

Bob Thompson\_\_\_\_\_

John Allen\_\_\_\_\_

Richard Bennett\_\_\_\_\_

## **Selectmen's Board Meeting**

February 23, 2017

Present: Bob Thompson, Chairman, John Allen, and Richard Bennett, Selectmen

Visitors: Town Administrative Assistant Julie Hoyt Building Inspector Kevin Bennett, Videographer Hank Benesh, Darlene Ference, Stan Weiss, George Howard, and Joyce Allen.

Chairman Bob Thompson called the meeting into public session at 4:03 PM.

### **1. Amend & approve minutes**

- a. Selectmen's Meeting – February 9, 2017 – **Selectman Bennett, seconded by Selectman Allen, made the motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.**
- b. Selectmen's Budget Hearing #2 – February 9, 2017 – **Selectman Allen, seconded by Selectman Bennett, made the motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **2. Update on 2.9.17 Action Items**

- a. No Action Items
- b. Upcoming Meetings-
  - Thursday Mar 9<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 PM – Selectmen's Meeting
  - Tuesday Mar 14<sup>th</sup> - 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM – Town Elections
  - Thursday Mar 16<sup>th</sup> – Town Meeting 7:00 PM
  - Thursday Mar 30<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 PM – Selectmen's Meeting
  - Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 PM – Selectmen's Meeting

### **3. Public Comments –No Public Comments**

### **4. Building Inspector**

- a. Weekly Report – Kevin Bennett

- b. The Nestlenook put a gate in down there and sometimes it's closed. Chief Jay knows that the code is 911. The Road is a Class 6 Road all the way up to the condos. The gate is about 50 feet in after the old pillars. There is an RSA that Class 6 Roads can't be locked to the public. He doesn't know if when the condos sell if they'll be trying to keep the gates closed more. A letter should be sent to them with the requirements. Buildings all have to be numbered properly too. Numbers have been assigned. Everything should be labeled. After 6 months they can be fined.
- c. Selectman Bennett had a request about the gazebo at Wentworth below the falls. It was built about seven years ago with no permit. Their deed requires their Board approval. Kevin will find out more information. It's complicated.

**5. New Business**

- a. Liquor License Requests – Thorn Hill Inn –Change of Managers – Just transferring the license to Steve Lambert. **Selectman Bennett, seconded by Selectman Allen, made the motion to approve the transfer. The motion passed unanimously.**

b. Request for Monthly Budget Status Updates made by George Howard:  
**Proposed Selectmen Board meeting standing agenda item**

The annual town budget is presented at Town meeting for the legislative body to approve, amend, or disapprove. Budget hearings are held in advance of the Town meeting to explain and clarify any and all budget items. Several questions, comments and amendments to the bottom line may be offered before the final approval of the budget. Since then little if any financial information is provided.

Budgetary/financial questions linger throughout the year Questions range from past to current to future budgetary/financial actions with answers general in nature with hard numbers or projections seldom provided.

I believe providing regular monthly updates on the Town's budgetary/financial status would be very helpful by keeping the legislative body informed thus reducing the ongoing lingering questions.

As a way to provide this update I suggest using the reporting capabilities of QuickBooks, currently used by the Town and reflected in the proposed 2017 budget. A couple formats are available.

Expended to date      %Of Approved Budget

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Approved Budget

OR

Expended to date---Approved Budget---%Of Approved Budget

I believe providing this financial data for each entity identified in the 2017 proposed operating budget would reduce the number of questions by the legislative body at scheduled Selectmen meetings. Additionally I believe it would give greater confidence in the Selectmen's management of the Towns finances and better prepare the Legislative body for rational discussions during the budget preparation cycle and enactment at Town meeting

Therefor I request the Selectmen provide the above data,(funds expended to date, % of approved budget and approved budget) at one of their monthly scheduled public meetings

George Howard

c. He'd like to see the budget produced and reviewed monthly. Selectman Bennett responded that this info is available to whoever requests it. Selectman Allen commented that it would be tedious and time consuming to cover this on a continuous monthly cycle. Selectman Thompson doesn't wish to diminish the board's efficiency by adding too many layers. If it's not broken what do we want to fix. Selectman Bennett doesn't mind physically posting it at the town hall and putting it on the E-News. He doesn't feel it needs to be addressed monthly at a town meeting. Selectman Allen agrees. It could be listed by department.

## **6. Old Business**

We have a line on a new backhoe. We'll seek more information.

## **7. Public Comment**

- a. George Howard wondered why Selectman Thompson and Allen Abstained from expressing their opinion on the Warrant Article pertaining to tax credit for vets. Selectman Thompson felt he didn't have enough time to study the issue to give an informed opinion. Selectman Allen said he was concerned with not knowing the dollar amount such a credit would represent. George felt that the deadlines for submission have to be moved if there isn't enough time to investigate the Articles. Selectman Bennett agrees with honoring the vets for their service. George talked about that fact that vets since the Gulf war don't always meet the current RSA and that this new article would correct that the situation. George wishes to have the language checked by the lawyers for legality. The Warrant Article will be on the ballot this election. The vote will tell us the mandate and will of the town. If the town approves it we will make the wording work.
- b. Joyce wondered what the cut off day for inclusion as a Town Warrant was. The response was the date was 60 days before the town meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:48 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Amiee Murphy  
Recording Secretary