

**Town of Deerfield  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
February 6, 2017  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

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

**Present:** Stephen Barry, Chairman; Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman, Fred McGarry, Andrew Robertson, and Jeff Shute, Selectmen

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

**Scheduled Appointments**

**2017 Default Budget Adjustment**

J. Harrington recommended that the Town adjust the Personnel Administration line of the 2017 Default Budget by \$11,791.99, bringing the line from \$95,573 to \$109,365.99. This is the Employee portion of the FICA/Medi taxes that were underreported for three years. The adjustment brings the total Default Budget from \$3,918,058 to \$3,929,850. J. Harrington explained that the Town is responsible for paying both sides of the tax and to then withhold from Employees pay. The Town can determine later if, when and how to withhold from the impacted Employees.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to add \$11,792 to the 2017 Default Budget

**Second:** Selectman Robertson

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

J. Harrington will be posting the revised version of the Default Budget at all posting locations for review. Selectman Robertson asked that the MBC Chair receive a copy.

**Purchasing Policy**

The Town Administrator recommends a change to the Purchasing Policy to reduce the amount a Department Head can spend without prior approval from \$1,999 to \$500.

**Motion:** Selectman Robertson moves to approve the change

**Second:** Selectman Shute

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

**Regular Business**

**Land Use Change Tax - Duplicate Form to Update the Date - Harley Stevens, Perry Rd**

*Signatures Executed*

**Application - Veteran's Property Tax Credit - \$500 - Channing Fuller, 7 Cobbler Trail Rd**

**Motion:** Selectman Robertson moves to approve

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

**Minutes - January 23, 2017**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the minutes

**Second:** Selectman Robertson

**Discussion:** Selectman McGarry noted that on page 2 under Review of Correspondence, line 1, the sentence with, "...in that case..." makes no reference to which Case is being discussed and asked that, after "findings", "...in the case of Cady vs. Town of Deerfield," be inserted. He asked that "against Ms. Cady" be inserted following "vexatious litigation" in the second paragraph of that section. On page 3, under Town Administrator's Report, line 4, Selectman McGarry asked that "Fica/Medi payments to the Federal Government" be inserted following "employees". Under Unfinished, Other or New Business, Selectman McGarry asked that "Whitley" be inserted after "Attorney" at line 6. In the same section, line 8 "SanSoucy" should be corrected to "Sansoucy". Last, on page 4 under Citizen's Comments Selectman McGarry asked that the "p" be changed to "pm" in the time that the Supervisors of the Checklist were to be meeting.

**Vote to approve as amended: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

#### **Minutes - January 30, 2017**

**Motion:** Selectman Robertson moves to approve

**Second:** Selectman Shute

**Discussion:** Selectman McGarry asked that, on page 2, the first paragraph, "that" be inserted after "renewal".

**Vote to approve as amended: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

#### **Accounts Payable - \$335.95**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve

**Second:** Selectman Robertson

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

#### **Accounts Payable - \$92,337.21**

**Motion:** Selectman Robertson moves to approve

**Second:** Selectman Shute

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

#### **Review of Correspondence**

The Town of East Kingston has sent a survey regarding the Town Hall history and usage. The Town Administrator will work on providing a response.

#### **Town Administrator's Report**

J. Harrington reported that, because the State Concession amounts have recently changed, there was an additional \$4,000 received by the Police Department from Grappone for the work done to the new cruiser. The Police Chief had asked for those monies to be placed in the Police Department's 2017 Budget, however there is now another cruiser that requires repairs to the water pump and radiator at a quoted cost of \$3,140. The Town Administrator recommends using the \$4,000 to cover the cost of those repairs. The Board had no objections.

The donated copier is now up and operational. IT is working on network connectivity and whether the remainder of the Maintenance Agreement carried over with the donation.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked the Town Administrator to have someone look into closing the windows at the Town Hall, there were windows raised on the North Side and Front of the building.

Selectman Robertson spoke that Jeanne Menard has asked to meet with the Board regarding the Section 106, Cultural Landscape Process, with Northern Pass. She would like to discuss the Board's preferences initially and if the Town wishes to pursue further action would need to meet with the Town Administrator to finalize. It was agreed a meeting would be scheduled for February 13th to discuss.

