BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

November 24, 2014

**PRESENT:** SEAN P. MURPHY, CHAIRMAN; RICHARD H. HARTUNG, SELECTMAN; PRISCILLA R. LINDQUIST, SELECTMAN; SALLY THERIAULT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Visitors: P. Williams (Tri Town News), J. Ahern, L. Snyder, Chief Carrier, Chief Beaudoin, J. Mea-Tejada, C. Dane and A. Howe

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

## **Public Announcements**

* Tax bills have been mailed out and are due December 8th.
* Compost bins are available at the Town Offices. The cost for each bin is $50 each.
* Waste Oil, fluorescent light bulbs, car batteries and thermostats are collected at the Town Garage on the first and third Saturdays of the month 8 am to 1 pm. Books may be dropped off anytime.

## **Visitors Comment**

*Jorge Mesa-Tejada- Tewksbury Road*

Mr. Mesa-Tejada told the Selectmen that they needed to pave the area around the Town Garage where the police vehicles now enter and exit. He was concerned that with the uneven pavement there would be more wear and tear on the vehicles. Chairman Murphy thanked him for bringing forward the concern forward and they would check with the Road Agent. He noted there was no money in this year’s budget but maybe next year if there is left over asphalt it could be done. Selectman Hartung stated that he would hope that the cruisers would maintain the minimal speed going over that section.

*Ann Howe*

Mrs. Howe spoke to the Selectmen regarding recent events at the budget committee meeting. She presented the history of the budget committee in that in 1929 when established that stated “shall cooperate with Board of Selectmen and School Board”. She said that she was concerned with a public official sending a threatening letter to another elected board. She went on to say that she had waited for him to give an apology but there was none. She said the email sent and subsequent articles have made it difficult to get the work of the budget committee done. She asked the Selectmen to take action or at least comment on the issue. She asked that they do not remain silent on the issue.

Selectman Hartung responded that he had not read the email so did not want to speak out of turn. He only knew what he had read in the newspaper. Selectman Lindquist said she had no comment. Chairman Murphy responded that he did read the email and the person never stated their position on the Budget Committee, but wrote the email as a private citizen. He went on to say that everyone has the right to voice their opinion even if they are elected. Mrs. Howe agreed that all are entitled to their own opinion, but that one couldn’t remove their hat and not have it show back on the committee. She noted that it was unreasonable to divorce the two. She also stated that it has caused friction amongst the other boards. She went on to say she hoped the Selectmen did not condone the actions. Chairman Murphy replied that you are entitled to make a comment as a private citizen and have the right to qualify your comment. He went on to say sometimes it depends on when the hat comes off. When asked Chairman Murphy said that he was not okay with the behavior and that one must live with ones behaviors. At that point Chairman Murphy said as a private citizen, he did not agree with the opinion that had been expressed. Mrs. Howe said that elected people should be held to a higher standard, which was her opinion.

**Department Heads**

*Fire Department- Chief Carrier*

Chief Carrier noted that he along with Chris Dane were there tonight to answer any questions the Selectmen had regarding the proposal for per diem staffing/coverage at the Central Fire Station from 6 pm to 6 am.

Chairman Murphy explained that at a prior meeting he requested the Chief look into the cost of providing coverage overnight, which had come from a request from a resident. The concern was lag in response time if Trinity was on another call.

He asked Chief Carrier how many instances there were historically regarding subsequent calls. Chief Carrier responded that it is difficult to measure but seems to be about 5 to 10% and looks like it is increasing more especially with the demographics of the town changing.

Selectman Hartung asked for clarification on the title per diem. He asked if they would be using the already existing staff to cover those shifts. Chief Carrier said that the proposal he is working on is to pay two people $13 per hour to be at the station 12 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days (8760 hours). If they were to go out on a call they would receive their hourly rate. There would be no further benefits. Chief Carrier also noted that the intent is to use the call department. He did mention that they may not always have the ability with the existing staffing and may need to hire per diem personnel. Selectman Hartung noted that the cost of $56,940 for 6 months would be much lower than hiring full time personnel to cover the shifts. **Selectman Hartung moved that Chief Carrier incorporate the cost into his 2015 budget for $56,940 plus $5,000 for Social Security costs with an effective date of 7/1/15. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously**.

Selectman Hartung mentioned that time was of the essence especially in cardiac calls and that he would like to see AEDs in all buildings. Chief Carrier said one of his goals is to be a Heart Safe Community. Selectman Hartung suggested that each building have a sign stating that there was an AED in the building so the general public knew.

