

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
August 27, 2018

Members Present: Selectman Murphy, Selectman Bennett, Selectman Guthrie

AA to Board of Selectmen: S. Theriault

Guests: Chief Beaudoin, Chief Carrier, School Board Chairperson, K. Yasenka, Superintendent Metzler, and E. Reschberger

Public Announcements

- Waste Oil, car batteries and thermostats are collected at the Town Garage on the first and third Saturdays of the month 8 am to 1 pm.

Visitors Comment

Hampstead School Board Chairperson K. Yasenka re: School Resource Officer

Mrs. Yasenka was present with Dr. Metzler to get the update on the School Resource Officer (SRO) position. She noted that she had a conversation with Chairman Murphy but asked that he lay out the details. Chairman Murphy stated that there was a budget projection that left a margin of about \$170,000. They had concerns that this would not give them a lot of room if there were to be significant storms in November/December. He also noted that there was about \$750,000 in the Unreserved Fund Balance, but reported that some of this is used to offset the tax rate and that there was litigation against the town that could easily eat up that balance. He talked the situation over with Chief Beaudoin and determined that the best way to move forward without impacting the 2018 budget was to move the person in the Detective position into the SRO position for 2 days a week beginning once a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been agreed on. They have put the ad out to hire a new police officer and hope to have that person on board by the end of December. He went on to explain that by moving the Detective to the position for now saves the Town from having to pay overtime for someone else to cover that shift. The Detective is the only position that isn't required to be backfilled. He also went on to state that the Selectmen are willing to work with the Administration and need to work out the details and a contract. Mrs. Yasenka said that she understood that the cost to provide an officer full time would be about \$32,000 for the balance of the year. When Chairman Murphy tried to explain the financial impact to the Towns' budget, Mrs. Yasenka stated that the Selectmen were blaming it on being a money issue to not provide the safety and security to the students and staff at the schools. Chairman Murphy asked Mrs. Yasenka if the School Board had prepared the priority of their expectations and if they have begun the process of the MOU. Mrs. Yasenka responded that they had not met yet and would be doing so tomorrow. Chairman Murphy upset with Mrs. Yasenka complaining about the BOS taking their time and looking for reasons to say no asked why she didn't feel the need to call a special meeting of the School Board to get the paperwork process at least started. He pointed out that the School Board approached the BOS in June and they are now coming to speak on their decision. He also stated that the Selectmen can't ignore the potential risks to the town just because the school wants something. Mrs. Yasenka responded with how many calls would he get if something were to happen, and that they were depriving the school of the extra protection for the kids. Chairman Murphy asked what she wanted the Selectmen to do-put a full time officer in the school tomorrow with no contract and no back up for the officer's position he would be vacating. Mrs. Yasenka asked if they would be able to have someone there five days a week later in the year. Chairman Murphy responded that they were working towards the end of December and that they will budget the new position into the 2019 budget and not put it into a separate warrant article as they have done in the past.

Dr. Metzler stated that he understands that it is a longer process to hire a police officer and appreciates the Selectmen for providing one for now at 2 days a week. He would begin working on the memorandum for the SRO draft. He stated that he could use a draft from the Timberlane one and adjust it to Hampstead's wants and needs. This would then need to be accepted by the Chief, the School Board and the Selectmen as well as getting legal approval. Dr. Metzler will begin the process as soon as Tuesday with Chief Beaudoin.

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Selectman Guthrie asked that it be clarified that putting a School Resource Officer in the schools doesn't give it 100% protection and that he hoped the schools have other security measures in place. Dr. Metzler stated that it was fair to make that comment and that the school continually works to make it a safer place. Adding the SRO is just one more layer of protection but there are no 100% guarantees but it helps.

It was agreed to set a timeframe of no later than October 1st to have the SRO in the school for 2 days a week. Dr. Metzler stated that they could look at the job in December/January to see if there are any changes that would be needed after someone has been in the position for a few months.

Department Heads

There were none.

New Business

EMPG- Emergency Management Performance Grant

The Fire Department was recently awarded an EMPG grant for communication work. Chief Carrier reported that the grant will help in the purchase of radio equipment at a new receiver site along with associated tables for the vehicles and a laptop for the EMD, which will improve emergency management communication capabilities. The grant is a 50/50 grant which means the Town's cost would be \$25,000 which Chief Carrier reported has already been completed with the movement of the new communications equipment to the new cell tower.

Chairman made the motion to Approve and Accept the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) in the amount of \$25,000 for the purchase and installation of radio equipment at a new receiver site, and associated tables, and a laptop, which will be used to improve emergency management communication capabilities. The Town further acknowledges that the total cost of the project will be \$50,000, in which the Town of Hampstead will be responsible for a 50% match of \$25,000. The motion was seconded by Selectman Bennett. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

Liaison Reports

Selectman Guthrie- There will be an update from the Senior Committee at one of the September meetings. They expect to have recommendations for short term and long term goals. The Historic/Heritage Commission hired a surveyor to survey the Town property around the town office.

