

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting

February 19, 2013

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Board members present: Chairman LaCourse and Selectman Cedarholm.

Others present: Henry Brackett, Dwight Barney, Carole Dennis, Carl Piedmont, Roger Rice, Chet Murch, Town Administrator Julie Glover and Town Secretary Dawn Hayes.

1. Chairman LaCourse calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Chief Chet Murch requests approval to hire a new Police Officer (Mark Pierce). Chief Murch explains 70 applicants were reviewed over a three month period; 30 passed the physical exam and 7 finalists were selected for the Chief's interview. Chief Murch recommends Mark Pierce and states he is very personable and will be a great fit.

Chairman LaCourse motions to approve the recommendation of Chief Murch to hire Mark Pierce for the open patrolman's position. Selectman Cedarholm, seconds. **Motion Carries.**

Pierce is expected to start on March 4th and begin training at the Police Academy in June.

3. Selectman Cedarholm motions to approve the minutes of February 4, 2013. Chairman LaCourse, seconds. **Motion Carries.**
4. Chairman LaCourse opens the floor for Public Comment:

Candidate for Selectman, Carole Dennis addresses the Board regarding a Candidates Forum. Ms. Dennis states there are only 20 days left before voting day, there is no sense of urgency or emergency associated with the upcoming election. Ms. Dennis adds, it has always been incumbent upon a candidate to share their message with the voters prior to an election; there is a recognized responsibility between the voter and the candidate to educate one another. Ms. Dennis proposes this be a transition year: moving forward a committee of volunteers can methodically research and reach out to non-partisan organizations to bring an event forward for next year's election. Ms. Dennis cautions, that worthy causes cannot be achieved alone or left to only a few to decide on very important outcomes; with respectful forethought and long range planning we can maximize the opportunity for both the voter and the candidate. For these reasons, should an event unfold within the limited scope of time, Ms. Dennis will decline the invitation. Ms. Dennis adds that her professional obligation requires travel that schedule is required a minimum of 30 days in advance; travel is usually short in duration but Ms. Dennis is unable to be flexible in her travel arrangements. Should an event for next year come forward after more careful consideration, Ms. Dennis will advocate for a minimum of 30 days' notice and a much more efficient communication system for all voters and candidates to optimize participation.

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Candidate for At-Large School Board Member, Carl Piedmont introduces himself to the Board. Mr. Piedmont looks forward to the possibility of serving on the School Board; he does have children in the ORCSD and has a vested interest in making sure the school system is where it needs to be over the next few years. Mr. Piedmont states he was drawn to the area for the Oyster River School District.

Resident Dwight Barney, notes this is the first time Lee has had 3 candidates running for Selectman; occasionally there have been no candidates that officially ran. Mr. Barney states it is appropriate to set up something this year for the 3 candidates to allow the public to find out more about them. Mr. Barney asks, if the town wanted to do this, could the Town Moderator be an impartial individual to set this up and help run a question and answer period. Mr. Barney adds, if it is too late this year, something should be set up next year to allow people the opportunity to interview respective candidates.

Town Administrator Julie Glover advises she has polled the Municipal Managers Group regarding towns' participation in candidates' forums; who moderates, etc. Approximately 15 towns responded: all of them have a candidate's forum; none of them are moderated by Selectmen or town employees; many towns do use their school and/or their moderator for the event; some towns' events are organized by a community group or league of women voters; in one case they do have a resident who organizes and moderates such an event; most towns do record the event and stream it over their websites and/or their local access channel; in at least half of the towns polled: the town participates in the advertising of the event. Ms. Glover adds, it would be entirely common and appropriate for the town to use the Safety Complex for the event. Ms. Glover advises the Board, she had spoken to Attorney Fillmore at LGC; she agreed that many towns use their moderator as that person is generally considered neutral.

Chairman LaCourse requests each candidate write a statement of their position to be posted on the website and in the E-Crier. Chairman LaCourse further states, we will look further into the possibility of a candidates night, but this may a transition year to establish something more permanent to be set up in the future.

Mr. Barney states, it may be too late this year, but it is in the best interest of the public to meet the candidates before the election.

Candidate for Selectman, Henry Brackett speaks in favor of having a candidates' night this year; states three weeks is plenty of time to prepare. Mr. Brackett notes it is fair for all candidates to answer the same questions, so that the public knows their view points on different issues in town.

Chairman LaCourse discusses the options of written statements, prerecorded statement where candidates answer 5 questions from a moderator, or a formal candidate's night. Chairman LaCourse requests the Town Administrator make contact with all three candidates (two are present) to see if they will submit written statements; and consider answering questions that will be prerecorded.

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Selectman Cedarholm states he is in agreement with Mr. Brackett, there is enough time to put something together. Selectman Cedarholm notes, the position (Selectman) requires thinking on your feet; meeting twice per month (sometimes more); attending meetings of town committees and commissions; it is a huge commitment.

Ms. Dennis states, she feels strongly that this should have careful forethought; there is no emergency here; she meets all of her obligations both professionally and as part of the Agricultural Commission, she does not miss meetings; when she makes a commitment, she meets the obligation. Ms. Dennis states, she is rarely asked to do something like this - 18 days ahead of time; to not give this process a little more careful thought, would be unfair at this point. Ms. Dennis states she was not contacted until a very late date and happened to see the conversation on the February 4th recording (Selectmen's meeting). Ms. Dennis adds, she is not opposed to a 'coffee hour' as she is a candidate who prefers to look you in the eye, shake your hand and answer your questions.

