

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2015 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

MEMBER'S PRESENT: Board Members Tim Copeland, David Canada and Bruno Federico and Town Administrator Paul Deschaine.

At 7:30 pm Mr. Copeland opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms. Bronson reported that the current balance was \$3,597,055.22.

John Minnick stated that he had not been informed that it was time to renew his car registration. He was surprised to learn notices were no longer sent by mail. He was further concerned that when he tried to register his car online through the town's website it only allowed for one check to be submitted as opposed to one for local fees and one for state fees. He continued that he thought the process was confusing and asked when these changes had been made. Mr. Copeland responded that the changes had been made a couple years ago. Mr. Minnick stated that he was concerned that elderly residents might not know about the change. Mr. Canada stated he thought they should put a notification in the tax bills at one last outreach to the public. It was agreed to do so. It was also noted that the one check policy is mandated by the State.

Mr. Deschaine stated that he had received the preliminary tax rates. He continued that the total came in at a 1.5% increase, with the town rate being a 12% increase. The Board discussed the issue in depth.

Mr. Canada moved to reduce the fund balance to 1.1 million dollars and reduce the overlay to \$90,000.00 Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico stated that he was concerned that the tax rate was too much and there might be a backlash from residents as they had promised tax cuts in the past. Mr. Canada responded that he agreed and it was something they needed to keep in mind for the future.

MEETINGS: The Chair then reviewed the meetings scheduled for the coming week and reviewed the meetings held this past week.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

The following Park permits and Municipal Center rentals were discussed, approved or acted upon:

Sanjay Iyer requested use of Meeting Room A for a birthday party on October 31st.

Pearl Lyman requested use of the Front Pavilion for a wedding on August 20, 2016.

John Sapienza requested use of the Morgera Room for the Fire Department Christmas Party on 12/4 and 12/5 and requested that the fee be waived.

Mr. Copeland moved to approve the request and waive the fee and alcohol provisions. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine noted that Mr. Daley had provided a redline version of the changes to the town planner position. The Board discussed the changes needed and the issues with the draft. Mr. Deschaine stated that he would advertise the position with the changes the following week.

Ms. Charbonneau indicated relative to the earlier issue with putting a notice of the vehicle registration changes in the tax bill that it would be very time consuming to add an additional insert to the bills. She suggested that the notification be put in the BOS newsletter or some other platform. Mr. Canada indicated that he thought this was important and they should add them in with the bills. He continued that he would help stuff envelopes.

Mr. Deschaine stated that there was an increase of 3.4% for health insurance renewals and asked if the Board wanted to renew it as is. He continued that he thought they should reconvene the Health Insurance Committee. Mr. Federico indicated that he agreed and they should bring back the committee after the April town meeting to consider any changes required by the Affordable Health Care Act and any other considerations deemed pertinent.

Mr. Copeland moved to renew the health insurance. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine noted that the Municipal Association Conference was coming up the next month and asked that anyone interested in attending contact him.

Mr. Deschaine stated that he had received Bob Goodrich's resignation from the Rockingham Planning Commission. The resignation was accepted with regrets.

At 8:48 Mr. Federico moved to go into a non-public session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:15 Mr. Federico moved to come out of non-public. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada noted that he had an issue with a Library promotion for Sweet Grass Farms who he felt was getting free advertising and provided sales space via the Library fundraiser. He continued that he did not think that any advertisement that promoted a private enterprise should be allowed. He continued he would like to speak with the Library Trustees about the issue.

Mr. Canada stated that some residents had asked if having a full time town planner was necessary. The Board discussed the question and unanimously agreed that it was.

At 9:35 P.M. Mr. Federico moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Rodier
Recording Secretary