



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AGENDA**

April 4, 2011

**6:15 P.M - Call meeting to order
All stand for Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approve Minutes: March 24, 2011 & March 28, 2011
Approve Warrants:**

PW # 11-	\$	
DW #11-	\$	
BW #11-41A	\$	2,040.00 (to replace lost check for plower)

NEEDS ATTENTION

AGENDA APPOINTMENTS

6:30 PM – Library Trustees at Selectmen's request to discuss the two Warrant Articles the Trustees submitted for Annual Town Meeting Warrant

6:45 PM - Board of Fire Engineers, Police Chief & Deputy at Selectmen's request to discuss first responder calls, firefighter wages budget possibly being over spent, and concerns received above public safety building parking lot and entrance and exits

Next Meeting: Monday, April 11, 2011 @ 6:15 P.M.

MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

APRIL 4, 2011

Meeting called to order at 6:30 P.M. at Town Hall.

Present Elizabeth A. Gorski, William H. Darke and Chairman Donald N. Greaney.

Minutes

Moved Darke, seconded Gorski, and it was

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of the meetings of March 24 and March 28, 2011, as presented.

Warrant

Moved Darke, seconded Greaney, and it was

VOTED: To approve Payroll Warrant #BW11-41A.

Warrant was needed to replace a lost check for a contracted snow plower.

Library Trustees

Selectmen asked the Board of Library Trustees to meet with them to discuss the two Articles the Trustees had submitted for insertion on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The trustees withdrew the article requesting adding a \$1.00 per hour to all staff wages but told the Board they need the 24 hours they had lost a couple of years ago. Finance Director Labrecque responded that cuts were made to several part-time positions several years ago. Trustees stated that they need to have two people at the library at all times. Trustee Lisa Dube-Carpenter informed the Selectmen that the Library conducted a Survey in regards to its Strategic Plan and the community responded by saying what they want the library to do for programs; that 200 patrons visit the library each day; that their help is working extra hours and not being paid for it and that the \$16,000+ is needed to maintain the services being provided.

Selectman Darke stated the trustees did a good job making their case rather than doing so on town meeting floor. He asked if they would be asking for more money next year and the year after and trustee Prunier responded that she could not promise that they wouldn't ask again. Darke said he would be in favor of the library receiving the additional \$16,000+. Lisa told the Selectmen she does not feel that it's fair to keep cutting services. Selectman Gorski asked if the library ever uses the senior tax break program and Dube-Carpenter responded that they don't because of confidentiality issues but they do have 40 hours of volunteers weekly. Darke stated he would like to see their Article on the Warrant and see what the voters say.

Parking Lot Concerns at Public Safety Building & Fire Fighter Wage Account

Fire Chief Clement, Board of Fire Engineers members Cross, Judson, Dickson and Watson, Police Chief Kirmelewicz and Deputy Chief Gillen were asked to attend the Selectmen's meeting to discuss (1) concerns with safety in the public safety parking lot and entrance/exit areas; and (2) concerns with fire department fy '11 budget for firefighter wages running out of money.

(1) Greaney asked Deputy Gillen to report on a meeting he had with Central Station Fire Captain Robert Lay. Gillen told those present that Lay spoke with him about concerns with buses and those using the COA meal site using the exit/entrance at the fire station side of the property. Gillen stated his own department has concerns with the police side being used by those not in public safety. Gillen told those present that he and Lay thought that their Associations might be able to provide some funds to purchase traffic warning signs for the parking lot. Gillen said he'd also like to see the dumpster moved to a new location. Besides the non-safety vehicles driving in through the parking areas, pedestrians are walking baby carriages and dogs throughout which is a safety issue with firemen driving in quickly when responding to calls. Also suggested was possibly using jersey barriers. The Selectmen approved the request to post signs on the property directing traffic and pedestrians away from the public safety area of the property.

(2) The Selectmen asked to meet with the Board of Fire Engineers regarding firefighters responding to all calls coming in to E911. The Selectmen, when reviewing the Special Town Meeting Warrant a couple of weeks ago were told by the Finance Director that the fire department budget (firefighter wages) may be in deficit soon, if not already; that he had been informed of this in January but when he sent a memo out asking if any departments needed to make transfers, he had not heard from anyone on the department regarding the transfers. Labrecque said he would contact the fire department again to find out how much of a transfer may be needed and which of their line items they can afford to transfer from. Chairman Greaney told the Board of Engineers that was the reason for inviting them to the meeting to discuss the potential budget shortfall. Chief Clement, after receiving an email asking that he and the Engineers attend the April 4th meeting, called the Board's Assistant then sent a letter to the Board confirming the problem.

Chief Clement told the Board that there was a large jump in payroll after December and that he estimated being short about \$20,000 in firefighters salary but then upped the amount to \$30,000; that he had informed the Finance Director of this potential shortage in January; that the calls are emergency calls and have increased recently. Chairman Greaney told Clement budgets must be managed and can't be overspent and Clement responded it was for public safety and out of his control. The Board's Assistant told the parties that the only budget that is allowed to be in a deficit is Snow and Ice.

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It was stated that Fire Captain Lay had spoken to the Police Department because the firemen weren't getting many call outs and told the PD that they wanted to be called out on all emergency calls. Chief Kirmelewicz told the Board the order in which the calls were previously relayed was Police, Ambulance then Fire. Chairman Greaney told the parties present that he had spoken to the E911 department of the State and was told that there is no procedure or law requiring that fire departments be sent on E911 calls; that he was told the town decides its own policy/procedures regarding who the responders should be. Deputy Gillen reported that the fire department is now being called out on every call. Selectman Darke stated we all need to decide what type of service we want to deliver and are we over staffing the service.

Selectman Gorski mentioned seeing the ambulance parked at South Station and asked if it was there all day and Chief Clement responded it was not there all day. Gorski told the parties that the Selectmen are trying to be sure that we don't have a \$30,000 deficit again. Clement stated that for a number of years the budget was level funded; that they aren't funding enough money for the calls and when they run short it is transferred from their expenses with Fire Clerk Jordan adding this is eating into equipment maintenance every year and not being able to purchase new equipment. Deputy Gillen told the Selectmen that his department will do whatever the Board wants them to do regarding the callouts but he needs some direction. Darke asked if there is any way to control the number of men reporting. Gillen replied that one day you can have 5 men reporting and the next time there will be 15; a lot of people sign in after the truck leaves the station; that there are times when there are so many people at a scene "we are tripping over each other". Chief Clement said when men get to the station after the truck has left they are ready should a second call come in.

Some suggestions: (1) Look at having a certain number of men on call and how much it would cost to do so; (2) having Trinity let the dispatchers know when they are in town and have them called first; (3) that the Police and Fire Chiefs get together with Trinity and attempt to make a plan of what level of response we can provide within our budget; and (4) suggested having the men call in to the dispatch and after the first four responses notify others they are not needed.

Jordan told the Selectmen that the fire department needs more money to run the department; that it is one of the cheapest in salary in the area. Chief Clement stated he was pretty sure the voters would support what the fire department does and be willing to provide more funding. Selectman Gorski responded that because the school requests large increases each year, the town does short change a lot of its departments. Engineer Watson pointed out that the town has a much larger senior population with the development of Nichols Village and Whitestone Village. Chairman Greaney suggested the ambulance service should decide if or when the fire department needs to be called

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out. Clement told the Selectmen the Board of Fire Engineers will meet and discuss as a Board how to best proceed.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, moved Gorski, seconded Darke, and it was

VOTED: To adjourn.
Adjourned at 9:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Lewandowski
Administrative Assistant