

**Town of Deerfield
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 31, 2016
MINUTES**

Call to Order

5:30p - Chairman Barry called the meeting to order.

Present: Stephen Barry, Chairman; Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman, R. Andrew Robertson and Fred McGarry, Selectmen

Excused

Jeff Shute, Selectman

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

Tax Rate Setting

Chairman Barry recommended taking \$550,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance to set the 2017 Tax Rate at \$22.20, a \$0.19 increase. This would leave \$1.12 million within the Fund, an amount within the recommended DRA ratio. In 2016 the rate of \$22.01 was comprised of \$3.71 Town, \$0.94 County, \$15.10 School and \$2.26 State Education. The proposed increase would have an \$47.50 impact on a home valued at \$250,000. F. McGarry noted that the proposed rate is still below the 2014 Tax Rate.

Motion: Selectman Robertson moves to take \$550,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance and to set the Tax Rate at \$22.20 (\$3.71 to the Town)

Second: Selectman McGarry

Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Health Insurance

The Town Administrator recommends the Town select Anthem Health Trusts Option 2 plan and changes the Personnel Policy so that 15% of the cost is paid by the Employee and 85% by the Town, there is currently at 20/80 split. Vice Chairman Pitman asked what the increased cost to the Town would be, it was estimated around \$5,000.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to select the Anthem Health Trust Option 2 plan with a 15/85 Employee/Town cost share

Second: Selectman Robertson

Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

The HRA was signed in two pieces, one for the period from 12/1/16 to 12/31/16 and a second for 1/1/17 through 12/31/17.

Regular Business

Accounts Payable - \$39,330.13

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve

Second: Selectman Robertson

Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Request to Rebate \$334.45 of the 2016 Land Use Change Tax on Map 420, Lot 17, 168 South Rd (Hardship Abatement)

Motion: Selectman Robertson moves to approve

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Loader Rental Agreement

J. Foisy reported that three bids for the rental of a loader had been obtained, Nortraxx at a rate of \$4,500/month, ATS Equipment at \$4,000/month and Proquip at \$4,500/month.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the loader rental with Mark Young Trucking at a rate of \$2,800/month

Second: Selectman Robertson

Discussion: Selectman Robertson agreed that the arrangement makes good sense, adding that it is important to make periodic checks on arrangement.

Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Review of Correspondence

The Town has received a letter from Attorney Steven Whitley regarding its financial situation. Attorney Whitley advises that he will no longer be able to represent Deerfield before the Site Evaluation Committee without the balance owed being paid. Because there are items in progress, Attorney Whitley advises that he will continue to represent the Town through December 1st, at which point the contract will be terminated until the Town is paid in full. Selectman McGarry spoke that the Planning Board has been involved in several requests for information to go to the Northern Pass and will be coming before the Select Board shortly to discuss. The Board agreed to continue on through December 1st as Attorney Whitley has offered.

The Friends of the Deerfield Library have asked that the Town Hall Rental Fee be waived on March 18, 2017.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve the waiver

Second: Selectman Robertson

Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

The Town has received a Block Grant check in the amount of \$41,712.56.

The MetroCast 2017 rates will be changing.

Local Boy Scout Troop Scoutmaster Kevin Webber asked if it would be acceptable for Troop 138 to hold its weekly meetings at the Town Hall beginning January 1st as the Church is no longer available for their use. The group meets from 6:30p - 8p each Monday night. Chairman Barry spoke that he did not feel the Town Hall would be appropriate, but suggested the Troop use the upper room at the George B. White Building. It was noted that the Board meets on Monday nights so hallway noise would need to be kept to a minimum. The Board agreed to store the Troops' supply cabinet in the meeting room and allowed for the trailer to be parked across the street.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to allow the Boy Scouts to utilize the GBW Building as described

Second: Selectman Robertson

Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Town Administrator's Report

A leak in the ceiling at the George B. White building is being looked into by Mark Tibbetts. The dead tree limbs along the fence will be trimmed and removed in the coming week.

Steve Jamele has been contacted by the Web Hosting Company asking whether the Town would like to update its website at a cost of \$5,000. Moultonborough, Center Harbor, Berlin and Kingston were given as examples of the update, the site was last updated in 2012. The Board will consider the matter.

J. Foisy will be bringing forward drafts of the Warrant Articles for the Board's consideration and will be reviewing the language for the Veasey Park and Veteran's Tax Credit Articles.

Selectman Robertson asked whether the Town Administrator had connected with Wes Golomb, J. Foisy confirmed yes that Mr. Golomb has removed the Town Seals from his materials and apologized for using them without permission.

Selectman McGarry spoke that he has been involved with the State on the PFOA problem and it has been found that it is related to a certain foam that was used by Fire Departments. He asked the Town Administrator to find out whether the Deerfield Fire Department had used the foam to fight fires or conduct training exercises in the past. J. Foisy will find out.

Unfinished/Other/New Business

Selectman Robertson asked whether J. Foisy has determined her intended 2017 date of retirement, J. Foisy responded that she has not, but will give the Board not less than three months' notice when she is prepared.

Citizens Comments

None

Adjourn

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn the meeting of October 31, 2016

Second: Selectman Robertson

Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Next Meeting Monday, November 7, 2016 @ 5:30p

*The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.
Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen.*