

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, January 8, 2018 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.

Chairman O'Brien opened the public hearing on a proposed \$1,500,000 bond for expansion of the police department either onto the existing building or with renovation and/or new construction on another property either owned by the town or to be purchased at 6:34 p.m. Administrator Scruton gave the three options for the police station and noted the reasons the space is needed. Renovation of the existing building would also give more space to the Fire Department as they continue to grow. There would be no impact on the 2018 budget. Chief Williams thanked the Board for their support. He noted that he had discussed space issues with Chief Walker and Paul Sanders two years ago. Chief Williams stated that officers and staff live in Barrington and will also feel any property tax impact. Chairman O'Brien asked for public comment. Steve Saunders asked if the wording on the article would change as there is a similar article up for discussion later in the meeting. Administrator Scruton explained two options for funding – 1. bond, 2. warrant article and by the end of the meeting he expected the Board to choose an option. Ron St. Jean representing Advocates for a Better Barrington stated that they send out a voter guide and would need more information for their voter guide to educate the public. Selectman Knapp felt that they could use the presentation that the police officers used with their power point. A local builder who built a police station in Farmington and is working on ones for Rollinsford and Barnstead gave square foot prices. The project could be bid out several ways or approaches. Susan Gaudiello had a concern if this project was ready for a town vote yet as there was no set cost. Selectman Ayer agrees with the public comment that there needs to be more information and there are options that haven't been discussed yet. Selectman Knapp reminded the Board that the public hearing for the bonding as it is just setting the stage. We don't go out and get a bond right after the town meeting vote. Selectman Hatch would like to know more about the bidding process for the project. Administrator Scruton explained three ways to bid and noted that if something isn't done this year for police department expansion it would be next year and can't be pushed out any further. Selectman Bailey felt that the concerns should be brought forward regarding the need. The public hearing closed at 6:44 p.m.

Chairman O'Brien opened the public hearing on the proposed 2018 budget, warrant articles and default budget at 6:45 p.m. Handouts included the MS-636, default budget, proposed detailed budget including warrant articles. Administrator Scruton talked about how the town gets revenue. The municipal portion of the tax rate has pretty much been level since 2012. There is a 2% increase in the proposed operating budget not including the bond to help with the purchase of Stonehouse Forest. Administrator Scruton noted the lines that had an increase over \$10,000 and reviewed lines that decreased substantially.

The warrant articles start with the Election of Officers and then the Zoning Articles. The town articles follow. The proposed budget is \$7,006,915 and the default budget at \$6,839,251. Administrator Scruton discussed the town's fund balance. There is a warrant article for \$1,000,000 for a police station/town hall. The Board will need to think how they want to approach the article with a police station only or a town office/police station. One of the articles is to authorize a

contract with Waste Management at a 2% increase a year for nine years. There is an article for road paving and maintenance at \$100,000. There will be several capital reserve articles that will have money added to them that include the following: Cemetery, Emergency Communication, Fire Truck, Emergency Road Repair and Winter Maintenance, Library Technology, Highway Equipment. Also warrant articles for the replacement of Mallego Road Bridge, Police Collective Bargaining Agreement and CBA renegotiation and vote. One petition article was received and it is only advisory per the town's attorney. Chairman O'Brien asked if there were any public comments. Sam Boduch found a correction in wording in the Collective Bargaining Agreement article. Susan Gaudiello asked why the Board reduced the Paving warrant article. Administrator Scruton explained there were funds left from 2017. She noted the engineer's report on roads that were completed several years ago. She also asked about the deputy town administrator position being added to the budget – the Board will be reviewing the applications and will put a dollar amount in the budget before deliberative session. She feels that this is not a good way to spend tax dollars. The public hearing closed at 7:17 p.m.

Chairman O'Brien opened the public hearing at 7:18 p.m. to accept a donation of a thermal imaging camera from the Barrington Firemen's Association. Chief Walker stated that the Fire Association donated a thermal imaging camera to the department 14 years ago. Currently the camera is outdated, parts are hard to find and the new cameras weigh a lot less. The funds have been raised through their pancake breakfasts. The cost is \$8,214 with a charger. If the town would purchase a camera the Association would purchase the other one. The money for the town's purchase of \$8,214 would come out of Fire-Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve. Chief Walker asked the Board to waive the bid process and accept the donation from the Association. Selectman feels the purchase should go out to bid per the town's policy. The Association talked with three different companies and that meets the town's purchasing policy requirement for that expense level. Chairman O'Brien asked for public comment. Jill Hilfiker supports the chief and supports waiving the bid policy. Steve Graves supports waiving the bid process. Selectman Ayer moved to accept the donation of a thermal imaging camera from the Barrington Firemen's Assoc. and request \$8,215 from the Trustee of the Trust Fund for purchase of a thermal imaging camera out of the Fire-Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, seconded by Chairman O'Brien. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. The hearing closed at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Jeffery wanted to address the Board regarding the issuance of a building permit on a right of way. The owner is Alan Brown and the property is located off Young Road. Mr. Jeffery had some right to know requests that had not been acted upon. He had been to the Planning Board office. He feels that the "official" town map is not the official town map. Mr. Jeffrey explained the history of this lot and the various subdivisions in the area. He has not found a legal right for the Brown's to get to their property. The town incorrectly issued a building permit to the Brown's. The issue was taken under advisement.