Mr. Brackett states, this is a unique situation with 3 candidates; it would be for the good of the public to have all three candidates sitting down answering the same questions from an impartial moderator.

Chairman LaCourse thanks everyone for their input and advises that candidates that are not present, they will be contacted by the Town Administrator.

5. Chairman LaCourse motions to accept the Consent Agenda. Selectman Cedarholm, seconds. **Motion Carries.**
6. Chairman LaCourse requests the Town Administrator contact all three candidates to submit a written platform to be put on the website; ask if they would consider having a statement recorded. The Town Administrator advises, there is still the matter of who develops the questions and a moderator. Selectman Cedarholm suggests the audience could come up with questions (on an index card) and have the moderator choose the questions. Chairman LaCourse requests contacting (Town Moderator) Ms. Neill to discuss the possibility. Ms. Glover suggests choosing a date; opening the Safety Complex and asking the candidates to participate in a 'meet and greet'. Chairman LaCourse agrees. Chairman LaCourse states if all three candidates don't agree on a date, it won't happen.
7. Town Administrator Julie Glover advises the Board she has spoken to the Town Administrator in Newmarket regarding the matter of the Boundary marker; reminds the Board during the last discussion the Board voted not to spend money to pursue replacement of the marker (at this time). Ms. Glover notes the Town of Epping has turned that matter over to the county attorneys to see what their response is. Should the county attorneys agree that a crime has been committed, then there would be an opportunity for the Town of Lee to take action.

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Chairman LaCourse notes, since there is a pin in place marking the boundary, he would agree (not to pursue the matter at this time).

Selectman Cedarholm states, the matter of collecting the monument should be considered. Chairman LaCourse requests Ms. Glover contact the Road Agent regarding recovery and storage of the monument (at his convenience).

8. Town Administrator Julie Glover advises the Board there is still an outstanding request from the NE Coastal Baseball League for field rental at Little River Park (the matter was tabled at previous meeting). Ms. Glover submits a draft version of a Park Usage Policy for the Boards review. After the Board's review, the document will be forwarded to Police Department; Fire Department; Recreation Commission; the Oyster River Youth Association for their review.

Chairman LaCourse motions to approve the request by NE Coastal Baseball League to rent the field at Little River Park for \$850 for the 2013 season. Selectman Cedarholm, seconds. **Motion Carries.**

Chairman LaCourse states, the Park Policy will be developed by committee and report back to the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Cedarholm remarks that the policy should include all of the fields. Ms. Glover notes, there are many policy decisions that will need to be made in the development of the park policy.

9. Chairman LaCourse motions to accept the payroll expense for pay date February 22, 2013. Selectman Cedarholm, seconds. **Motion Carries.** Chairman LaCourse motions to accept Manifest #17. Selectman Cedarholm, seconds. **Motion Carries.**
10. Chairman LaCourse motions to enter into a Non Public Session at 6:38 pm, per RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Present in Non Public: Chairman LaCourse and Selectman Cedarholm. Chief Chet Murch joins Non Public at 6:50 pm; exits Non Public at 6:59 pm. Roger Rice and Julie Glover join Non Public at 7:00 pm; Roger Rice exits Non Public at 7:05 pm; Julie Glover exits Non Public at 7:07 pm. Chairman LaCourse motions to end Non Public ends at 7:15 pm. Selectman Cedarholm, seconds. **Motion Carries.** The minutes are sealed.
11. Selectman Cedarholm discusses a meeting with Mike Gamache and Nick Scuderi of the Oyster River Youth Association. They discussed the alternative arrangement of the fields at Little River Park; advised that for little league and softball tournaments the field must be fenced. Selectmen Cedarholm discussed the possibility of mobile fencing for the multiuse field. The discussion included use of the outfield (of the Babe Ruth field) for smaller kids (soccer). Concerns about drainage for the whole park were also discussed. Selectman Cedarholm states the warrant article for the \$80,000 grass field is being fully supported.
12. Town Administrator Julie Glover advises the Board that applications to commissions and committees will be brought forth for the Board's review at an upcoming meeting.

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Selectman Cedarholm inquires about applications for the building committee and who will be forming the committee.

Ms. Glover notes three have been submitted thus far; expects the Library trustees to be bringing their recommendations to the Board.

13. The Board discusses the Town's 250th celebration (the Heritage Commission has been charged with the plans). The Board expects it will include: fireworks, pig roast/chicken BBQ, a parade and possibly amusement rides.
14. The Board discusses the matter of Ms. Winona's concerns regarding 5 Mast Road and requests Code Enforcement Officer Allan Dennis (not present) prepare a chronological order of events pertaining to the property. Chairman LaCourse states, the Board has no change in their recent vote regarding the letter. Selectman Cedarholm states he would like to help facilitate a better relationship between the parties during the building process.
15. Chairman LaCourse motions to adjourn 7:32 pm. Selectman Cedarholm, seconds.
Motion Carries.

Minutes transcribed by:

Dawn Hayes, Town Secretary

Minutes accepted by:

Chairman, John R. LaCourse

David Cedarholm

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