Selectman Bennett- He has been working with the Recreation Commission and Buildings and Grounds about putting the mowing out to bid. They are currently looking at what the best option is. There may be some more fields that will go out to bid, which would allow the Buildings and Grounds Department to put more work into the cemeteries and other things.

Chairman Murphy- Nothing to report whereas he was working on the School Resource Officer and that has been discussed.

AA Report:

Interest in Bike Path

At the last meeting there was discussion on sidewalks but it was decided not to move forward to determine the interest or feasibility of a sidewalk. Pat Gelinis informed Mrs. Theriault that she was part of "Speak up Hampstead" a number of years ago and she said that there was interest in a bike path, which would be in lieu of sidewalk. A bike path would possibly be less expense and wouldn't have to be maintained during the winter like a sidewalk would. The BOS were asked if they would like to consider pursuing the interest and feasibility of a bike path instead of a sidewalk. The grant referred to at the last meeting was a feasibility grant, to do a study to see if it was worth pursuing.

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She doesn't know if there is any current funding for grants for this. Selectman Bennett stated that he would like to see some work done in Hampstead as part of the Rail Trail program. After some discussion, it was determined that Mrs. Theriault will do some preliminary work and Chairman Murphy will see what interest there is from the public. Selectman Guthrie suggested that a warrant article be placed in the 2019 warrant to get an idea how many people would be interested. The estimated cost could be as much as \$1,000,000 per mile.

Budget Schedule

Mrs. Theriault presented the proposed budget schedule, which is the same as last year. She will hand it out to the Department Heads at the next meeting when approved by the BOS. Selectman Bennett asked that the 6:30 meetings start at 7:00 pm instead. They all agreed that the one change was good and approved the schedule.

2019 Town-wide Revaluation

The Selectmen were asked if they would like to put out an RFP for the revaluation scheduled in 2019 or hire MRI to do the work. This is a requirement of the Department of Revenue Administration and it is completed every five years. The estimated cost will be approximately \$54K to \$72K and this will have to be added to the operating budget in 2019. After some discussion, the Selectmen agreed to put it out to bid. It was stated that MRI could apply for the RFP as well.

Concerns Regarding Proposed Trash Containers

As concerns come forward regarding the proposed trash containers, those concerns will be forwarded to the Recycling and Waste Disposal Committee. There will be a folder on the credenza for the Selectmen to review as well.

Activity Log

The activity log was reviewed. Item regarding the mowing of the fields will be taken off. The Fund Balance policy will be on the agenda for the second meeting in September along with the Investment Policy. The Senior Committee is due in for one of the September meetings. The Wage and Salary study will be on the September 10th meeting agenda.

Selectman Bennett reported that he has talked with K. Emerson regarding the ramp and that he is waiting for information on the canopy over the ramp.

Chairman Murphy asked if the Public Hearing on the water issues on Main Street was scheduled.

Mrs. Theriault responded that it was scheduled for the Sept. 10th meeting and that a representative from Hampstead Area Water Company would be present. She was asked if Sen. Morse or Sen. Birdsall would be there. Mrs. Theriault will reach out to her and also see if Sen. Birdsall had been in touch with Sen. Morse as well.

Re- Appointments/Appointments

Call for candidates:

- o Ordway Park, full members and alternates – monthly meeting
- o Recreation Commission, alternate member – monthly meetings
- o Trustees of the Trust Funds, alternate members – meetings as needed

Appointments

There were no appointments

Correspondence

There was none

Visitors Comments

There was none at this time.

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Selectman Guthrie motioned to enter into a non-public session under RSA 91A:3 II (a) Employee Matters at 7:56 pm. Chairman Murphy seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote:

Selectman Guthrie, yes: Selectman Bennett, yes: Chairman Murphy, yes.

Chief Carrier was in attendance

A motion was made by Chairman Murphy to close the non-public session under RSA 91A:3 II (a) Employee Matters at 8:11 pm. The motion was seconded by Selectman Bennett. The motion passed on a roll call vote.

Selectman Guthrie, yes: Selectman Bennett, yes: Chairman Murphy, yes.

Motion to seal the minutes was made by Chairman Murphy with a second by Selectman Guthrie. The motion passed unanimously 3-0.

Selectman Guthrie motioned to accept the Fire Chief's recommendation and increase the hourly rate of the per diem staff by \$.50 effective September 9, 2018. The motion was seconded by Selectman Bennett. The motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Guthrie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:13pm. Selectman Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

A True Record:



Tina Harrington, Recording Secretary

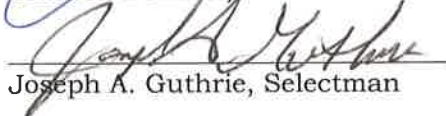
Approved By:



Sean P. Murphy, Chairman



Chad R. Bennett, Selectman



Joseph A. Guthrie, Selectman