

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, January 9, 2017 started at 6:00 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.

The meeting started with the Board meeting with the Recreation Director and Recreation Commission. Commissioners present were Lisa Allis, Jim Noble, John Correia and Jill Hilfiker. Tara Barker presented her proposed 2017 budget showing the proposed budget town funds and Revolving Fund actuals through November for a total of \$567,008. The paperwork showed a Revolving Fund balance comparison from 2012 - through October, 2016 and expenses that the Revolving Fund has absorbed and the average annual increase in Revolving Fund of \$83,560. Tara explained what the operating budget is used for and also the Revolving Fund. They have earmarked a building block plan for use of Revolving Fund money. Examples are: computer upgrades, weekend/evening supervisor, resurface gym floor, playground maintenance plan along with other plans. Selectman Knapp felt their wants and desires should be town votes not up to the Recreation Commission. Tara noted that the large projects would go before the town for a vote. Selectman Knapp noted that he feels the department should be self-funded as was discussed at town meeting when the original warrant article was passed establishing the Revolving Fund. Selectman Knapp feels there should be a weaning away from the town's operating budget. Tara stated a new warrant article could be created to further define the prior warrant article. Chairman O'Brien felt the old article is vague and could be looked at both ways. Selectman Gaudiello stated that the intent for a Recreation Dept. has now gone way above and beyond what was initially proposed and residents clearly value the services offered. Selectman Knapp feels that the Recreation Commission should put numbers together for the 2017 proposed budget that decrease reliance on town funds. Tara feels that the Board should have talked to the Rec. Commission about this prior to this evening's meeting and the liaison should communicate with the Rec. Comm. what the Board is considering. Selectman Gaudiello feels that more discussions are needed regarding the Revolving Fund and priorities. Her suggestion was to leave 2017 as proposed and work with the Recreation Commission over the coming year. Selectman Hatch moved to maintain 2017 town funding for the Recreation Department at the proposed level with a plan for the Board to work with the Recreation Commission during 2017 and bring a revised budget for consideration for 2018, seconded by Selectman Ayer. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – nay, O'Brien – aye. The motion passes. It was noted that the Board's liaison to the Recreation Comm. will be the person primarily responsible for working on this on behalf of the Board during the coming year. The Board asked the Rec. Commission to alter their meeting day so that their meetings do not conflict with Selectmen meetings in order to facilitate the collaboration.

The public hearing on the proposed 2017 operating budget, warrant articles and default budget started at 6:54 p.m. Administrator Scruton showed a power point of the 2017 operating budget totaling \$6,638,768 and warrant articles totaling \$927,680. Administrator Scruton highlighted the increases over \$6,000 and decreases over \$6,000. There is no tax impact to property taxes on the town's side with the approval of the operating budget.

Review of the Warrant Articles – This also shows no impact to property taxes on the articles that are presented by the Board of Selectmen.

Chief Walker spoke to the issue of adding per diem personnel to provide additional coverage and the storage building. Selectman Knapp raised the concern that often part-time positions end up going to full-time at added cost. Chief Walker stated that he has no plans at this time to go beyond what he currently has as full-time firefighters. Chief Walker stressed the importance of mutual aid. They had 1,025 calls for 2017 including fire and ambulance calls.

Selectman Hatch asked Cemetery Trustee Walker about the cost of graves compared to other local communities. A comparison of prices was done by the Trustees several years ago and the Board of Selectmen raised the price per lot.

Peter Royce, ABC member, asked about the cost of benefits for the new fire employees. State retirement and health insurance drives the increase in the benefits line when hiring full-time employees, but; these employees would be part-time.

George Bailey asked what happens if both of the dam warrant articles are voted down? The current situation would remain with money held by the Trustees.

George Bailey stated the veteran's credit should be checked for an honorable discharge on Veteran's exemption applications. Clerk McNeil stated that the DD214 has to show honorable discharge to qualify for the exemption.