Selectman McGarry spoke that he has received a complaint regarding the Fire Chief's disposal of equipment that would otherwise have value. The Town Administrator had asked Chief Tibbetts about the disposal and was told the equipment was "junk". Several members of the Board have fielded calls that the "junk" was worth between \$6,000 and \$7,000 and needed minimal repairs. The Board will request an explanation from the Chief and the Town Administrator will advise that the disposal of any property should be done so through the Board.

### **Unfinished, Other or New Business**

Chairman Barry noted that the roofing of the Town Hall had been discussed during the Deliberative Session and asked that Vice Chairman Pitman take up researching the matter further with Mr. Boisvert and other experts. There was some speculation around the claims made during the discussion at the Deliberative Session. Selectman Shute followed the remarks by noting that in his work with the State metal roofing has been generally discouraged as shingles, when installed properly, are lasting some 50 years.

Selectman McGarry reported that Members of the Board provided testimony in opposition to HB-495 recently. The Bill, introduced by Representative Verville and read by Representative Spillane, would prohibit the amending of Warrant Articles during the Deliberative Session. The Bill would also prohibit the MBC and Select Board from making recommendations on any Warrant Article that did not include an appropriated dollar amount. Two individuals spoke in support of the legislation and eight spoke in opposition.

Selectman Robertson spoke that the Chair of the MBC is requesting the Committee to reconvene on February 14th to discuss the Pleasant Lake Warrant Article, there may or may not be a meeting.

Selectman Shute reminded that there will be a Winter Carnival on Saturday, February 25th at the gazebo.

### **Citizens Comments**

Robert Baker of Middle Road asked whether the Petition Warrant Article he submitted regarding the paving of Middle Road had been formally adopted by the Board without changes during the Deliberative Session? Chairman Barry confirmed yes. Mr. Baker asked whether the Article will be presented in that format on the March ballot? Chairman Barry confirmed yes, as no action was taken on the Article during the Deliberative Session. Mr. Baker expressed disappointment that the Article was taken up during the Deliberative Session. He was told on January 10th by the Town Administrator that the Article would not be allowed procedurally to move forward as there were not sufficient signatures. J. Harrington confirmed that with the initial review the Article has been signaled out by the Supervisors of the Checklist as not sufficient due to "no signatures on file" which led to his communication to Mr. Baker. Through later research it was clarified that the basic requirement for an Article to move forward was not sufficient "signatures on file" but rather sufficient signatures of "registered voters", making the Article valid. J. Harrington indicated that he made a call out to Mr. Baker, but that they were not able to connect to relay the updated information. Mr. Baker had not attended the Deliberative Session to move a dollar amount for the Article as he did not think it would be presented.

It was confirmed that the Board cannot raise and appropriate the money needed for the Warrant Article, estimated at \$630,000, because the amount was not in the text put on the ballot. Mr. Baker finds there to be a procedural flaw in the process and asked to see the error corrected. Selectman Robertson responded that it is the onus of the Petitioner to follow up and attend the Deliberative Session. Mr. Baker asked what the Board might do should the Article receive an overwhelming amount of support? Selectman McGarry responded, he personally, would then like to see the proposal put forward as a Warrant Article the following year. Chairman Barry apologized for the breakdown in communication and Vice Chairman Pitman suggested that, as a neighbor, Mr. Baker may want to speak with other residents of the road as several expressed opposition to Article.

Erik Berglund spoke that he finds some individuals in Town are unclear as to what publications are published from official Town sources and what are personal points of view from private residents. He suggested that, in order to improve voter knowledge, that in the next newsletter the Town list the official notices regarding voting and point out that private citizens may send out recommendations that are not a directive of the Town.

Harriet Cady spoke that, during the Deliberative Session, Jeanne Menard had read that property values along the Northern Pass have depreciated between 1% and 2.9%. Ms. Cady has been unable to find the data to support that statement. Additionally, Ms. Cady noted that, on the Site Evaluation Committee's ("SEC") website, the increased value to the Deerfield substation is posted as between \$1.4M and \$2M, data that she noted will be distributed to voters. Selectman McGarry made a point of clarification that, because information is on the SEC's website, does not mean it is necessarily accurate.

### **Adjourn**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn the meeting of February 6, 2017

**Second:** Selectman Robertson

**Vote:** Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

**Next Meeting Monday, February 13, 2017 @ 5:30p**

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