

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2017

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, November 6, 2017 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectman Ayer, Selectman Bailey, Selectman Hatch, Selectman Knapp, Chairman O'Brien, Administrator Scruton and Clerk McNeil

Chairman O'Brien welcomed everyone and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPOINTMENTS

Stan Swier – Did not attend the meeting.

BUDGET PRESENTATION – Recreation Commission – Tara Barker, Lisa Allis and Jill Hilfiker presented this budget. Mrs. Barker presented a spreadsheet showing the operating budget and the revolving fund money. The majority of this operating budget is for salary and benefits for the office staff. The largest increase is in the employee benefits line. The ABC had questions regarding the revolving fund. There is currently \$749,000 in the revolving fund and the ABC feels that it is not a place for capital funds. Jill talked about their "building block" plan. They like to keep \$100,000 in the revolving fund. On paper they earmark money for future capital expenses i.e. playground maintenance, weekend/evening supervisor, resurfacing gym floor, reconstruct upstairs, tennis courts. The Rec. Commission tries to price programs to pay for the program and instruction and also have money for the future capital projects. The before/after school program generates a lot of revenue. An RFP has been sent out to hire a professional to look at what the town needs for their recreation department. The playground needs an overall and they are currently talking with several companies to replace the structures. The costs range from \$99,000 to \$160,000 and this is why they are saving money through the revolving fund. Selectman Bailey asked about the costs for the playground and what is included – they vary. Selectman Knapp asked about the insurance for the water slide and does that money come out of the revolving fund – it is already paid for out of the revolving fund. They would like to request a waiver to not go out to bid for the playground because they would like to go design build. The Commission will come back to the Board for review before the RFP is sent out for design build. Selectman Knapp applauded the Commission and the staff for their work. He further stated that he would like to see them take some ownership of some of the office staff costs that are in the operating budget out of the revolving fund based on the original warrant article. There was discussion last January of the Commission and the Board getting together to discuss using more money out of the revolving fund – but that meeting never took place. Administrator Scruton suggested that the revolving fund be looked at next year after money is spent throughout the year like the playground. Selectman Knapp moved to start the process of putting \$20,000 from the revolving fund towards the operating budget, seconded by Selectman Ayer. The motion was withdrawn. There was a question of the original 1997 warrant article and the intention of the department being self-funded. Selectman Knapp moved to cut the Recreation Department operating budget by \$20,000, seconded by Selectman Ayer. Tara noted that decrease will effect two positions – administrative assistant and maintenance. Selectman Bailey moved to table this vote as determined by the chair as it deserves more review on the Board's part, seconded by Selectman Hatch. Selectman Bailey would like to review the minutes from last year and set up a meeting between the Board and the Commission tentatively for November 13th. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Bailey – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – nay, O'Brien – aye. The motion passes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Charter Weeks gave a bit of historical background on the development of the Recreation Department. It started out basically for basketball teams and senior trips. The size of the department has grown much more than was ever expected when the warrant article was passed. He further stated that it is a real mistake to go after the administrator of this program.

Chief Walker would like permission to put the old pick-up truck out to sealed bid. Selectman Knapp moved to put the pick-up truck out to sealed bid, seconded by Selectman Hatch. Selectman Ayer and Chairman O'Brien abstained from the vote. The motion passes.

Chief Walker stated that the Town of Milton is getting a new ambulance and are offering their old ambulance for \$5,000. Chief Walker asked if the Board would support purchase so the town would have two ambulances. The town's ambulance is used three times a day. The Milton ambulance is a 2003 with low mileage. Barrington would use it later as a trade-in towards a new ambulance. He is not sure how much it would cost to outfit the ambulance but thinks about \$5,000. It was suggested that he go look at it and report his findings at next week's meeting.

