

**SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2017**

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, January 2, 2017 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectman Ayer, Selectman Gaudiello, 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

There were no appointments

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – December 19, 2016 – Tabled until the next meeting.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. The Board is to vote on whether to sell Map 223 Lot 0022 at the corner of Old Green Hill Road and Route 125. Selectman Ayer stepped down from the Board due to conflict of interest. The sale of the lot has gone out to bid and the required public hearings have been held. Selectman Hatch moved to proceed with the sale of the property pending successful negotiations with stipulation that it be used for commercial development, seconded by Selectman Knapp. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Gaudiello – nay, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye. O'Brien – aye. The motion passes. The second issue would be to enter into negotiations with the bidder regarding conditions like road improvement and minimization of wetlands impact. Selectman Gaudiello would like to minimize wetlands impact based on the comments from the Conservation Commission. Chairman O'Brien felt the upgrade at the entrance onto Route 125 should be a discussion and also the State will need to have some input along with Peter Cook and Marcia Gasses. All construction and engineering costs will be paid for by the developer. The consensus was to have Administrator Scruton proceed with negotiations. Selectman Ayer rejoined the Board
2. The Forest Society has no problems with merging the lots into the SATWaSr Conservation Easement. Selectman Gaudiello moved to merge Map 263 Lots 0013, 0014, 0015, 0021 and 0022, seconded by Selectman Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
3. 2017 Default Budget – Administrative Scruton revised the Default Budget as requested at a prior Board of Selectmen meeting to reflect changes in health insurance, NH Retirement, and changes in the salary lines to cover the three months of 2016 wage increases not reflected in the 2016 budget. Selectman Knapp feels that the Default Budget is still too high. Selectman Gaudiello moved to approve the draft Default

Budget, seconded by Chairman O'Brien. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – nay, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – nay, O'Brien – aye. The motion passes.

4. Brown Industrial Group could do the shop drawings for the Young Road culvert before the town meeting vote. This would be paid for out of the transportation capital reserve and the precast manufacturer would be ready for fabrication following the town meeting vote. The Board preferred to wait until after town meeting to proceed.
5. Norma Bearden owns a 66 acre parcel that is next to the Young Road culvert. The Town needs a small easement and a temporary construction easement. She has not responded to our requests. The only option may be for the town to proceed with eminent domain. The office will try to find a telephone number for Mrs. Bearden and Selectman Knapp will give her a call. Administrator Scruton will bring the issue back to the Board next week.
6. The Board approved of adding warrant articles in order to correct a failure to properly establish a capital reserve. A warrant article would close the Swains Lake Dam Capital Reserve with all funds (\$63,600) going to the general fund and then a second warrant article would establish a Dam Capital Reserve Fund for maintenance, repair and replacement of town owned dams in the amount of \$63,600 with the money to come from fund balance. The consensus from the Board was to proceed. If the warrant to establish the new dam reserve fund were to fail the decision to close the dam fund would remain in place no matter of the outcome of that vote.
7. The Recreation Commission has invited the Board to meet with them at their regular meeting. It was suggested to ask the Recreation Commission to meet with the Board prior to their regular Selectmen's meeting next Monday at 6:00 p.m., and the Board of Selectmen move the meeting up to 6:00 p.m. for that purpose. The public hearing on the proposed 2017 budget will follow at 6:30 p.m. as previously scheduled.
8. Town Meeting 1990 voted to put the town forest under the Conservation Commission. Selectman Ayer is concerned that the Conservation Commission has not done much on that property since 1990. It was suggested to ask the Conservation Commission what their plans are for the upcoming year and what has previously been done at the town forest.
9. Various options have been researched for the Public Safety Building's water supply as it no longer falls within the range of State and Federal standards for arsenic. Due to magnesium and iron in the water staining occurs. Chief Walker supported putting a water treatment system in the building as they plan to keep that building for many years. The public also uses the outside spigot in an emergency or for their animals. There are also showers that get used every day. There are a number of reasons for the water treatment system. Selectman Knapp questioned whether there is potable water from the outside spigots. It was explained that the building was required by the building inspector to have potable water at the spigots when the building was constructed. An outside spigot is not a portable water source since there are not controls to prevent contamination. Marcia Gasses stated that arsenic in the water is a problem in the whole State of New Hampshire, and the town participated in a water testing project led by Dartmouth several years ago. Paul Mausteller felt that the cost for the systems is too high. He feels that the systems should go out to bid, even though the cost is less than