Chief Carrier thanked the Board but also mentioned that the existing model of the all department is responding to calls from home and is phenomenal and that this will just be an added aspect. He also noted that Barnstead uses the per diem model.

*Police Department- Chief Beaudoin*

Chief Beaudoin announced that the Recreation Commission was sponsoring the Turkey Trot walk on Thanksgiving morning as a fund raiser and he would like to waive the process of billing them for the police details that will be required at the intersections. He noted that the cost of 4 officers for that detail would cost the Recreation Commission about $850 which defeats the purpose of holding the fundraiser. Chairman Murphy asked if the fund would be able to take the impact and the response was yes.

Chief Beaudoin also asked where he should budget for water bills for the new police station. He hadn’t expected them whereas at the old station he didn’t receive any bills because it was part of the Town office bill. The Selectmen agreed to have it budgeted under repairs and maintenance. Chief Beaudoin will need to adjust his 2015 budget to cover those costs.

*Budget Committee- Jorge Mesa-Tejada, Chairman*

Mr. Mesa-Tejada passed on a piece of correspondence from Family Mediation to Mrs. Theriault. The correspondence was the request for 2015 funding.

**New Business**

*Energy Supplier Contract*

Mrs. Theriault the Selectmen that the current contract for the energy supply portion of the electric bill is up in November. Tad Dzamian of White Columns has presented her with a new proposed contract to be effective March 1, 2015 for 20 months at a rate of $.0999. The current rate is .075. There is some volatility in the prices with two of the other Electric Companies raising their rates effective December 1st to .155, which is double what we are currently paying. PSNH has announced one rate for January, but is also putting the new request for costs in December and it is expected that their cost will also go to about $.155. The recommendation of White Columns is to move to PSNH for the winter months and move to the new contract March 1st. He thinks this would be the best move. It was noted that when a contract ends, it will automatically revert the energy supplier to PSNH. The current PSNH rate is at $.0987 and is expected to be $.096 for January.

After some further discussion it was agreed to move forward with the contract and the Chairman sign the agreement.

**Chairman Murphy motioned to enter into an agreement with White Columns and their energy supplier at a cost of $.999 per kilowatt. Selectman Hartung seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Selectman Hartung asked that the department heads is made aware of the changes so that they can adjust their budgets if needed.

*Hero Tree*

The request has come in to place the Hero Tree in the lobby of the Town Office. Selectman Hartung explained that it is not a “Christmas” tree but rather a tree that recognizes those that have served in the armed forces. The protocol is to ask every year.

**Selectman Hartung made a motion to allow the Hero Tree to be placed in the town office. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **Old Business**

*Liaison Reports*

**Chairman Murphy**

Police Department- Chairman Murphy announced that he been speaking with Officer Matt Moore and he reported that they are wanted to thank the community for their emotional and financial support while Matt is going through his cancer treatments. They have been overwhelmed by the support. Chairman Murphy also noted that there are wreaths that are being raffled off with one being located in the town office. The raffle tickets are available for both wreaths at the town office.

**Selectman Lindquist**

The annual Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service was held at the Meeting House over the weekend and all went well.

**Selectman Hartung-**

He announced that after careful consideration he has decided not to run for his Selectman seat in

March of 2015. He noted that it was a difficult decision but that he needs to readjust his priorities and thanked his wife for allowing him to serve all these years. He told the other two members that he is on about 4 municipal boards and he would like to continue on some of them once a new person is in place and chosen what they want to do.

Chairman Murphy thanked him for all his years of service to the Town of Hampstead and that he would be sadly missed. He also noted that Selectman Hartung can be as active as he wants to be once he steps down.

**AA Report:**

**Memorandum of Understanding**

MOUs have been sent out to the churches within Hampstead. Mrs. Theriault has requested that the MOUs be updated with the expectation that new services will be added and old ones deleted. So far three of the five have come in and are ready for signatures.

**Workers’ Compensation CAP**

Primex is offering a Workers’ compensation CAP, similar to the Property Liability CAP.

There is a two year commitment for a CAP of 10% each year. The Selectmen were asked if they were interested in agreeing to the contract. It was explained that it works the same as the PLT policy, the most the policy could go up in any one year is 10%. Selectman Hartung asked to see a history of the step increases for the last 5 years. Chairman Murphy said that they could just take a change that the rate doesn’t go up 10% in either year. There needs to be a response by December 17th.

