

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
March 25, 2013
MINUTES**

Call to Order

5:30pm: Chairman, Steve Barry called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Barry asked all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag.

Present: Steve Barry, Chairman; Alan O'Neal, Vice Chairman; Rebecca Hutchinson, Richard Pitman and R. Andrew Robertson Selectmen

Also Present: Leslie Boswak, Town Administrator and Jan Foisy, Finance Director

Chairman Barry formally welcomed newest Board Member Rebecca Hutchinson and suggested that the Board compose a letter to Mr. Perron thanking him for his service, all were in agreement.

2013 Organizational Meeting

Nomination of Chairman/Vice Chairman

Motion – Selectman Pitman nominates Steve Barry to Chair and Alan O'Neal to Vice Chair

Second – Selectman Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

Nomination of Committee/Commission/Board Representatives

Motion – Selectman Robertson moves to appoint Vice Chairman O'Neal as the Planning Board Representative and Selectman Pitman as alternate

All in Favor – Motion Carries

Motion – Vice Chairman O'Neal moves to appoint Chairman Barry as the MBC Representative and Selectwoman Hutchinson as Alternate

Second – Selectman Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

Motion – Selectman Pitman moves to appoint Selectman Robertson as the Heritage Commission and School Board Representative

Second – Vice Chairman O'Neal

All in Favor – Motion Carries

Appointments

Highway Department Update – Alex Cote

Mr. Cote provided the Board with an update – he was made aware recently of some community concern with the road conditions – he described the process by which the Department determines the number of snow removal vehicles that are put on the roads and explained that it costs roughly \$800/hour to do a full force snow removal, not including the cost of materials. Mr. Cote will be attending a meeting tomorrow to discuss FEMA funds from Hurricane Sandy. FEMA has decided to pay Rockingham County for the clean-up time from that storm which he anticipates will be an additional \$3,600 in funds. Additional money is anticipated from the storm "Nemo" – Alex expects approximately \$9,000 in reimbursement.

The Department has been working to update the Town Website with information on Department policies, plans and some application paperwork. He will include the Capital Improvement Plan once it has been finalized. He noted that at a recent meeting it was stated it costs approximately \$81,000 for each mile of paved road, not including culverts and signage. Deerfield has 52 miles of roads in Town and with a 20 year plan this would be approximately 3 miles of paving a year, which the Town is currently not even close to accomplishing.

Selectman Pitman asked what the anticipated \$9,000 would do for the sand and salt budget? Alex was not sure of the total number, but at last look the salt line was (\$7,000) and the Contractors line had \$31,000 remaining. Vice Chairman O'Neal asked if it would make sense to consider a two year contract for the Sand bids and Mr. Cote responded that no, at this point he does not see that as a potential advantage as the cost of salt has been going down.

Acceptance of \$3,315.00 for the purchase of a Mercury 20 ELH engine for the Zodiac Boat per RSA 31:95-b, III (b)

Motion – Selectman Robertson moves to accept the funds

Second – Vice Chairman O’Neal

Discussion – Selectman Robertson noted that this is an electric start engine and Vice Chairman O’Neal commented that these were funds raised through fundraising and donations to the Fire Department.

Vote – All in Favor – Motion Carries

Regular Business/Signatures

- Review of Minutes from March 11, 2013

Motion – Selectman Pitman moves to approve the Minutes as written

Second – Selectman Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

- Review of Minutes from March 18, 2013

Motion – Vice Chairman O’Neal moves to approve the Minutes as written

Second – Selectman Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

- Accounts Payable – \$66,355.87

Motion – Vice Chairman O’Neal moves the accounts payable

Second – Selectman Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

- MS 2 – Report of Appropriations Actually Voted - \$3,501,449

Motion – Vice Chairman O’Neal moves the MS2

Second – Selectman Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

- Veterans Tax Credit – William & Margaret Claffey –Current \$500 credit to be restricted to reflect ownership of land now in Trust – 50% (\$250) to William Claffey, 50% (\$250) to Margaret Claffey

Motion – Vice Chairman O’Neal moves the credit

Second – Selectman Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

- Notice of Computer Adjustment – Marie Bolster, Map 422 lot 14 - \$1,056.60 rebate from 2009 Tax Year

Motion – Selectman Robertson moves to approve

Second – Vice Chairman O’Neal

All in Favor – Motion Carries

- Notice of Computer Adjustment – Marie Bolster, Map 422 lot 15, 189 Currier Road - \$1,567.15 rebate from 2009 Tax Year

Motion – Selectman Robertson moves to approve

Second – Vice Chairman O’Neal

All in Favor – Motion Carries

- Timber Tax Levy - \$116.88 Jane Salem & Stephen Alexander – 116 South Rd

Motion – Vice Chairman O’Neal moves to approve

Second – Selectman Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

- 2014 Deliberative Session Dates

Vice Chairman O’Neal had asked Leslie to identify potential 2014 dates so that they could be set and advertised well in advance. Options are February 1st or February 8th, he would suggest setting a date of February 1st with a posting date of January 27 so that Feb 8th may be used as an alternate in case of inclement weather.

Motion – Vice Chairman O’Neal moves February 1st as the date for the 2014 Deliberative Session

Second – Selectman Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

- Ford Mountain Trucking – Request for Extension for Filing 2012/2013 Report of Wood Cut to June 30

Motion – Selectman Pitman moves to grant the extension

Second – Selectman Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

Unfinished Business None

Town Administrator’s Report

Leslie would like to schedule another Facilities Tour for the Board and is seeking dates/times that work best for everyone. Chairman Barry suggested shooting for a Late Spring date. Leslie will put together some potential dates and bring them before the Board.

