

## SELECTMEN'S MINUTES MARCH 14, 2016

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, March 14, 2016 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectman Gaudiello, Selectman Hatch, and Selectman O'Brien. Andrew Knapp and Daniel Ayer were sworn in as new Selectmen by Town Clerk, Kimberly Kerekas. Vice-Chairman Hatch opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Andy Knapp and Daniel Ayer introduced themselves. Selectman Hatch thanked Fred Bussiere and Mike Clark for their years of service and also the members of Boards and Commission for their hard work. Selectman Hatch moved to put Selectman Gaudiello's name into consideration for Chairman. Selectman O'Brien stated that he also wanted to be Chairman. Selectman Ayer seconded Selectman Gaudiello as Chairman. Selectman Hatch spoke as to why she supported Selectman Gaudiello. Selectman Gaudiello knows how to chair a meeting and has been on the Board for several years. Selectman Gaudiello added her experience on various boards and her work experience. Selectman Knapp was concerned of a conflict that Selectman Gaudiello's husband chairs the Planning Board. Selectman Hatch stated that she is a member of the ZBA and that has not been a conflict. Selectman Hatch asked for a roll call on Selectman Gaudiello being chairman, Ayer – nay, Knapp – nay, O'Brien – nay, Hatch – aye, Gaudiello – aye. The motion fails. Selectman O'Brien noted that all decisions are made by the full Board. Selectman O'Brien gave his background stating that he owns his own business and would like to run meetings and have them run properly. Selectman Gaudiello asked about Selectman O'Brien's experience in running meetings. He stated he is new to it but is ready to learn. Selectman Knapp seconded Selectman O'Brien as Chairman. Selectman Hatch asked for a roll call on selecting Selectman O'Brien as chairman, Gaudiello – nay, Hatch – nay, Ayer – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien – aye. The motion passes. Selectman Ayer felt that Selectman O'Brien has more field experience and would be better out in the field. Selectman Hatch noted that she has been in business in the town and doesn't want to be Chairman. Selectman Gaudiello moved to nominate Selectman Hatch as Vice-Chair, seconded by Selectman Ayer. Roll call, Ayer – aye, Hatch nay, Gaudiello – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien - aye. The motion passes.

Chairman O'Brien continued the meeting with the discussion of liaisons on the various Boards and Commissions. Selectman Hatch would like to continue with the Library Trustees. Selectman Gaudiello would like to stay on the Conservation Commission. Chairman O'Brien will stay on with the Recreation Commission. Selectman Knapp will be the liaison with the School Board. Selectman O'Brien moved to appoint Selectman Ayer as the ex officio member of the Planning Board and Selectman Knapp as the Selectmen's alternate to the Planning Board, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

PROPOSAL OPENINGS – Two proposals were received for deed searches for the tax office. Chairman O'Brien opened the bids. The first was from Sanders Searches with a cost of - \$10.56 per parcel. The second was from Total Notice LLC with a cost of - \$9.00 per parcel. Both bidders were present and introduced themselves. The bids will be forwarded to the Tax Collector for her recommendation.

Three proposals were received for the Self Contained Air Packs for the Fire Department. Chairman O'Brien opened the following bids: Industrial Protection Services (Scott Air Packs), Fire Tech and Safety (Scott Air Packs) and Firematic (MSA Air Packs). The bidders gave various options. Chief

Walker will review the bids and make a recommendation to the Board. The town received a federal grant in the amount of \$140,000. The town portion of the payment will be \$6,900 with the rest of the money coming from the grant.

#### APPOINTMENTS

There were no appointments

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ron St. Jean, Library Trustee noted that the preliminary plans for a new library are almost complete. The Library Trustees would like assurance from the Board of Selectmen that they plan to go forward with a town office on the Ramsdell Lane property.

Celia Bannenberg of the Waterways Committee requested paperwork from the Board stating that their petition article passed at town meeting. It was recommended that she get a certified copy from the Town Clerk.

Eric Miller read a statement regarding a family property that was taken by the Town for non-payment of taxes and is being sold to a new owner. He spoke of the family's hard times and illnesses. He was requesting that the Board reconsider the 15% penalty that is added to taxes, costs and fees when a piece of property is sold back to a prior owner.

George Philbrick wanted to follow-up on the deeding and clean-up of the Leach property that he is in the process of purchasing from the town. The town added a reverter clause to the deed and his attorney advised against that change. Mr. Philbrick would like to go back to the Purchase and Sale Agreement. The detail of the clean-up has been agreed upon – the main part of the house on the foundation can remain. Selectman Knapp suggested putting the amount of clean-up in escrow. Paul Mausteller suggested having Mr. Philbrick post a bond. Peter Royce spoke as the town's treasurer and noted that money could be held and money released when work is completed on this project. The reverter clause on the deed is the biggest hold-up from Mr. Philbrick's standpoint. Selectman Knapp wants a formal dollar amount for the clean-up to use as escrow. Mr. Philbrick agreed to supply a number to the Board.

Steve Jeffery stated that he received a notice of violation from the Code Enforcement Officer to cease the operation of his business. Mr. Jeffery claims he is not in violation of the town's zoning ordinance. His business (a portable sawmill) is not noticeable from the road. He maintains that Mr. Huckins had to get on his property to see the business and therefore trespassed. Mr. Jeffery feels that he hasn't been treated honestly by the town.

Chris Vachon spoke on behalf of Eric Miller as Mr. Vachon is involved in the sale of the house that Miller/Warner is purchasing. The family wants to stay in Barrington and they have found a modest house to purchase. He would like the Board to reconsider the penalty amount. Administrator Scruton explained the fees, costs and interests that were added to the property as previously discussed.

