

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2018

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, March 26, 2018 started at 6:30 p.m. Vice-Chairman Hatch opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. New Selectman Tracy Hardekopf introduced herself.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN – Selectman Hatch stated that she did not want to be Chairman. Selectman Bailey noted that he is interested in being Chairman. Selectman Knapp stated that he would also be interested. Selectman Bailey moved to support Dawn Hatch as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Selectman Hatch abstained from the vote. Selectman Ayer asked that each candidate speak. Selectman Knapp stated that he reads everything that comes through, takes pride in doing his homework and works well with everyone. Selectman Bailey stated that he has been around awhile, he reads all of the information and investigates before making a decision. Selectman Hardekopf asked how long Selectman Bailey and Selectman Knapp had lived in town. Selectman Bailey had been here 20 years and Selectman Knapp three years. Vice Chairman asked for votes – Hardekopf – Bailey (because of his history), Selectman Knapp – abstained, Selectman Bailey – Bailey, Selectman Hatch – Bailey, Selectman Ayer – Bailey. Selectman Bailey is the new Chairman.

The public hearing on the issuance of a building permit for Isaacs Turn – a private road - Map 206 Lot 0011 – Bruce and Ann Atwood opened at 6:40 p.m. The property owners would like to build a single family dwelling. Peter Cook has viewed the road and noted that it is between 12' and 18' in width and has a soft base. Currently it shows of "mud season". He would like to see the road graded after construction from Ayers Cove Drive to the property owner's driveway. The issue came before the Planning Board and they mentioned that the variable width of the road does not comply with the Class VI/Private Road Policy. However, they knew of no pending projects or conditions that would hinder the issuance of a building permit. Peter Cook stated that he is not sure of the right of way width. There was discussion of exact location of the property. Chief Walker stated that the road is well taken care of. There are already homes on Isaacs Turn. Selectman Ayer questioned the width of the road. Chairman Bailey asked if there were any public comments. Marcia Gasses stated that last year the Board of Selectmen had authorized a building permit to be issued on the abutting property. Selectman Ayer moved to approve the building permit per the conditions that Peter Cook indicated and recommended joining the road association, seconded by Selectman Hardekopf. Selectman Knapp asked about the shared driveway. John Huckins stated that all necessary permits are in place. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. The public hearing closed at 6:50 p.m.

## APPOINTMENTS

Introduction of new Library Director, Melissa Huette – Sam Boduch introduced Melissa Huette noting that Mrs. Huette has deep rooted connections with libraries and a passion for life-long learning and she hopes to bring the community together. Mrs. Huette stated that she looks forward to working with everyone and being a part of the community.

Chief Williams – Space Analysis – Public Safety Building - This has been an ongoing matter. In order to move forward, it was recommended to do a space analysis. He wants the Board's support to move forward. Chief Williams would like to keep police and fire under one roof. Selectman Ayer has concerns with the septic size. Selectman Knapp asked what this would entail – start with setting up a committee, reviewing square footage space needs. There is no right or wrong way to proceed as there is no standard. He will be looking at other police departments and reviewing guidelines. Selectman Knapp would like to see a needs assessment and then a space assessment. Chief Williams and his staff presented what they thought was necessary last fall and noted the department's deficiencies. There are soft quotes available. Selectman Knapp wants it documented well with all costs. Selectman Hardekopf asked about a training room – they would like to share space with the Fire Department. He has viewed some local Police Departments to see their new facilities. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed.

Peter Cook – Highway Department Issues/Personnel – Peter Cook welcomed Selectman Hardekopf. Peter Cook noted that he has a lot to say. He has been chasing a lot of things for singular selectmen and he feels these requests should be Board decisions. Selectman Hardekopf feels that the department head should run their department and the Board of Selectmen should listen. Selectman Ayer stated that information had been requested and he had not received the information. Administrator Scruton noted that all requests should go through his office and he would work with the department heads. Administrator Scruton reminded the Selectmen that they have to be careful not to exceed their authority as a Selectman has no authority to act individually. The Board has to act at a legally convened meeting.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Chief Walker wanted to piggy back on requests from individual Selectmen. Some are easy to answer but some requests may take four or five hours. He feels a big request like that would need a formal Board vote. Administrator Scruton noted that there is

an issue when discussing information outside of a public meeting with other Selectmen.