With approval of the Veasey Park Warrant Article – what action would the Board like to take next? Selectman Robertson suggested getting in touch with the Park Commissioners to discuss how a pathway can be established as soon as possible and to discuss any other relevant concerns. Leslie will ask them to come before the Board at an April meeting.

Other Business

Selectman Robertson expressed that he and the Board have been receiving a number of emails over the past week from Ms. Cady. He is unclear on some as to whether they are requesting information or simply expressing an opinion, and he sees no issue with the Town Administrator handling these emails, responding to requests, or ignoring as appropriate. Chairman Barry agreed, Selectman Pitman noted he appreciates being kept in the loop, but agrees that the Town Administrator has the support of the Board to address.

New Business

Vice Chairman O’Neal asked if the Trustee of the Trust Fund position had been filled. Leslie indicated that Dwight Barnes was elected via write-ins and has declined, the position has been advertised and it will be up to the Board to appoint for the full term once applicants have been collected. It was added that the MBC has two candidates for its vacant position and will be appointing an individual.

2013 Town Election/Budget Review

With regards to the “No” vote on Warrant Article 1, Selectwoman Hutchinson commented that she received feedback that many felt the Police Department was in great need of a new space, while the argument for a new Fire Department was not as convincing. She wondered if the board might consider looking into the cost of the two spaces separately as a result of this feedback. Selectman Robertson agreed and added that more could have been done structuring the presentations with expert assistance, for example Fred McGarry and Jeff Shute, versus just having the Chiefs voicing their needs. It was suggested a workshop type meeting with members of the Public be held later in the Spring to explore forming a committee to continue this project forward. Leslie indicated that the Fire and Police departments have been asked to look at area communities with similar proposals to see what passed, what did not, and what some of the various building plans included.

Chairman Barry reviewed the results of the remaining Warrant Articles. The general feeling was that the Board needs to work harder with communication to the Public on items such as the Revolving Fund for Police Special Detail. Selectman Robertson felt that some of the “No” votes were the result of there being too many Capital Reserve requests, and he feels voters prefer specificity. Anytime an Article comes across as too vague people will generally vote in dissent.

Motion – Vice Chairman O’Neal moves to approve the Thank You letter to voters

Second – Selectman Robertson

Discussion – Selectman Robertson asked how this was to be circulated. Leslie responded saying the plan is to post it to the Town Website and include a copy in the Forum, they will not be mailing to voters individually. Chairman Barry read the letter aloud.

Vote – All in Favor – Motion Carries

2013 Select Board Goals

Selectman Robertson shared that he heard several public comments regarding the land next to the Fire Station and that there is concern as to why the Board of Selectman is not doing something with that land. He feels the Board should work with the Fire and Rescue Associations to discuss the land and develop a clear and communicated plan for it. There seems to be lots of misinformation that it is a piece of land under the control of the Selectmen.

Chairman Barry would like to set the goal of continuing the project of the Safety Complex moving forward and not letting the issue fall by the wayside with its recent defeat.

2013 Town & Town Department Goals

The Board will take some time to think about this and revisit at a later date, with the expectation that a clear directive will be

ready for the Department heads by June.

Citizens Comments

Citizen Kevin Chalbeck noted that he is not in favor of the Capital Reserve funds that were presented to voters as he disapproves of the vagueness in the way they are written. He feels that any attempt to bypass voters by giving expending power to the Selectman is something that should be turned down. Regarding the Police Detail fund – he finds it troubling the amount of Detail work that is done throughout the State. He feels it is getting out of hand and viewed the Revolving Fund as a further loss of control on that line item.

Maureen Mann noted that the Town's 250th anniversary is approaching in 2 years and asked if anything is being done to organize activities around the event? Selectman Robertson had heard some discussion among the Heritage Commission and assumes plans will be forthcoming.

Erik Berglund asked what the Board Plans to do with the Town's vote to oppose the Northern Pass? He also asked if the raises for Town Employees were in the budget and Chairman Barry responded that yes they were. Mr. Berglund seconded the comments regarding the establishment of Capital Reserve funds.

Harriet Cady noted that in the past minutes were eight or nine pages in length, encompassing both votes and discussion, she feels this is not happening now, there was no discussion in the past of the Select Board giving authority to the Town Administrator to respond to Requests for Information so she is glad it was formally discussed tonight. She feels the Town Administrator does not have good direction from the Board as to what can and cannot be done. Ms. Cady noted that the Board promised Ms. Shigo that the 8am meetings would do no business aside from payroll approvals and minute approvals, yet at the March 18th meeting it voted to make raises to Town Employees retroactive. She further believes that Chairman Barry told the MBC that the raises would not be for a full year, she will review MBC minutes, but feels the Board broke its promise in taking an action like that at a morning meeting.

Don Daley expressed his opinion that in many other communities the Safety Complex Warrant Articles were passed after several (3, 4 and 5 years) attempts with voters. He also noted that next year there will be no Teachers contracts for voters to consider.

Adjournment

Motion – Selectman Pitman moves to adjourn

Second – Selectman Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

Meeting Adjourns at 6:40pm

Next Meeting Monday, April 1st @ 8:00am

*The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.
Pending Approval by the Board of Selectmen*