

SELECT BOARD MINUTES MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019

The Select Board meeting for Monday, February 25, 2019 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectperson Ayer, Selectperson Hardekopf, Selectperson Knapp, Chairperson Bailey, Administrator Scruton, Deputy Town Administrator Conner MacIver and Clerk McNeil. Selectperson Hatch was absent.

Chairperson Bailey welcomed everyone, noted his rules of order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Bailey opened the public hearing on the sale of town owned land on Redemption Way per RSA 41:14a at 6:33 p.m. Selectperson Knapp stepped down from the Board. Turbocam currently has a large building on Redemption Way. The town owns four lots on Redemption Way across from the Turbocam building. Turbocam would like to purchase two lots and put up a 32,000 square foot building. There was no public comment. Selectperson Ayer would like to see the conceptual drawings before he votes to sell the land as those parcels of land could be hard to develop. The lots would be combined, there will be a development agreement and Turbocam would have to go before the Planning Board. Selectperson Hardekopf asked if any other businesses had approached the town for these lots – they have not. This is the first of two public hearings. We are just starting to gather information at this point. The next public hearing will be on March 25th. Chief Walker stated that he has worked with Turbocam on both of their projects. They are easy to work with and complied with what he recommended. This location is also a benefit for them being close to the fire station. The public hearing closed at 6:43 p.m.

Chairperson Bailey opened the public hearing on the vote for KENO at 6:44 p.m. A portion of the proceeds are used to fund full day kindergarten through the State. Selectperson Ayer noted that there are a lot of mixed feelings in the community about this. There was no public comment. The public hearing closed at 6:46 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

Chief Williams introduced Amanda Barber who was promoted to Sergeant. He noted that she has been a police officer for five years, working in Barrington for three of those years. She holds a bachelor's degree, is the lead instructor for "active threats" and the town's laser instructor. He administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Barber. Ms. Barber thanked her family for their support.

Phil Auger from SELT presented the Stonehouse Forest Recreation Plan. They are currently working on a Forest Management Plan. Selectperson Hardekopf would like to know what is limited under the new plan - motorized vehicles are limited – not snow machines. No camping or campfires – no night time use of the property. They do not allow trapping. Hunting and fishing are allowed, along with passive recreation. The recreation plan is a stand alone plan

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that will be integrated in the forest management plan. This plan has been approved by Fish and Game. Including in the plan will be two parking areas and there will be a total of almost 12 miles of trails. The Board would like to see the plan changed to note Marsh Road as a town class VI road. The changes will be made and reviewed. The Board approved Chairperson Bailey to sign the plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Leigh Elliott, Library Trustee, is requesting permission from the Board to put up a sign on the location of the proposed library. Selectperson Hardekopf moved to give permission to the Trustees to place their sign, seconded by Chairperson Bailey. The motion carries. The road agent would be putting up the sign. Selectperson Knapp felt that this is misuse and abuse of Highway Department's time. The town sign for the location of the proposed town office will be placed on Route 125. Rebecca Butcher asked if the sign could be placed in an hour's time could the road agent put up the sign. Selectperson Hardekopf has no objection to having the road agent fix and place this sign, seconded by Chairperson Bailey. Chairperson Bailey asked for a roll call, Ayer – nay, Hardekopf – aye, Knapp – nay, Bailey – aye. It is a tie vote the motion does not carry. Selectperson Knapp will volunteer his time to put up their sign up. Leigh Elliott asked if Peter Cook would be working on the town hall sign – the answer was yes. Selectperson Knapp was willing to help erect that sign. (another vote on this later in the meeting)

Chief Walker representing the Firemen's Assoc. asked the Board's permission to hold their pancake breakfast on March 23rd and 24th. Selectperson Knapp moved to support Chief Walker's request, seconded by Selectperson Ayer. The motion carries. Chief Walker also noted that the Firemen's Assoc. currently sponsors an Explorer Post along with Boy Scout Troop #385 and now will be sponsoring the girls for the Boy Scout Troop.

Peter Cook noted that he has already made frames for the signs and all they need are to be put up. Deputy Town Administrator MacIver had already talked with Mr. Cook about his workload and placing the signs. Selectperson Hardekopf moved to authorize Peter Cook to put up both signs, seconded by Chairperson Bailey. Chairperson Bailey asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Hardekopf – aye, Knapp – nay, Bailey – aye. The motion passes.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – February 11, 2019 – They will be reviewed at the next meeting.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. Selectperson Knapp moved to accept and expend an additional \$29,988 which will be added to \$220,000 of Federal money for a mutual aid 'air recharge/staff recharge' vehicle for a total cost of \$249,998, seconded by Selectperson Hardekopf. The motion carries.
2. The Board has had two public hearings for the purchase of a small piece of property for a turn around on Wildcat Road. The town received no petitions. Selectperson Knapp

moved to purchase a turn around with a price not to exceed \$10,000, seconded by Selectperson Hardekopf. The motion carries.

