

New Durham Board of Selectmen Meeting
September 19, 2016
DRAFT
NEW DURHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
New Durham Town Hall
September 19, 2016, 7:00p.m.

DRAFT: These minutes are strictly a draft copy and are awaiting amendment or approval at a subsequent, duly noticed public meeting. Amendments to these minutes will be noted in the minutes of said meeting. The draft will be posted on the website as a draft copy for public informational use only.

Present

Chair David Bickford
Selectman David Swenson
Selectman Gregory Anthes

Also Present:

Scott Kinmond, Town Administrator
Mike Gelinas, Resident
Clayton Randall, resident

Call to Order

Chair Bickford called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

Appointments/Announcements

Mike Gelinas, Resident gave an update on the water testing on Town waterways. He stated testing was done on Downing Pond after the algae bloom and there doesn't appear to be any issues with septic's leaking into the pond. The inlet has the highest levels and there are high levels on the outlet near the hatchery. A letter has been sent to Fish and Game and the permit is due for renewal. Chair Bickford noted the water levels are being lowered. Mr. Gelinas noted the EPA and DES have been notified and a response received.

Public Input

Clayton Randall, resident, asked for an update on the legal proceedings of the Town and settlement. Mr. Randall asked about another lawsuit which was settled that came about in the last two weeks and for an update on that. He asked the Board of Selectmen to explain how comp pay is presented to the Highway Department and stated he thinks it's a loss of benefits for the employees of the Department. Town Administrator Kinmond replied the finalization documents for the lawsuit is a public document with the Town Clerk and contains all the costs and he expects any final statements to be received from the attorneys to be received by next week. Selectman Anthes stated counsel asked all parties to avoid speaking publically until completely settled and stated that at the next Board of Selectmen meeting he would explain his positions.

Department Reports/Issues

No department heads were requested to be present.

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Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Kinmond gave an update regarding the work by the Highway Department in preparation for paving and extensive drainage work has been done. Town Administrator Kinmond explained some of the areas planned and the schedule of work.

Town Administrator Kinmond stated the committee working on the ambulance replacement would like to make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen. A meeting time was discussed and agreed on Wednesday at 5:30pm at the Community Room.

Town Administrator Kinmond stated he expects to receive department budgets next Monday and is meeting with department heads to review before submission to the Board of Selectmen. A meeting was set for October 13 at 1:00pm for review by the Board of Selectmen. Additional dates were discussed for further sessions of budget reviews.

Town Administrator Kinmond stated draft of a subcontractor contractors for snowplowing work was submitted to Primex for reviewed. He presented a list of hourly rates for various pieces of equipment and stated there is not a lot of information available. He gave an overview of the process he is familiar with in working with subcontractors. Selectman Swenson noted there is no way to assess the value without a comparison to what they are paying now and is not in favor of signing this contract. Town Administrator Kinmond replied he has done a comparison and noted they would need to liquidate assets to show any type of balance or savings. Selectman Anthes stated the goal in blending this year is to save money and is in agreement with signing a contract. Town Administrator Kinmond noted the rates can be adjusted as needed.

Chair Bickford made a motion to approve the equipment lease and service contract as amended. Selectman Anthes seconded the motion. Discussion: Selectman Swenson stated that approving the contract as written is for rates more expensive then they currently pay; rates appear to be higher than state bid prices and it is a misuse of taxpayer funds. Chair Bickford stated it may be more expensive per hour but not over the course of the year, referring to the costs of equipment. Town Administrator Kinmond explained the summary of price and cost comparisons presented. **Motion passed, 2-1-0. Selectman Swenson opposed.** Selectman Swenson stated there is no long-term comparison and the Town is now set up to pay higher rates. Town Administrator Kinmond reiterated snowplowing is a risky business but this document will allow for them to get a contractor into to do the work if an employee is lost in the Highway Department. He stated he is not advocating moving in the direction of contract work but all the numbers have not been seen for that situation. He clarified the contract is not. Don Vachon stated he keeps track of snowstorms and will add his hours and continue to do so to provide Town Administrator Kinmond more data. There was further discussion of the costs and savings for different scenarios.

Fire Department Personnel Compensation Wage Schedule

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The positions, wages and pay grades were reviewed and discussed. Selectman Swenson stated there needs to be more financial comparison and noted there appears to be raises on top of positions in the Fire Department which were already adjusted a few months ago. Chair Bickford noted the police officers are the highest hourly and Selectman Anthes stated they aren't favoring one department over another and gave examples of the raises given.

Chair Bickford made a motion to adopt the Fire Department Personnel

Compensation Wage schedule. Selectman Anthes seconded the motion. Discussion:

Selectman Swenson stated they are again recklessly spending taxpayer money and hasn't seen anything from Fire Chief Varney. He noted all other raises were based on an independent analysis. **Motion passed 2-1-0. Selectman Swenson opposed.** Selectman Swenson clarified he's not opposed to increases for the Fire Department personnel but was opposed due to not sufficient data to support the increase.