Tara Barker noted that the Rec. Commission would like to postpone any discussion of the MOU as they did not receive Selectman Knapp's notes until this afternoon. The Strategic Planning Needs Assessment review will be presented by Jill Hilfiker at the meeting January 22nd. The MOU will be discussed at the meeting on February 12th.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – December 18, 2017 – Selectman Knapp moved to accept the minutes of December 18, 2017, seconded by Chairman O'Brien. It was unanimously voted on the affirmative.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. Administrator Scruton asked the Board if they want to proceed with the bond or warrant article of \$1,000,000 from fund balance. Selectman Ayer, Selectman Bailey, Selectman Hatch indicated support for the bond. Selectman Knapp supported the warrant article as it has more flexibility but he is okay with either. You would need 60% vote for passage of the bond amount. The warrant article could be non-lapsing and would create more flexibility. Selectman Ayer moved to take the bond article off of the warrant, seconded by Selectman Bailey. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
2. The Board decided that the warrant article should include police/town office.
3. The Board was asked if they wanted to leave the additional police officer in the budget - O'Brien – no, Bailey – yes because of a back-up for their safety, and now spending money on overtime, Ayer – leave it in, Hatch – leave it in for safety sake. Because existing employee benefits were not fully included in the police budget benefit line, the line would increase to \$464,479. Selectman Knapp moved to increase the benefits line, seconded by Selectman Bailey. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
4. The ABC recommended reducing the dam line by \$5,000. Selectman Bailey moved to reduce the dam budget by \$5,000, seconded by Selectman Knapp. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – nay, Bailey - aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien – nay. The motion passes. The Board wanted the reference to Swains dam removed as several other dams are included in this Capital Reserve Article.
5. Chief Williams may be able to reduce his budget but it will have to be discussed in non-public session.
6. An additional \$13,125 will be added to the default budget for a contractual issue with Frisbie regarding ambulance billing.
7. Selectman Knapp moved to increase the Cemetery Capital Reserve Article by \$6,050 to reflect actual net grave sales and the funds will be taken from fund reserve, seconded by Chairman O'Brien. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
8. Chairman O'Brien moved to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement, seconded by Selectman Bailey. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Selectman Knapp felt that the step increase should come in year three not year two.
9. Chairman O'Brien moved to support the Fire Communications Capital Reserve using \$50,000 with fund balance, seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
10. Administrator Scruton passed out his draft report for town report to be reviewed by the Board.
11. Chairman O'Brien moved to allow the closure of a portion of Mallego Road on April 28th for the Peeper 5K run/walk from 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m., seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Clerk McNeil

1. Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: Oath of Office for Officer Evan Carey, tax map maintenance contract and street number contract through Cartographics, deed returning property to a prior owner, one CD-57-P form for the Dept. of Revenue regarding acquiring the lot on Cedar Creek, land use change tax warrants totaling \$7,850, pole permits for Province Road, approval of reappointment of forest fire wardens/deputy's, vendor manifest dated 1/3/18 and payroll manifest dated 12/31/17.
2. Two requests were received from abutters who are interested in acquiring several lots that are owned by the town and taken for non-payment of property taxes. The Board authorized the review and recommendation for putting town owned property up for sale through the bid process sometime this spring.

OLD BUSINESS

Recreation Department MOU – this will be discussed on February 12th.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Ayer reported that the Conservation Commission meeting was cancelled twice.

Selectman Bailey attended a Library Trustees meeting and stated that the library is very active and does a lot of business.

Selectman Hatch did not have any meetings to attend

Selectman Knapp attended the recent School Board meeting where they discussed the following: the sale of a surplus piece of equipment and the purchase of another piece of equipment, 2.99% increase in the operating budget, the test scores are not back yet, the warrant articles, energy cost savings, they will not be posting the tax impact on the warrant articles and current salaries are on the school's website.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Selectman Ayer asked how the office was progressing in order to sell land on Castle Rock through the seal bid process.

Selectman Knapp felt that the closing of the transfer station on December 26th was poorly communicated and people entered the property and left their trash. This made a huge mess to be picked up when the transfer station opened the next day. Peter Cook stated that it was advertised for over a month – on several websites, in the newspaper, posted at the transfer station, the post office and other locations around town. People still dumped even though the main gate was closed and there were no personnel present.

Sam Boduch thanked the Board for their service. He had concerns about what is discussed in nonpublic and what shouldn't be. His concern focused around the discussion of the money being

included in the proposed budget for a new police station/town office. He also stated that the Library Trustees are looking for new alternate members.

Page – 5 -

Chief Walker thanked the Board for supporting the thermal imaging camera.

Chief Williams reported that the “kids” car was completed. Lt. Banian is driving that vehicle and you “can’t miss it”. There was a picture of it on the front page of the Fosters!

Chairman O’Brien moved to go into non-public session at 8:55 p.m. per RSA 91-A: 3ii (a,c,d) for personnel, reputation and land, 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 Bailey moved to exit non-public session at 10:25 p.m., seconded by Selectman Hatch. 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 to seal the minutes for one year as it could both adversely affect the reputation of a person not a member of the Board and render a proposed activity ineffective (RSA 92-A:3, iii), seconded by Selectman Bailey. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.