**Day after Thanksgiving**

In years past, the Selectmen have closed the offices to the public the day after Thanksgiving. Employees were allowed to either take PTO or work on that day. Mrs. Theriault asked if it is alright to announce that the offices will be closed on the Friday following Thanksgiving.

Also, in the past, the BOS has closed the Town offices at noon on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve. This year both holidays will be on a Thursday.

The Selectmen agreed to the recent past practice of closing the office on December 24th at noon and December 31st at 2:00 pm. Employees may take PTO or work if they chose.

**Inspection of Town-owned buildings**

The Deputy Fire Chief conducted an inspection of the town-owned buildings. He indicated that “All buildings (town-owned) are required to have building number placed on them in such a way that they are visible from either direction from the street. The numbers should be at least 4” tall and done in contrasting colors.” If you wanted a sign mounted in the ground instead of on the building it would cost $10 per sign.

There was some discussion about what type of signage. Selectman Lindquist will bring forward the request to the Historic Commission to discuss for the buildings in there jurisdiction and the museum. It was suggested that the numbers be placed on the sign at the garage and over the sign at the gym. Selectman Hartung asked that they be updated a month from now.

**Old Police Station**

The Cemetery Trustees want to use the old police station to store an iron fence for the cemetery for the winter. The Selectmen gave their approval.

Mrs. Theriault plans on inspecting the Old Police Station on 12/2 with certain department heads and JLMC members.

**Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes of October 24, 2014 regular meeting have been signed.

**Selectman Hartung motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Activity Report**

The activity report was reviewed with an update to add the numbers on the buildings.

Selectman Hartung asked that the cell phone policy be brought forward and Selectman Lindquist asked for a list of what phones are paid for now and how much.

**Re- Appointments/Appointments**

Julie Ahern, Chairman of the Recreation Commission presented Liza Snyder as a new alternate to the Recreation Commission. She also announced that the Turkey Trot was on for Thursday the 27th and they would be walking from St. Anne’s down Emerson, left on Randall Lane, left on Sawyer Avenue, left on Wash Pond and right back on to Emerson Avenue up to St. Annes. They are expecting about 450 people.

In reviewing the Recreation Commission is was noticed that there were only two full members and currently three alternates. The alternates agreed to move up and there is a new alternate to be appointed. The alternates moving up will take the balance of the term of the prior full member.

**Selectman Lindquist motioned to appoint Nicole O’Donnell, Geoffery Dowd, Brian Vitale to full members of the Recreation Commission and to appoint Liza Snyder as an alternate with her term to expire in 2017. Selectman Hartung seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

*Call for Candidates*:

* + Ordway Park, full members and alternates – monthly meetings
  + Recycling and Waste Disposal Committee – monthly meetings
  + Recreation Commission, alternate member – monthly meetings
  + Trustees of the Trust Funds, alternate members – meetings as needed
  + Budget Committee – once a month during budget season – appointment pending

## **Correspondence**

RPC- There was a letter from Rockingham Planning Commission inviting the Selectmen to the Regional Master Plan open forum (already happened by the time envelope received).

## **Visitors Comments**

Chief Beaudoin announced the open house for the new police station to be on Saturday, December 13th from 12:30 to 3:30. There will be a schedule but it hasn’t been completed yet.

Selectman Hartung mentioned that the Wreaths Across America will be on the same day at noon. Chief Beaudoin said that is why they are at 12:30 because the VFW is part of their ceremony with the dedication of the “Way”.

Chairman Murphy mentioned that the Firemen’s Association will be selling trees starting on Saturday November 29th weekends only from 10 to 6 pm.

*Non-Public RSA 91A:3 II (a) employee matters*

**Selectman Lindquist motioned to go into nonpublic session under RSA 91 A: 3 II (a) employee matters at 7:45 pm. Selectman Hartung seconded the motion.**

**Roll call vote: Selectman Lindquist, yes; Selectman Hartung, yes; Selectman Murphy, yes.**

**Selectman Lindquist motioned to come out of nonpublic session under RSA 91 A: 3 II (a) employee matters at 9:00 p.m. Selectman Hartung seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call vote: Selectman Lindquist, yes; Selectman Hartung, yes; Selectman Murphy, yes:**

**Selectman Hartung motioned to seal the minutes of the non-public.**

**Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

A True Record. Approved By:

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Tina Harrington, Recording Secretary Sean P. Murphy, Chairman

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