memorial Site and the War Dog Memorial in the cemetery. The Board chose the white sign with black lettering.

Peter Cook noted that they put out bids for crushing and there were no responses. He got a telephone bid from Hartman Enterprises for approximately \$34,000. He has been satisfied with their work in the past. Selectman Gaudiello moved to authorize Peter Cook to hire Hartman Enterprises for up to \$34,000, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Paul Mausteller spoke about the town hall bid and he didn't think it was advertised thoroughly. He also commented on the information on the town website and he didn't think it was adequate. He felt we need to advertise our bids better. Justin Purpora stated that he knew someone who wanted to bid and they didn't feel there was enough time to bid. Selectman Gaudiello noted that she would like to talk with SMP to see what their response would be.

John Wallace stated that a new kiosk has been put up at the Tamposi property by Tibbetts Road. He also noted that a UNH class has been working on the Tamposi property doing a study of various parts of the property.

Robert Bujeaud recently bought a house in Barrington at auction. He has filed an abatement as he only paid \$75,000 for the property and it was damaged inside. He also requested that the Board of Selectmen review the outstanding property taxes that are owed as they go with the sale of the property and now total over \$19,000.

Paul Mausteller questioned the increase in the budget for the Registry of Deeds. It was explained that the town has just recently been charged for printing deeds. He further questioned that he has always been charged for printing deeds for his business. He was going to follow-up with the Registry. He also questioned the additional costs for the software module for motor vehicle. He stated that he would be calling Harris computer.

Margaret Mausteller commented on the bid process for the new town hall and stated that "it doesn't sit well with her". She feels that SMP didn't do justice to the project. Paul Mausteller feels that adequate number of bids for the project should be between 7 to 10 bids.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – December 14, 2015 – Selectman Gaudiello moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. Chairman Clark opened the bids for purchase and cleaning up the Leach Property on Pond Hill Road. The following bids were received: Freeman - \$500, Ayer - \$1,002, Hatch - \$3,100 and Philbrick \$5,150. A deed will be drawn up stating the property be cleaned up within 9 months. Selectman Gaudiello moved to accept the high bid of \$5,150, seconded by Selectman O'Brien. Selectman Hatch abstained from the vote.

Administrator Scruton will meet with Mr. Philbrick and the Building Inspector. A demolition permit is needed to take the building down which will include various safeguards.

2. The Library Trustees are requesting that the Board of Selectmen vote to allow the Library Trustees to use land available near the proposed town office and to encumber the \$25,000 to be used to pay SMP to do a preliminary building design. Selectman Gaudiello moved to encumber the \$25,000 and to allow the Library Trustees to locate a library on the town office campus, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. Chairman Clark asked for a roll call – Bussiere – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, O’Brien – nay, Clark – aye. The motion passes. Selectman O’Brien asked why the preliminary design work didn’t go out to bid. Selectman Gaudiello explained that SMP has been involved for at least eight years with the library project and they did go out to bid at that time. Paul Mausteller asked Library Trustee, Peter Royce, how much had been allocated for this project. Mr. Royce stated that money has been spent looking at other locations. Sam Boduch, Library Trustee, noted that there are people in town who would support a town office knowing that may lead into a new library. Peter Royce stated that the Trustees would like to start a fundraising effort and they would need conceptual drawings to show perspective donors and the public. They are planning on starting a Foundation to raise money.

Administrator Scruton wanted to go into non-public session to discuss personnel issues. Selectman Hatch moved to go into non-public session per RSA 91 A: 311a for personnel at 7:49 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.

The Board discussed the wage request for the Public Works Administrative Assistant with Peter Cook; discussed the wage request for the police bargaining unit with Chief Williams; discussed the wage request for the Land Use Administrative Assistant with Marcia Gasses; and discussed a payment for those at the top of the scale who are now frozen in place.

Selectman Bussiere moved to come out of non-public session at 8:25, seconded by Selectman O’Brien. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

The following are the changes to the proposed 2016 operating budget:

Selectman Gaudiello moved to add nine hours a week to the highway administrator assistant line (34 hours) up \$14,215, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Selectman Bussiere moved to add \$1,000 to the advertising line in the Planning budget and to increase the hours for the land use administrative assistant from 34 to 38 hours a week reducing the part-time line by \$8,000 so there will be a net increase of \$5,417 in salary lines, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Selectman O'Brien moved to add \$2,000 to the budget for longevity pay of \$500 for the following on the top step: Road Agent, Selectmen AA, Assessing AA and Truck Drive Chase, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative

Selectman Gaudiello moved to add \$400 to the library salary line, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Selectman Gaudiello moved to reduce the proposed 2016 budget by \$25,000 because the design money is being spent in 2015, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Selectman Gaudiello moved to reduce the Health Agencies budget by \$1,045 to reflect allowing the Homemakers \$3,868 the same as 2014, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Selectman Gaudiello moved to reduce the heating fuels line in General Government Buildings by \$5,000, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

The proposed 2016 operating budget is up 1.2% over last year's budget.

Under Warrant Articles, Selectman Bussiere moved to support a warrant article stating that the Collective Bargaining Agreement will go back to the same earned time plan as the rest of the town employees, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

There is a \$10,000 increase in the Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve warrant article to \$60,000. This is a dedicated savings account for highway equipment.

OLD BUSINESS

The Advisory Budget Committee would like to recommend to the Board that the Highway Department budget not be used as a "contingency" line in the future.

All of the utilities have been disconnected from the old town office, the demolition permit has been approved and the demolition is ready to proceed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Gaudiello noted that she missed the recent Conservation Commission meeting.

Selectman Hatch attended three meetings last week including the ZBA meeting where two cases were approved. At the Library Trustees meeting, there was discussion on their putting together a foundation to raise money and the location of a new library.

Selectman Bussiere attended the recent Planning Board meeting with the gravel pit on Green Hill Road looking for an extension of one year for their site plan. The meeting was continued until January.

Selectman O'Brien thanked all the volunteers who helped with the Barrington Food Pantry Christmas baskets, including town employees Peter Cook, Erin Paradis, Rick Walker and Suzanne McNeil.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marcia Gasses stated that Governor and Council approved the culvert project on Young Road. Ron St. Jean thanked the Board and the ABC for supporting the libraries budget requests. Marcia Gasses also noted that the flood maps are being updated and they are reaching out for citizen input.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.