

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2015 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

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

Mr. Copeland noted that the Board had been in a non-public session regarding a personnel issue. Mr. Copeland had moved to go into the non-public session at 6:33 PM, seconded by Mr. Canada and passed unanimously. Mr. Copeland had moved to come out of the non-public session at 7:45 PM, seconded by Mr. Canada, which passed unanimously.

At 7:52 pm Mr. Copeland reconvened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms. Bronson reported that the current balance was \$10,018,195.38.

Angela Lafave stated that during the last election, her daughter had submitted an absentee ballot but her vote was not counted because it was received late. She continued that her daughter lived overseas and wanted to make sure her vote counted in the upcoming election. Mr. Copeland responded that the ballot needed to be received by the town by the deadline, and that the town was powerless to do anything because it was a federal law.

POLICE:

Chief Scippa asked permission to allow the Police Department to raise the current detail rate starting January 1st. He continued that the current rate was \$40 per hour. With some officers this does not equal the overtime rate established by law. Chief Scippa stated that he felt they needed to increase the rate to be compliant with labor laws but would still be competitive with other towns at a higher rate.

Mr. Copeland moved to increase the detail rate to \$50 per hour effective January 1st. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chief Scippa stated relative to the vacation buyouts discussed at the last meeting, that Sgt. Pierce had worked very hard this past year yet was unable to take all the vacation time allotted him. Mr. Canada asked if the vacation time was monitored to ensure the time was taken. Chief Scippa responded that it was, and they would sit down next year to come up with a more proactive plan to ensure this did not happen again.

Mr. Copeland moved to buyout 118 vacation hours of Sgt. Pierce and 104 hours for Chief Scippa. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FIRE:

Chief Cook presented his reports on incidents for 2015. He continued they had received 637 calls so far this year. Mr. Canada stated he would like a detailed report on the type of incidents the department had responded to.

Chief Cook asked permission to spend \$1200 for new hose.

Mr. Copeland moved to allow Chief Cook to expend \$1200 on new hose. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chief Cook indicated that his gear was going to expire the following year and would like permission to spend up to \$4,000 on new gear. He continued that included would also be replacement gloves and hoods for other employees.

Mr. Copeland moved to allow Chief Cook to expend \$4,000 on new gear. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Copeland asked the Chief about the vehicles assigned including the ambulances and their operating condition. Chief Cook indicated that everything was running well with no problems.

Chief Cook stated that a few new firefighters had joined the department and they were doing well with membership.

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

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine indicated that recently it was discovered that there was a miscount of recycling bins and they had a lot less than they had thought and they anticipated running out by the end of the year. He continued that he had not budgeted for this but they could order them now and pay for them in January during the next fiscal year. Mr. Deschaine stated that 400 bins would be at a cost of \$3800.

Mr. Canada moved to allow Mr. Deschaine to order 400 recycling bins to be pay for in January. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated he had received notice from HealthTrust that the IRS would allow 2 optional changes to our Section 125 plan that allows employees to pay for their portion of the health insurance premiums on a pretax basis. They were informing us of the possibility of adding two additional "Qualifying Events" to opt out or in of town's health insurance plan outside of the normal open enrollment period. He continued they did not need to be included in our Section 125 plan, but thought they were practical options given the new Affordable Care Act provisions.

Mr. Federico moved to not adopt the additional opt out or in options. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine gave an update on the Town Center project.

Mr. Deschaine noted he had received a response from DES relative to the Zarnowski easement. He continued he was looking for the Board's response. Mr. Canada indicated that he was upset because the town had not gotten their input to DES recognized because the final draft was not given to the Selectmen until the last minute. Consequently, the Selectmen had no input in the terms.

Mr. Canada moved to approve the easement as drafted. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated that they had received a raffle permit from the SPCA for December 12th and that it was not received in time for last week's meeting.

Mr. Canada moved to deny the raffle permit because it was not received in a timely manner. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to accept Chris Merrick's resignation from the Planning Board. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:11 Mr. Canada moved to go into nonpublic to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:55 Mr. Federico moved to come out of nonpublic. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to appoint Lee Paladino to the Planning Board. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:57 P.M. Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Rodier
Recording Secretary