Mr. Vachon further commented on Steve Jeffery's case.

Paul Mausteller supports having a credit card machine at the town hall. The town needs more options to pay tax bills in this town.

Stephanie Dimke, Trustees of the Trust Funds, felt that the town could make more money if the money in the Capital Reserve Accounts could be invested in CDs. Several of the accounts have more than \$100,000 in them. She wanted to know whether or when the fund in the various accounts would be needed by the town, to determine the maturities of the DCs that could be purchased. She will also ask the bank if the money from the accounts is put together to be over \$300,000 would the town get a higher rate of interest.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – February 29<sup>th</sup>, - Selectman Gaudello moved to accept the minutes of February 29, 2016, seconded by Selectman Hatch. Selectman Ayer and Selectman Knapp abstained from the vote, and the remaining selectmen voted in favor of the motion. The motion passes.

## STAFF REPORT

### Administrator Scruton

1. Selectman Ayer moved to authorize Administrator Scruton to renew the lease at 333 Calef Highway (town office building) and to negotiate an additional option year, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
2. Administrator Scruton needed the Board's approval to implement the increase in hours, step increases, COLA adjustments and grant a one-time payment to employees that are at the top step. Selectman Knapp and Selectman Ayer wanted to wait until the next meeting to review this request. In order for the employees to receive the adjustment for the first week of April a decision needed to be made at this meeting. Administrator Scruton explained why the Selectmen had approved the increase in the 34 hours for AA with the Highway Dept. and the 38 hours for the Land Use AA, the one-time payment to several employees at the top of the scale and to grant a step increase and 1% COLA. Norma McCulloch provided documentation for Mr. Knapp's review.
3. Selectman Gaudiello moved to authorize the chairman and Administrator Scruton to sign the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
4. Administrator Scruton was approached by a logging company doing work off of Route 202 on three lots that surround a landlocked town owned piece of property. He was asked if the town would be interested in having the town's lot cut while the equipment is on site. The Board asked Administrator Scruton to get a "yield" quote before a decision is made.
5. Administrator Scruton asked the Board how they wanted to stabilize the old town hall site. He recommended asking an engineer's opinion. The Board wants to do the work in house and the staff to come up with a recommendation on what needs to be done and the cost. Chairman O'Brien is concerned with the septic tank cover and wells.
6. Administrator Scruton updated the new selectmen on the various workshops offered by the NH Municipal Association geared to newly elected Selectmen.

### Clerk McNeil

Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: one Intent to Cut for Haley, one Intent to Excavate for Ambleside Park, a denial of a veteran's exemption, abatement #14, vendor manifests dated 3/3 & 3/10 and payroll manifests dated 2/28 and 3/6

## OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

## NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Hatch reported that she has three meetings this week.

Selectman Ayer noted that the final presentation for Workforce Housing will be discussed at the Planning Board meeting.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Chief Walker noted that there are several options in the bids he received. He will come back to the board with a spread sheet comparing the bids.

Chris Vachon stated that he would like to see the town administrator position be fulltime.

Norma McCulloch spoke regarding making the town administrator fulltime, noting the added insurance costs, salary and other benefits would cost the town money.

Selectman Ayer stated that he has heard, as the "voice of the people", that they want the town office open five days a week and the town administrator fulltime.

Peter Cook noted that the cost to recycle e-waste has increased. He has changed to NorthCoast out of Portsmouth. The town had to buy a container, but NorthCoast waived the trucking fee because of Barrington's proximity to Portsmouth. The town may save some money as they will receive credit for some of the e-waste that can be recycled. Selectman Knapp may know of a company that may pick up the e-waste for free and will share that information with Mr. Cook.

Mr. Cook stated that he had been contacted by Eversource. They would like to cut trees on a portion of Meetinghouse Road, a Class VI road, and put gravel on the road to better access the powerlines. Selectman Hatch moved to allow Eversource to work on Meetinghouse Road, seconded by Selectman O'Brien. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Sam Boduch, Library Trustee, asked the members of the Board their thoughts on building a new town office and library. Selectman Ayer, Selectman Gaudiello and Selectman Hatch felt the town needed both, Selectman Knapp felt that the town office needed their own permanent space, however; he didn't know enough about the library project to comment. Chairman O'Brien stated that the town needs a new town hall one way or another and felt the Board should focus on a town hall now and not a library.

After Selectman Knapp reviewed the budget changes for employees that were included in the 2016 budget the Board took the following vote:

1. Selectman Gaudiello moved to support the increase to 34 hours for the highway administrative assistant, seconded by Chairman O'Brien. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
2. Selectman Hatch moved to support the increase to 38 hours for the land use administrative assistant, seconded by Selectman Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

3. Chairman O'Brien moved to support the one-time payment to those at the top of the scale who are not frozen as over-graded, seconded by Selectman Ayer. Selectman Ayer voted nay, the remaining Selectmen voted aye. The motion passed.
4. Selectman Gaudiello moved to support the 1% COLA and step to all eligible employees, seconded by Chairman O'Brien. Selectman Ayer voted nay, the remaining Selectmen voted aye. The motion passed.

Selectman Gaudiello moved to go into non-public session at 8:35 p.m. per RSA 91 A: 3 II a, c, d or e for personnel and reputation, seconded by Selectman Hatch. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien – aye. The motion passed.

Chairman O'Brien moved to come out of non-public session at 10:11 p.m., seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Selectman Gaudiello moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session, seconded by Selectman Hatch. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – nay, O'Brien – aye. The motion passes.

Selectman Gaudiello moved to seal the minutes of the February 29<sup>th</sup> non-public session, seconded by Chairman O'Brien. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – nay, O'Brien - aye. The motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.