the threshold for bids set in the town's financial policies. Selectman Gaudiello feels the water should be fixed at the public safety building instead of constantly purchasing bottled water. Selectman Gaudiello moved to add \$4,000 to the Government Building Line, seconded by Selectman Hatch. Ken Grant felt that \$4,000 would not be adequate to also filter iron and magnesium. He also felt that outside spigots are not an approved use of potable water unless they are secured. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

10. In reviewing the proposed warrant, the Board noted that they would like the word "additional" added to the last sentence on several warrant articles. "This article has no *additional* impact on 2017 property taxes."

Clerk McNeil

1. Clerk McNeil requested signatures on payroll manifests dated 12/18 and 12/25 and vendor manifests dated 12/22 and 12/28.

OLD BUSINESS

Selectman Ayer asked about an update on the washing machine at the public safety building. Chief Walker stated that Yankee Equipment will be installing the washing machine tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS

John Wallace is in the process of sending letters to property owners regarding monitoring their Conservation Easements. Selectman Knapp took exception to the letter as it stated that their properties would not be monitored this year "due to budgetary constraints". Selectman Knapp stated that there are no budgetary constraints as the Conservation Commission has money in their Conservation Fund. It was suggested to have the Con. Commission come back and speak about the easements and how they are handled and that members of the Board that are concerned attend a Con. Commission meeting.

The Board did not take a position on the letter received from the Town of Pittsburgh regarding Northern Pass.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Gaudiello had nothing to report.

Selectman Hatch attended a ZBA meeting where a variance was granted. The Library Trustees are working on their foundation.

Selectman Ayer stated that the Planning Board will have their first public hearing on zoning amendments on Tuesday along with a boundary adjustment request and a subdivision.

Selectman Knapp noted that the school board will be meeting again; their budget hearing will be on January 10th. Selectman Knapp also commented on the back-up at transfer station on Tuesday. The Highway crew did a great job and the transfer station crew kept things moving. Peter Cook stated that the newspaper had the information wrong and stated that the transfer

station would be closed on December 31, when in fact it was only closed December 24th – Christmas Eve.

Chairman O'Brien wished a Happy New Year to everybody.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken Grant noted several concerns with wasteful spending with trucks being used; trucks hauling sand to another part of town for satellite sand pile; private contractors plowing for the town and also doing their private work.

Paul Mausteller spoke about the credit card machine for the town clerk and the tax collector. He suggested that the technology committee look into this option. The customer would be paying the cost/fee. Mr. Mausteller is also on the technology committee.

Peter Cook thanked his employees, volunteers and everyone that came together in his absence. He further stated that he is proud of his crew, proud to say that he is their boss and proud of his record of over 30 years.

Chief Walker having been involved in emergency services for 40 years is proud of the Highway Department and the help he gets to keep the residents in this town safe. It makes it easy for emergency services to do what they have to do thanks to the Highway Department.

Selectman Ayer moved to go into non-public session at 7:45 p.m. per RSA 91 A: 3II for personnel and reputation, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien – aye. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Selectman Gaudiello moved to come out of non-public session at 8:38 p.m., seconded by Chairman O'Brien. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Selectman Gaudiello moved to seal the minutes indefinitely as information may affect adversely the reputation of a person other than a member of the Board, seconded by Chairman O'Brien. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Selectman Ayer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m., seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.