Recreation Commission, Jill Hilfiker noted that they recently hired a weekend/evening supervisor with benefits and that money will be coming out of the revolving fund. With the requested \$20,000, that would be \$55,000 spent out of the revolving fund. There will also be two more reimbursement payments to the town that need to come from the revolving fund. She further stated that money can't constantly be taken out of the revolving fund.

Peter Royce, Library Trustee, noted that the Trustees would like some direction from the Board for proposed capital expenses after they heard of an addition to the public safety building. The Library Trustees do not want to compete with other departments when proposing a new library. Administrator Scruton stated that one big expense that is coming up is in 2019 - the repair of the Green Hill Road Bridge but with 80% of State funding.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – October 23, 2017 – Chairman O'Brien moved acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously vote in the affirmative.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. Selectman Knapp moved to participate in the 2019 Household Hazardous Waste Day, seconded by Selectman Bailey. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
2. Highway Winter Contractors Rate Increase will be discussed at a later meeting.

Clerk McNeil

1. Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: deed waivers, one Intent to Cut timber, abatements #22 - #24, acknowledgement of receipt of the warrant for the County tax in the amount of \$2,591,126, one pole permit, vendor manifest dated 11/01/2017, payroll manifest dated 10/29/2017 and the solid waste agreement.

OLD BUSINESS

Personnel Plan – be discussed at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Ayer stated that the Conservation Commission would like the Board to reconsider deeding the town owned pieces that sit in the middle of the SELT property. The Conservation Commission is also looking at bids for the driveway at the Goodwill Conservation Easement

Selectman Bailey encouraged residents to use the library. The American Legion will be having a service on November 11th at 11:00 a.m. at the Pine Grove Cemetery.

Selectman Hatch didn't have any meetings to attend.

Selectman Knapp recently attended a school board meeting where they discussed the refurbishment of the old outside light from the old town office/school that will be installed at the middle school, budget presentations, goals, free and reduced lunch numbers, high school tuition, enrollment, capital reserve accounts, proposed budget items and the decrease in federal funding.

Chairman O'Brien thanked the town crew for their prompt service in getting the roads open after the storm as there was a lot of damage and much of the town lost power. The Planning Board meets on Tuesday and the Friends of Music Craft Fair on Saturday, November 11th.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lynne Murphy also mentioned support for the public safety officials and the work they did during and after the storm.

Chief Williams stated that Lt. Joy will be interviewed on WOKQ Tuesday morning to talk about police canines.

Chief Walker stated that the department has been awarded a forestry grant in the amount of \$4,000. The public hearing will be next week. The money will be used for protective gear. Chief Walker has \$17,500 in his budget towards a grant request for a sign. He did not apply for the grant as he was told it was a low priority from the State. He asked if the Board would want to purchase the sign without the grant or the money will go into surplus. The Board did not want the Chief to pursue purchase of the sign.

Justin Purpora had concern with the Board taking \$20,000 out of the Rec. Department operating budget as it is one of the busiest departments and sometimes there is a waiting list for programs. How is it justified - the kids in this town need these programs.

Chairman O'Brien moved to go into non-public session at 8:06 p.m. per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) for personnel, seconded by Selectman Knapp. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Bailey – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien – aye. The motion passes.

Selectman Knapp moved, Selectman O'Brien seconded to recess for discussion of Labor Negotiation strategy (RSA 91-A:2, I (a)). Passed 5-0.

Selectman Knapp moved, Selectman O'Brien seconded to return from recess. Passed 5-0.

Board discussed the Deputy Town Administrator position. The Board will immediately advertise and will look at both full-time and part-time candidates. There will not be an advertised salary range, but compensation will be dependent upon qualifications.

Selectman Bailey moved, Selectman Hatch seconded to exit nonpublic at 9:10 PM. Passed O'Brien-aye, Knapp-aye, Hatch-aye, Bailey-aye, Ayer-aye.

Selectman Knapp moved, Selectman Bailey seconded to adjourn at 9:10 PM. Passed 5-0.