Ken Grant asked about the Fire Department Contracts line and does that have anything to do with personnel? – no. The contracts line is for billing for ambulance calls and is actually an income line but has to be gross budgeted. He also asked about mutual aid and the town's exposure. It is the Chief's call whether mutual aid is needed. Chief Walker noted that the voters voted to support mutual aid. It is done when municipality's resources are not available or sufficient to respond to a situation.. It is a system that has gone on since the 1970s.

Mr. Grant also asked when was the last time that legal services went out to bid. It has been at least six years. The Board will take that under advisement.

Paul Mausteller stated that 37 houses were built this year which would justify more fire and ambulance calls. He also commented that the Recreation Committee didn't meet with the ABC for their budget review. Chairman O'Brien stated that the ABC already reviewed their budget and made recommendations. Mr. Mausteller feels that Mrs. Barker should attend every Selectmen's meeting. Mrs. Barker added that the report that the Board requested on the Revolving Fund was completed, it was given to her Commission for review and they did not want to release the report before a meeting with the Board of Selectmen.

Pam Failing, a member of the Conservation Commission, noted that at their last meeting the Conservation Commission decided to request the Board of Selectmen put \$2,200 back in the easement line for monitoring. They do have money from the LUCT (Land Use Change Tax) but some years they may not receive any money from the LUCT. The money in that account they would prefer to use for leverage to get more money from grants for future conservation easements. Ms. Failing further noted that lands that are conserved place fewer burdens on the budget. Chairman

O'Brien feels that the Board had made their decision and can relook at that line next year. Selectman Gaudiello, the liaison to the Conservation Comm., explained that the Conservation Commission just got an increase from 50% to 75% for Land Use Change Tax so the Board felt they could afford to cover easement monitoring costs.

Peter Royce asked about actual revenue numbers. Administrator Scruton noted the MS 636 shows the revenues. Chairman O'Brien asked for a total town revenue number and what amount goes to the school.

Paul Mausteller asked what amount would be used for the expanded Veteran's Exemption that is on the 2017 Warrant. It would be \$450 for most veterans as it stands now.

The public hearing closed at 7:58 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

There were no appointments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – December 19, 2016 & January 2, 2017 – review of the minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. Administrator Scruton noted several changes to the budget – Highway benefits were reduced by \$24,000. He asked for three other changes.
2. Selectman Hatch moved to change the Cemetery Capital Reserve warrant article to \$6,500, seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
3. Selectman Gaudiello moved to reduce the recreation benefits line by \$9,000, seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
4. Selectman Knapp moved to add \$1,900 to the fire department as too much was removed when the Administrative Assistant was cut from the budget, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
5. Selectman Gaudiello moved to release an old lien on the town's Route 125 property and release another lien that may have been paid on a property that has been foreclosed on, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
6. Regarding an easement that is needed for the installation of the Young Road culvert, the property owner has not responded to correspondence. Administrator Scruton asked if the Board wanted him to start the eminent domain process. It was suggested to wait another two weeks for a response since we have a new address for the owner, and to contact appraisers without incurring any costs until a final determination is made regarding the property owner.
7. Selectman Hatch moved to support a warrant article authorizing the Board to develop and/or sell 7+/- acres on Pierce Road for industrial/commercial development, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
8. Selectman Hatch moved to appoint Ken Grossman as a full member of the Conservation Commission in place of Allison Desmarais who is moving from Barrington, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

9. Selectman Gaudiello moved to reappoint Pam Failing to a three year term on the Conservation Commission, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
10. Administrator Scruton has been in contact with Metrocast regarding the Board's concerns. It was decided to schedule a public meeting with a representative from Metrocast to discuss concerns of the Board and invite residents to express the concerns they have.

Clerk McNeil

Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: Intent to Cut for Mary and Norman Gamelin, appointment of Ken Grossman to a full member of the Conservation Commission, the Default Budget, payroll manifests dated 12/25/2016 & 1/1/2017, vendor manifest dated 1/5/2017. Selectman Knapp will not sign any more manifests if the checks are sent out before the manifest is signed.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

NEW BUSINESS

Selectmen Recommendations on Warrant Articles – The warrant article on the public safety building shed will be “recommended or not” at the next meeting after more information is reviewed. The concrete pad and materials will go out to bid. Chief Walker would like the voters to decide on the issue. He also noted that they are about a year away from replacing the ambulance and are in need of additional storage as they would like to keep the old ambulance.