3. Administrator Scruton asked the Board if they would approve the Fire Department Staff Classification as the State has authorized payment once a month. Selectperson Hardekopf asked if there was a chance of raising the stipend to \$16.25. She sees the need to still compensate the “volunteers”. This would avoid taking on additional “employees”. Selectperson Ayer moved table this issue until Selectperson Hatch is back, seconded by Chairperson Bailey. Chairperson Bailey asked for a roll call, Ayer – nay, Hardekopf – aye, Knapp – nay, Bailey – aye. It is a tie vote the motion does not carry. Chief Walker feels that there should be categories based on certification for pay grade. Selectperson Hardekopf noted her objection to taking on 42 employees. Selectperson Hardekopf moved to change the amount of compensation to \$16.25, seconded by Chairperson Bailey. DTM MacIver noted that the average was about \$16.27 for all volunteer call hours. Chief Walker would like to offer an officer deferential. The “employees” would be paid once a month. The issue will be continued at the next meeting to allow for several questions to be answered. One of the questions for the Labor Board is pay differential for command staff.
4. Selectperson Knapp moved to clarify a previous vote to expend \$2553.70 for an archeology study for the Green Hill Road Bridge project with the money coming from the Transportation Fee Capital Reserve, seconded by Selectperson Hardekopf. The motion passes. Selectperson Knapp noted that he is unhappy with the work that has been done by Hoyle Tanner Associates engineers. He feels the Board needs to work towards getting another engineering firm as HTA has taken advantage of the town. He would like to see three engineering firms in place to do bridge work.
5. Administrator Scruton and DTM MacIver will be in the process of updating job descriptions. Administrator Scruton asked the Board to let them use their discretion to make changes and only bring significant changes back to the Board. Selectperson Hardekopf moved that any job description that changes 33% be brought to the Board for review, seconded by Selectperson Knapp. The motion passes.
6. Selectperson Ayer moved to formally terminate the agreement for the PILOT with Rochester for water department land under RSA 72:11 and to assess their properties at full value, seconded by Selectperson Hardekopf. The motion passes.
7. The Recreation Revolving Fund paid \$26,650 to reimburse the town for Precision Paving doing their parking lot. It was asked whether the Highway Department was reimbursed for their time – the answer was no.
8. Administrator Scruton, DTM MacIver and Peter Royce have been working on a financial issue involving the Conservation Fund, the General Fund and Land Use Change Tax.

Clerk McNeil

1. Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: vendor manifest dated 2/21/2019, payroll manifest dated 2/21/2019 and abatement #3.
2. Clerk McNeil sent a memo to the Board requesting that her authority to approve and sign applications for credits and exemptions be transferred to the town administrator or his/her designee. This is because Clerk McNeil will be retiring in June. Members of the

Board did not receive this emailed memo. This issue will be reviewed at a later date. DTM MacIver will see why the emails are not being received by Board members.

OLD BUSINESS

The issues were previously discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

SELECTPERSON'S REPORT AND CONCERNS

Selectperson Ayer stated that he missed the last Conservation Commission because he was attending the Candidate Forum.

Selectperson Hardekopf tried to attend a Recreation Commission meeting that had be cancelled due to weather.

Selectperson Knapp attended the last Planning Board meeting where they did a design review for a property on Route 125 that includes 55 lots including commercial lots. The Planning Board also discussed proposed solar regulations.

Chairperson Bailey attended the recent Library Trustees meeting. The foundation has raised \$476,073 to date. Books and Blooms will be on March 23rd – floral interpretations of books as flower arrangements. Chairperson Bailey reminded everyone that no political signs can be posted on telephone poles.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chief Walker noted that 2019 is the 75th Anniversary of the Fire Department. Chief Walker also noted that the 300th Anniversary committee will be having a website and Facebook page. This first thing on their agenda will a logo contest!

Peter Cook questioned the Board forming a committee to review job descriptions and benefits. He noted that through the years when these types of reviews are done, the changes hurt the employees. Selectperson Hardekopf noted the committee will be putting together an RFQ for a salary/compensation study by a professional. A lot of this stems from the changes in job descriptions and merging of jobs.

Chief Walker noted that history has shown that looking at benefits and pay give employees a tendency to question what is going on.

Chief Williams stated that he is new to this process and he looks at this study as a positive thing. He feels that his officers are not compensated to where they should be.

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Selectperson Knapp moved to go into non-public session at 9:30 p.m. per RSA 91-A:3 II a, c, d & e for personnel/reputation/legal and land, seconded by Selectperson Hardekopf. Chairperson Bailey asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Hardekopf – aye, Knapp – aye, Bailey – aye.

Selectperson Knapp moved to seal the non-public minutes for six months, seconded by Chairperson and passed by roll call vote: Ayer – aye, Hardekopf – aye, Knapp – aye, Bailey – aye.

Selectperson Knapp moved to come out of non-public session at 10:08 p.m., seconded by Selectperson Hardekopf. Chairperson Bailey asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Hardekopf – aye, Knapp – aye, Bailey – aye. The motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.