Everything should pass through Administrator Scruton and he would notify all five of the Board members.

Michael Hastings – Mr. Hastings noted that he has worked with many highway departments in his profession and this town is very fortunate to have the Highway Department that it does. Barrington has a very small Highway Department and it is very cost efficient. Mr. Hastings further stated that if he had to rate the highway department between 1- 10, he would give it a 13. He noted that he doesn't always agree with all the decisions but supports the department.

Douglas Hatch stated that his family plows for the town and the roads are very well maintained. He also works with several other departments and complimented our Highway Department

Casey O'Brien congratulated Selectman Hardekopf. Mr. O'Brien stated that he is upset about the criticism he is hearing out in the town about the Highway Department and accusation that when he was on the Board he protected the Department. It is very frustrating. He also would like to know the Board's goals for this coming year.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES – March 12, 2018 – Selectman Hatch moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

#### STAFF REPORT

1. Bids for public safety boiler - two bids were received – Moose Harte's Heating and A/C LLC - \$51,780 no bid check was included, K-Cob Plumbing and Heating LLC - \$42,100 with a bid check. It was recommended to have Paul Sanders review with the engineer and make a recommendation.
2. Peter Cook recommends that the Board accept the bid from Granite Ford and bid from HP Fairfield for set-ups. They have had good experience from HP Fairfield. The total amount would be \$98,151. Selectman Hardekopf moved to support Peter Cook's request, seconded by Chairman Bailey. Selectman Ayer stated that he talked with Administrator Scruton before the bids went out and gave him some material to review. Selectman Ayer called other companies to find out why they did not bid. Some companies don't bid towns and one other

company did contact Peter Cook. Selectman Knapp noted that he had the same concern as to why companies don't want to bid in Barrington.

Administrator Scruton suspected it was because of the Board rejecting bids and not following through. Peter Cook explained the bid process that he follows including advertising in the newspaper. Selectman Ayer stated that he had four quotes that had a \$9,000 difference than what Mr. Cook is recommending. Selectman Ayer obtained quotes as an individual outside the bid practice or procedure previously set forth by the Board and after Mr. Cook had been directed to make a recommendation. Selectman Hardekopf noted that rescinding the bid does not encourage companies to bid. It takes a long time to write-up a bid. From this point on, all bids from all departments will be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen before they are sent out. It was determined the difference in the one quote Selectman Ayer had and the bid was much less than stated and under 10%. Chairman Bailey asked for a roll call on Mr. Cook's recommendation, Ayer – nay, Bailey – aye, Knapp – nay, Hardekopf – aye, Hatch – abstained. The motion fails. Selectman Knapp moved to accept the set-up bid from HP Fairfield, seconded by Selectman Ayer. The motion passes. Selectman Knapp moved to have Mr. Cook talk with difference garages for quotes, seconded by Selectman Ayer. Hardekopf – nay, Knapp – aye, Hatch – bidding is the way to go – abstain. Bailey – nay, Ayer – aye. The motion fails. Selectman Knapp suggested tabling the issue until the next meeting. Selectman Hatch feels that Mr. Cook did what he was asked to do. Selectman Hatch moved to honor the bid process that Mr. Cook did in good faith of \$49,999 (less than 10% difference from Selectman Ayer's quotes – not \$9,000), if the truck dealerships didn't follow through it is not a fault of the department head, The money for this purchase is through State funding.

3. Selectman Hardekopf moved to implement the budgeted salary adjustments of 1% COLA and steps for those qualified to receive them, seconded by Selectman Knapp. Selectman Ayer – nay. The motion passes.
4. Selectman Hardekopf moved to re-nominate John Wallace to the Local River Management Advisory Committee, seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
5. Various residents had completed appointment requests for the Town Lands Committee. Clerk McNeil read the appointment requests. Selectman Ayer does not support Charles Tatham and Anne Melvin. Selectman Hatch feels we should support anyone who volunteers and puts the years in that these two individuals have. Selectman Hatch moved to approve all eight and have five members and the rest alternates and to let the committee decide, seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
6. The Board approved the proposed Selectmen meeting schedule through the end of the year.