Selectman Gaudiello moved to recommend the operating budget as amended, seconded by Selectman Hatch. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – nay, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien – aye. The motion passes with a 4 to 1 vote. Selectman Ayer explained his nay vote was because he feels more can be cut from the budget.

Selectmen Ayer moved to recommend the petition article to expand the veteran's credit, seconded by Selectman Knapp. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Gaudiello – nay, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien – nay. The motion passes.

Selectman Gaudiello moved to not recommend the article to terminate the employment of John Scruton, seconded by Selectman Hatch. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – nay, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – nay, O'Brien – aye. The motion passes with a 3 to 2 vote.

Selectman Gaudiello moved to support all warrant articles brought forward by the Board of Selectmen except the shed for the public safety building, seconded by Selectman Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Gaudiello noted that the Conservation Commission will be working with Marcia Gasses on a tracking tool for the conservation easements and the town forest, so that monitoring, management and other activities can be recorded and reported consistently. The proposed letter being sent by John Wallace to property owners regarding their easements not being monitored because of “budget constraints” was reviewed. The Conservation Commission doesn't feel that “budget constraints” is misleading, but will amend the letters.

Selectman Hatch had nothing to report.

Selectman Ayer noted that the Planning Board held their first public hearing for zoning changes, approved a lot line adjustment and a four lot subdivision.

Selectman Knapp attended the recent School Board meeting where their \$23,128,705 operating budget for 2017 – 2018 was discussed. The public hearing for their budget, warrant articles and default budget is on Tuesday, January 10th at 6:00 p.m. at the middle school.

Chairman O'Brien had nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Mausteller had concerns about the Board waiting until the last minute on the Young Road culvert easement from Bearden.

George Bailey noted town meeting had voted to authorize the Board to sell land – That article was voted in several years ago.

Mr. Bailey was disappointed that there was not a unanimous vote on the veteran's exemption article. Peter Royce asked if the S & R bill had been settled. S & R has not respond to Chairman O'Brien's phone calls and emails.

Paul Mausteller asked if the Compactor Capital Reserve article is passed will the converter be installed at the transfer station to help reduce congestion – yes. It should be emphasized at deliberative session.

Mr. Mausteller also asked the Board to consider their vote on the veteran's exemption.

Pam Failing asked if the School Board seeks out grants or has received any grants. Selectman Knapp stated that they have received grant money.

Ms. Failing also noted that SELT received a \$1,000,000 grant to put towards the purchase of Stonehouse Forest. Barrington is the headwaters for five rivers and is in the Great Bay watershed.

There was a brief discussion on the Rochester Reservoir and the withdrawal of water and the Berry River.

Steve Sanders noted that there seems to be a communication problem. He would like to see a more detailed agenda with links on the website for pertinent information.

Peter Cook wanted to thank Dana Drake as part of the staff that he forgot to thank last week.

Ken Grant commented on the veteran's exemption article and he feels that the requirement should be four years of service with an honorable discharge, not 90 days. Clerk McNeil replied that the guidelines are set by law and not by the town.

Chief Walker asked the Board to keep his article for the storage building on the ballot.

Selectman Gaudiello moved to go into non-public session at 9:15 p.m. per RSA 91 A: 3 II (a) for personnel, seconded by Selectman Hatch. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien – aye. The motion passes.

Selectman Knapp moved to come out of non-public session at 9:45 p.m., seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien – aye.

Selectman Knapp moved to seal the minutes indefinitely to avoid adversely affecting the reputation of a person not a member of the Board, seconded by Chairman O'Brien. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien – aye. The motion passes.

Selectman Knapp moved to adjourn at 9:45 p.m., seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.