

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, Sherry Berger. Also in attendance were; Member, Richard Desjardins ; Member, Al Holman; and Asst. Public Health Supervisor, Diane Tiernan.

Richard Robinson was also present.

**Motion one** – Richard made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from 2/19/13. Al seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as written.

7:05 p.m., Selectmen, Ken Picard arrived.

Vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Sherry asked about the budget for the Animal control officer and dog officer. The salary for both positions appear to be paid through the BOH budget. Since the Dog Officer is under the direction of the Selectmen, Sherry wanted to know why the Selectmen don't pay for part of her salary.

Sherry asked Selectmen, Picard if he could offer an answer to this. Ken stated he knows the budget was discussed at the Fin. Com. meeting last evening, but suggested we seek an answer from the town manager, Blythe Robinson to that question. He is aware of money put aside if we ever need a kennel, but he is unsure of the salary. Diane will contact Blythe for more information.

7:16 p.m., Selectmen Picard thanked the Board for meeting with him and stated he wished to discuss a future change they would like to input with all non-union personnel. There is a concern right now with employees who are working for more than one Board and have need of signatures for their time sheets, vouchers, benefits, etc. To improve this situation the Selectmen would like to transition all non-union staff to report to the town manager for administration purposes. All employees will still work for and be directed by their Board members, but the administration would come from the town manager. This would also ensure that employees are working their hours, no one is working more than they should be or less. Ken stated they are not looking to do this right now, but he is going to all Boards to give them a heads up.

Richard stated as a former Selectman, they dealt with this issue in 1984, and discussed it with town counsel. Council gave us their recommendation which was; the Selectmen were responsible and in charge of all employees in the town including all elected boards and their employees. You received another opinion from the current counsel.

Al stated that all town employees must follow the rules of the personnel bylaws. The authority that the BOH has comes from the state of MA, not Upton. Al stated his opinion is the individual Boards approve of the vacation time and how it's accrued is a personnel issue.

Ken stated by having all non-union employees fall under the town manager it would ensure all the administrative details are performed properly. Don't want to take anything away from the Board as far

as duties. We would create a general bylaw so it's very clear. Al stated he would have to read this new proposal as it's written before he could agree to anything. Ken stated he understands, he is just looking for feedback right now. Sherry stated it makes sense to her to have one person overseeing the staff, rather than all the Boards trying to do the best they can, it would be run more like a business.

Board had a brief discussion with Ken about the proposed nuisance bylaw. Al stated he is not in favor of passing the bylaw. There are already laws in place to enforce public health and safety.

Richard Robinson stated there are two different sections to this proposal, health safety and nuisance. A decision to accept and deny the new regulations should be based on how it affects the public, not who will enforce it.

Richard and Sherry stated they needed more time to review the regulations as proposed. They will get back to Diane later in the week with their feedback.

7:43 Selectmen Picard thanked the Board and left.

Housing complaints were reviewed for; 30 old Grafton Road, 230 North Street, 149 Main Street, and 24 B Hartford Avenue. Agent, Trish Parent has sent orders to repair or vacate as required.

Board discussed the adjustments made to the railroad tower which was thought to help lower the noise level of the pellet plant. Due to inclement weather Richard was not able to take any noise measurements, but he did go down to area and thought the plant was much quieter to the human ear. He will attempt to take sound readings within the next week. Diane was asked to send the management of the pellet operation a letter to see what has progressed.

**Motion two** - Sherry made a motion to adjourn, and Al Seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Tiernan, Asst. Public Health Supervisor