

January 3, 2005

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
JANUARY 3, 2005**

Present: Arnold Wilson, Chairman
Charles Blanchard
Doris Sosik
Hal White
Greg Morse, Acting Town Administrator

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of December 20, 2004 as submitted, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To approve the executive session minutes of December 20, 2004 as amended, to remain confidential, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Department Head Monthly Reports

Greg Morse, DPW Director, read his report to the Board (copy on file). They took care of a drainage problem on Fiske Hill Road at the Route 131 end. The sludge hauling operation is going well. A few hydrants have been replaced.

Paul Donahue, Veolia Water North America, read his report to the Board (copy on file). He noted that there was a 10% drop in the flow average from November. They performed the annual service on generators. The water hydrants have been winterized.

A. Wilson requested rain fall statistics for the last few years. He asked about the problem with the force main at Hobbs Brook. G. Morse said that the plug pressurizes, then blows out. He said that some pipe work had been done, resulting in some squashed areas; the piping has been cut and changed to correct the problem.

C. Blanchard asked about the water main break at St. Anne's. P. Donahue said that the contractor hit the line; the parts will be replaced.

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Fire Chief Leonard Senecal read his report to the Board (copy on file). He said that there was another accident with the ambulance, which took place on December 22, 2004 on the Mass. Pike service vehicle access ramp, resulting in a lot of damage to the vehicle. An ambulance has been borrowed from Southbridge for backup. Chief Senecal is waiting for the State Police report on the accident, and the insurance adjuster has not yet come out to review the damage. He noted that the 1994 ambulance has been breaking down constantly, so two ambulances must be replaced.

Chief Senecal interviewed six people for EMT/call firefighter positions, will discuss the matter with J. Malloy, then present the applicants to the Board at the next meeting.

C. Blanchard asked about the erroneous alarms on the incident log, and noted that several were repeat incidents. Chief Senecal said that when the Police Department goes out on that sort of call, they charge for the alarm, so the Fire Department cannot charge because of the double billing issue. C. Blanchard said that the matter should be looked into further.

Lola's Place – Common Victualler License

Georgios Pirpiris appeared before the Board. He said that the restaurant has a total of 45 seats, and he has filed the necessary paperwork with the Building Inspector. He noted that the Building Inspector and Fire Inspector have signed off on it. H. White checked with the Board of Health, and they will follow up on it.

MOTION: To issue a Common Victualler license for Lola's Place, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Class II Used Car Licensees

J. Malloy had drafted a letter for the Class II Used Car Dealers, and submitted it for the Board's review. H. White submitted his comments.

Cremation Area – North Cemetery

J. Malloy submitted to the Board the Veterans Agent's response (copy on file) to the proposal to set aside an area on the hillside behind the flagpole for cremains. It was the consensus of the Board that there should be a written policy, a map defining the area and a fee schedule.

Fiske Hill Commons

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J. Malloy and G. Morse had discussed the proposal presented by Mike Loin, and Mr. Malloy forwarded the issues to Dan Flynn, developer of the project. There should be a more defined proposal submitted in the next few weeks.

Big Alum Sewer Project

Tighe & Bond had submitted a request for additional compensation on the Big Alum Sewer Project (copy on file).

MOTION: To authorize the increase of the engineering fee for the Big Alum Sewer Project by \$5,900, to \$62,500 for construction administration, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

Budget Meeting

It was the consensus of the Board to have a Saturday Budget Meeting with the Finance Committee and department heads on January 22, 2005.

IOD Claims

MOTION: To classify injuries sustained by Matthew Kelly and Matthew Roderick as Injuries on Duty, by H. White.
2nd: C. Blanchard
Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To classify injuries sustained by Daniel Menzone as Injuries on Duty, by H. White.
2nd: C. Blanchard
Vote: All in favor.

Old Business

H. White asked that J. Malloy be reminded about the votes taken by Tantasqua towns in 2000 regarding the vote to maintain the contract from the 1950's.

New Business

A.Wilson reminded the Board about the merit incentive as budgeted for the Town Administrator.

MOTION: That the Town Administrator is worthy of 100% of the merit figure, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

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A. Wilson said that he, Larry Adams, Town Planner and J. Malloy had received a letter from James McDonald of Konover Development Corporation (copy on file) relative to the rezoning of 37 acres on Route 20 at Route 49 as to why it should be supported.

Ask the Selectmen

H. White received a call from Ginger Peabody, who said that she was under the impression that Charter Communications would accept a request from the Board of Selectmen to include a discount for senior citizens. H. White noted that cable rates have gone up considerably, and the Board should respond to it.

MOTION: To adjourn, by H. White.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date