Personnel Policy - Compensation Time

The removal of compensation time was reviewed and discussed. Overtime will be paid instead. Town Administrator Kinmond noted comp time can create difficulty in scheduling with small departments. Selectman Swenson noted there needs to be an effective date and a policy for those with existing comp time. Town Administrator Kinmond replied the hours would need to be used by November 1.

Chair Bickford made a motion to accept the changes to the Compensatory Time Policy which eliminates the provision to allow non except employees to earn compensatory time in lieu of overtime. Any employee who has compensation time on the books shall use the time by December 31, 2016, effective September 21, 2016. Selectman Anthes seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Tax-Deeded Properties

Chair Bickford noted they need to decide whether the waterfront properties will be included in the auction. Selectman Anthes suggested to refrain from selling properties on Merrymeeting Lake without a reserve and Chair Bickford stated he is not in favor of selling them at all.

Selectman Anthes made a motion to include Map 108, Lot 25 and 26 and Map 101, Lot -46 to be include in the auction with a reserve of \$80,000. Selectman Swenson seconded the motion for discussion. Discussion: Town Administrator Kinmond asked for clarification whether the reserve is per piece. Chair Bickford suggested a conservation easement. Selectman Swenson noted the properties would be nearly an acre total. **Motion passed, 2-1-0. Chair Bickford opposed.**

The auction contract was reviewed and discussed. Edits were made.

Information Technology Services RFP

Town Administrator Kinmond presented a staff report and cost comparison. He also gave his recommendation to continue with the current service providers, Spaulding Hill Networks.

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Selectman Swenson made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign a contract in the amount of \$20,700 with Spaulding Hill Network for the period of October 6, 2016 through December 31, 2017. Chair Bickford seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Approval of Minutes

There was discussion about making non-public meeting minutes available to the Board of Selectmen without having to have a scheduled meeting.

Chair Bickford made a motion to allow any member of the Board of Selectmen and the Town to review past confidential documents including nonpublic minutes.

Selectman Anthes seconded the motion. Discussion: Selectman Swenson stated he wants a legal opinion as to whether this is a blanket motion or whether a specific motion needs to be done. **Motion passed, 2-0-1. Selectman Swenson abstained.**

1772 Meetinghouse

Selectman Anthes stated he attended a committee and meeting and there was a consensus to have Steve Bedard take a look and provide costs, starting with the foundation and inside plaster. Selectman Anthes stated they can then begin looking for and writing grants.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Selectman Swenson noted the areas of concern previously discussed have been edited.

Chair Bickford made a motion to accept the Hazard Mitigation Plan of 2016 updated as written and pursuant to the certification of adoption into the record. Motion died for lack of second.

Selectman Swenson made a motion to approve the as follows: Certificate as follows: plans submitted to FEMA dated May 17, 2016, conditionally approved July 18, 2016, whereas the Town of New Durham authorizes the responsible agencies and or departments to execute the responsibilities demonstrated in the Plan and to receive funding from the New Hampshire Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management through the pre disaster mitigation grant program with assistance from the Strafford Regional Planning Committee in the preparation of New Durham Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan and whereas several public planning meetings were held between November 9, 2015 and March 28, 2016 regarding the review and development of the New Durham Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016, and whereas the New Durham Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016 contains several potential future projects to mitigate hazard damage in the Town of New Durham and whereas the respective officials indentified in the Plan are hereby directed to pursue ????????

And to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Town. Selectman Anthes seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

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Approval of Minutes

Postponed to the next meeting.

Chair Bickford made a motion to enter into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) – the dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee and (c)- matter which, if discussed in public would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself. Motion died for lack of second.

Chair Bickford made a motion to enter into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) – the dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee and (c)- matter which, if discussed in public would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself and (e)- Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing of filed against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Selectman Anthes seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Roll Call: Selectman Swenson – Aye; Selectman Anthes – Aye; Chair Bickford – Aye.

The Board entered into nonpublic session at 10:12p.m.

The Board reentered public session at 11:58 p.m.

Chairman Bickford made a motion to seal the non-public minutes due to adversely affecting the person's reputation. Selectman Anthes seconded the motion.

Roll Call vote:

Chairman Bickford Aye

Selectman Anthes Aye

Selectman Swenson Aye

Motion passed 3-0.

Chairman Bickford stated that from the nonpublic session the board wished to report and take the following actions:

1. Discussed Personnel matters, litigation and employees' wages.
2. Wage Adjustments: **Selectman Anthes made a motion to approve the Parks & Recreation Department wage adjustments of .25 per hour for the following seasonal and part time Staff: David Gray, Georgianna Nason, Alexis West and Shawna Glenney, effective 9/26/16. Chairman Bickford**

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Seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-1. Selectmen Swenson was opposed due to not sufficient data to support the increase.

Selectman Swenson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Anthes. The motion passed 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 a.m., (September 20, 2016)

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary
Scott Kinmond, Town Administrator

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