

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**  
**APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2008**

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Chairman Peter Rhoades called a public meeting to order at 7:06 PM in the upper conference room of the New Durham town hall located off Main Street.

**Present:**

Peter Rhoades, Chairman  
David Bickford, Selectman  
Ron Gehl, Selectman

**Others:**

April Whittaker, Town Administrator & Recorder

**Non Public Meeting with Chief Bernier**

Motion Rhoades, second Gehl to enter into Non Public Session under the terms and conditions of RSA 91-A: 3 II (c);

Roll Call: Rhoades ~ yes, Bickford ~ yes, and Gehl ~ yes.

The board returned to regular session at 9:00 PM ~ no decisions having been made which would require a vote or recommendation in public session.

The Board met with Interim Chief Nelson, Assistant Varney, Lt. Swett, Captain Davenport, Captain Smith and Lt. Ruel of the New Durham Fire Department.

**Proposed Fire Station Addition**

Deputy Chief Varney presented to the board a reworked diagram of the proposed addition to the Fire Station and outlined parking spaces. Note made that any impervious surface treatment would not be part of the building cycle for 2008.

General discussion ensued re quotes coming into the department for construction and the variations thereof.

**Fire Department Payroll Policy**

Chair Rhoades requested a definition of compensatable remuneration for training. Assistant Varney referred to the enclosed policy noting that training was only allocated funds for the Monday night 2-hour training sessions. He noted that certifications etc and re-certifications were completed on an individual's own time but that the town covered the actual costs of training for the certifications.

The board asked for clarification re the Chief and Officers' remuneration ~ could a maximum be set? How would controls be undertaken in the event of budgetary stress on the payroll line? General discussion ensued re the fact that the positions are now hourly positions versus stipends, and department of labor rules would apply for compensation for hourly positions. It was recognized that it would take a full calendar year to determine future budget figures but the department felt that they had exercised due diligence based on past history for number of emergency calls, work details, weekend trainings and the Monday night 2-hour training. However, they noted to the board that a quarterly review would be an expectation and if the payroll lines became strained then the officers would recommend a cut back on the training with the Board of Selectmen .

The board requested amendments to the draft payroll policy as follows:

- (i) Under Section 2 A place the word "***Paid*** Training will be provided on a regular basis on Monday nights."
- (ii) Add an addendum to the end of the document that the Board will conduct a quarterly review of the policy, and that it can be subject to change by the Fire Chief with Board of Selectmen approval.

Following the aforesaid reassurances,

**Motion Gehl, second Bickford, to approve the fiscal Fire Department Payroll Policy as amended, vote 3 - 0.**

Lt. Swett will forward the policy via e-mail to the town administrator to incorporate the board's amendments.

#### **Fire Truck Acquisition Proposal**

Lt. Swett clarified to the board per the enclosed listing of the mission needs for proposed truck acquisition (first section listing) noting that at this stage the winch has been deleted. And further noted that the second section of the sheet where denoted with check marks, were those items that would be included on the final pricing by Ferrara Trucks. He again reiterated that the first section "needs" are positive "must haves" and that the second section denotes what has been added by the truck committee for pricing purposes. Lt. Swett opined that the committee would negotiate with Ferrara for the winch inclusion should the board approve the acquisition.

Chair Rhoades asked why this particular truck falls dollar-wise substantially below the other Fire Truck manufacturers quotes. Lt. Swett advised that the model is a prior year model i.e. 2006 chassis, but that it is new. He also advised that while it is true that there are not a lot of Ferrara's in New England, the company see this sale as a marketing tool to break into the local area ~ note made that Farmington has a Ferrara Ladder Truck. Also note was made that the company had conducted bulk buying of 2006 chassis' thereby passing those bulk buying costs to the consumers.

Questions were raised re the fact that the truck was manufactured mainly for the southern states ~ could it conduct well given the steep slopes in the area? Captain Smith advised that the truck had been specifically specified for power rather than speed because of the steep slopes in the area and that assurances from the company had indicated good performance for the slopes in the area.

Chair Rhoades played devils advocate again and asked why purchase new over a used vehicle? Lt. Swett advised that with a new truck there would be an extended service life and 5-year warranty, and that in their review of the second hand market to get what the committee deemed as "must haves", would mean the acquisition of a truck a little older than they feel comfortable with at this stage. In fact it was noted that the only used truck that appeared to fit the needs of the department, was a 2003 E1 - Typhoon for \$199,000, and this apparently had already been sold. Under the warranty, repairs would be carried out by Ferrara or by Ferrara authorized mechanics. It was also indicated by the Town Mechanic that older models than noted may not be serviceable

All the officers at the table indicated their support of the proposed Ferrara acquisition. They supported the premise that the town has been given a unique set of economical circumstances that makes the Ferrara acquisition in the best interests of the town overall.

Mr. Bickford raised the question of formal bid process under the Town's Financial policy, and the fact the truck committee have asked this to be waived given the evidence before the board of informal bids solicited both used and new. Questions were posed as to any advantages in waiting six months for an even stronger economic down turn. Lt. Swett was very clear that it was his opinion that the "new" acquisition option would probably "go away" as the manufacturer only has two '06 chassis' left, and that the 2007 chassis' are priced considerable higher due to so-called clean gas burning technology. This would be beyond the monies raised by 2008 town meeting.

Mr. Bickford therefore raised the question again as to accountability for waiving the formal bid process, noting that he did view this as a special deal in light of it being a "left over". Mr. Gehl suggested that the board present the case at their regular scheduled business meeting of April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 at 8:00 PM ~ fellow selectmen concurred. The truck committee was requested to collate in a spreadsheet format all the companies and pricing(s) for the board's justification process ~ Mrs. Whittaker volunteered to prepare the spreadsheet if the FD would get the information to her.

### **Any Other Business**

Mr. Bickford raised the question of how to be more energy conscious re the town buildings and vehicles given the recent invoice payments for fuel and electricity. General discussion ensued about audits conducted by the electric companies, but with a cautionary note by Chair Rhoades re limited lumen output, and about having the Police Department conduct an audit re the street light situations. This discussion will continue to the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Also Mr. Gehl advised that he had met with Mark Fuller re the town's fuel pumps and discovered per DES regulations that if the piping is above ground then there is no need of double linings. He was hopeful of a much cheaper solution.

**Adjournment**

There being no further discussion;

**Motion Bickford, second Gehl to adjourn, vote 3 - 0.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM.

*Respectfully submitted*  
*April Whittaker, Town Administrator and Recorder*

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT PROPOSED TRUCK ACQUISITION**

### **Mission Needs (Priority)**

- 1250 Minute Pump
- 1000 water tank
- 330 HP or greater engine ( very steep slopes in town)
- Electric hose reel to hold 300 feet of 1 and 3/4 inch hose (Not plumbed)
- 5/6 Man cab
- Diesel generator of 10,000 KW
- On spot type drop down chains
- Air conditioning
- 9-1-1 Seats
- Foam System
- Compartment Space of 200 cubic feet or better
- Spare air bottles in wheel wells
- Electrical outlets on 3 sides of truck and charging capabilities in cab area for hand lights etc.
- Seat Belt extensions
- Winch of 9000 lbs preferably multi-point mounting (front mount is fine if multi point is not available.)

### **Add Ons**

- Roll Up doors
- Trash Line and storage connection front bumper 1 and 3/4 inches
- Mounting for 12' roof ladder and possible a 10' folding attic ladder (no other ladders needed on truck) or maybe you can show a cost difference with the normal hose of ladders that come with the truck to meet the NFPA criteria?
- Vertical and horizontal slide out trays for storage of hand tools and jaws (2 compartments)