7. Administrator Scruton viewed a webinar on social media and public employees, he can share a link if anyone is interested.

Clerk McNeil

Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: Intent to Cut Applications (2), one denial of a blind exemption because applicant was not a resident of Barrington, Oath of Office for Library Trustees, ZBA and Conservation Commission, payroll manifest dated 3/18/2018 and vendor manifest dated 3/21/2018.

## OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Bailey would like all requests for agenda items are in on Tuesday by the end of day. He will then discuss the proposed agenda with Clerk McNeil and Administrator Scruton. Also, Goals will be added under New Business - review of goals from 2016 that are outstanding and goals for 2018.

## NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Bailey stated that he was disappointed that KENO was voted down in Barrington.

Selectman Knapp thanked all who ran for elected positions and noted that it is a true time commitment.

## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Ayer attended a Conservation Commission meeting and a Planning Board meeting.

Selectman Hatch attended a ZBA meeting where one variance was approved.

Selectman Knapp noted that he was unable to attend the last School Board meeting.

Selectman Hardekopf thanked the Fire Department for their pancake breakfast.

Chairman Bailey noted the Easter events at the library including the Easter egg hunt on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Chairman Bailey also congratulated Barrington resident, Meri Schmalz, coordinator for Ready Rides, who was recently chosen by WZID as one of the 20 Outstanding Women of NH.

The Board did the following committee/board appoints for individual Selectmen: Ayer – Conservation Commission and Town Lands Committee, Bailey – Library and the ABC, Knapp – Planning Board, Hatch – ZBA, Hardekopf – Recreation.

Selectman Hardekopf noted that here daughter works for the Recreation Department in their summer program. The Board did not have any problem with that.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Hastings – he wanted to discuss the recent election – failure of voters to appropriate money towards a new town office. He feels that the ABB (Advocates for a Better Barrington) paperwork may have undermined the intention of the Board of Selectmen. The town needs positive editorializing. Mr. Hastings asked if the town had thought of developing a plan for town construction/upgrades to town buildings so the taxpayers would be aware of major construction projects.

Sam Boduch – Noting the Board’s proposed once a month meetings in the summer, he feels that the Board should reconsider because of their workload. Mr. Boduch also thanked everyone who attended the “Passing of the Torch” with the introduction of the new Library Director, Melissa Huetten. The Friends plant sale will be on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Steve Saunders – Mr. Saunders felt strongly that the Board should have a liaison to the school board – the Board needs a representative as a big percentage of the tax rate is the school district.

Casey O’Brien would like an update on progress with Hard Rock – Administrator Scruton will update.

Marcia Gasses stated that the economic development chapter sub-committee of the Master Plan Committee will review the first draft on Tuesday.

Tara Barker announced that there will be a strategic planning kick-off meeting which will include a community forum by Green Play. Playground bids have been received and they range from \$144,000 - \$159,000. There will be a recommendation shortly.

Peter Cook stated that he kept his promise to four people tonight and thanked the department’s heads for their support.

Chief Walker thanked everyone who attended the pancake breakfast and they served just fewer than 800 plates of pancakes. The money will go towards rescue equipment. Update with a new ambulance – current ambulance going to be worked on tomorrow. He has been looking only at demo ambulances at a cost of about \$180,000. He was looking for guidance from the board to either go out to bid for new or go with a

demo ambulance. He would like an answer for the next meeting. The current ambulance is 9 years old with 90,000 miles and in the garage again for repairs. He cautioned the Board not to get involved with micro managing the bid process – as an example, he knows what he would like to see in a fire truck but he would have no idea for specifications for a playground.

Chief Walker stated that he has the opportunity to purchase a Striker power stretcher for \$14,250. The money would come out of the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve account. There is only one other company that he knows of that sells power stretchers. Selectman Knapp moved to authorize Chief Walker to move forward with the purchase of the Stiker power stretcher and take the money for the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, seconded by Selectman Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

The Fire Department has received a donation of a house to do a training burn on Route 202/9. There are a lot of moving parts to prepare for this training so it may not happen. Selectman Ayer moved to support the donation of a house for a training burn, seconded by Selectman Hardekopf. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative

Ron St. noted that there should be more people attending the School Board meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.