

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2015 – 2PM

PRESENT: Chairman Lorn Buxton, Selectmen David McGuckin and William Stewart, Secretary Pamela Cullen

ATTENDANCE: Deb Knowles, Donald White, Stephen Tabbutt, Chris Pufhal, Mark Wooley, Christine Collins, Jenny Rosenson, Rodney Rowland, Gary Hildreth, Libby Moran

Chairman Buxton called the meeting to order at 2pm with three agenda items:

1. Deputy Public Affairs Officer Gary Hildreth, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard request - Hildreth came to the meeting to seek approval from the Select Board to have town of New Castle become a host community for the USS Providence (SSN 719). Hildreth explained how different communities in the seacoast host a submarine crew and their families during their submarine's duration at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. He gave a brief history of other towns that have hosted, and some of their activities that the crew were involved with. Rodney Rowland explained what some of the crew members participated in at Strawberry Banke. Jenny Rosenson suggested hosting a picnic for the town and crew. Hildreth mentioned the town might want the crew to mentor with the local school, give talks or help out with some function or occasion. There will be a kick off on December 15th at 3:30 at the Ship Tavern with a plaque hanging ceremony. The USS Providence will be at the naval yard for a nine month period and has a crew of approximately 150. The Select Board approved the Host community Program with the USS Providence. Hildreth said that he will provide flyers for the town, and will need a point person from the town to interface with the ship. (See Attachment)
2. Health Insurance options - Chairman Buxton explained the suit that broke up LGC and as a result the Health Trust now manages the town's health insurance for the employees. Those full time employees who have this insurance will now have some decisions to make on insurance coverage. Buxton said the current health plan will be eliminated and will need to make some decisions. Selectman Stewart explained that there were four options but have narrowed it down to a HMO and a POS. The POS is similar to the present plan with a network primarily in New Hampshire. The HMO has a larger network that includes Conn., Maine, RI and Vermont and one does not need a referral. Stewart then reviewed the costs for each plan which is deducted from the employees' paycheck once a month with the 90/10 staying in place for this upcoming year. The Health Trust needs to be informed of the decision by the end of the month. Stewart encourage the employees to review the two plans and information available through the Health Trust's website or to call the town's representative Peter Chapel. He asked them to provide any input they may have to the Board prior to it making a final decision on 11/30.
3. Outsourcing payroll – The Board discussed outsourcing the town's payroll and the pending contract with BMSI that offers a discount if signed by December 1st. The Select Board had previously interviewed ADP as a possible payroll vendor. The Board decided that they would interview another firm for consideration and discussed various available dates to meet.

There being no further items for discussion a motion was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:57pm