

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2017

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, January 23, 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.

The public hearing on the proposed 2017 proposed budget and warrant articles was opened at 6:31 p.m. Administrator Scruton noted the proposed budget and warrant articles submitted by the Board have no tax impact on the 2017 property taxes on the town's side of the tax rate. Administrator Scruton briefly reviewed several zoning articles. Chairman O'Brien asked for public comment. George Bailey was present to speak about the petition article regarding the all - veteran's credit and that the article will have to be amended for correct wording at the Deliberative Session. The public hearing closed at 6:34 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

Stan Swier/Kim Kerekes – Preparation for Deliberative Session. The first article on the warrant is the election of officers; articles #2 - #29 are proposed zoning changes. Moderator, Stan Swier will decide how much discussion will be allowed on the Zoning articles as the Planning Board has already had two public hearings at the Planning Board on the proposed amendments and they can't be amended at Deliberative Session. The Board needed to take a vote on article #46 – construction of a storage unit at the public safety building. Selectman Ayer stepped down from the Board as he may bid on the project. Selectman Knapp stated that the numbers supplied don't add up and the total estimated cost is off by a few hundred dollars, but the warrant articles is sufficient to absorb such a difference. It was noted that the Highway Department will be doing the site work and the School Department will be working on the construction. Selectman Knapp questioned using town labor. Selectman Gaudiello moved to recommend this article, seconded by Chairman O'Brien. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – abstained, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – nay, O'Brien – aye. The motion passes. The Board reviewed articles #30 - #47 that were supported by the Board and noted which member of the Board would move the article and second the article at Deliberative Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Bailey commented on article #46 and the construction of the public safety storage unit. Since most of the site work and construction work will be done by school and town employees -he asked "is there not enough work for the school/town employees at their regular jobs?"

Carol Reilly spoke about several members of the Board questioning the Snow Removal Policy and the use of too much salt and sand. She stated that no policy could be prepared that would cover all types of situations for winter maintenance which – "is an art not a science". She applauded any effort to reduce taxes. She suggested volunteering at the transfer station or with the recreation department is a better way to save money. The Highway Department gives an excellent level of service to the residents. At the end of the day the road agent asks himself "are the roads safe enough for my family to travel?" Anyone with questions or concerns should go directly to department heads and not rely on gossip. The Highway Department always comes within budget even when money is taken from its budget to cover other expenses. Several vendors have been questioned - is that the reputation that we want to have? The town is fortunate to have employees with this dedication. They should be applauded and thanked day in and day out.

Doug Hatch, Jr. stated that the Town of Barrington has some of the safest roads in the State. His family has been maintaining Barrington roads for years. There is a lot of pride in maintaining these roads and it takes a lot to keep these roads safe.

Selectman Ayer handed Chairman O'Brien a copy of RSA 231:62 – 65 noting that the "road agent performs his or her duties under the direction of the selectmen".

Jim Sanger feels that this is nothing but a witch hunt for the Road Agent.

Ramona Cook said that Peter Cook is her son and she is proud of her son. She has worked second and third shift and when driving home in a storm she looks forward to reaching the Barrington town line and well maintained roads.

Patrick Hanscome noted that he is the father of three daughters and feels that this is crazy that the Highway Department is being questioned. They work within budget and keep the roads safe. Through his job he travels a lot and Barrington does a great job on their roads – “thank you for what you are doing.”

Chief Walker noted that in the middle of the night when there is an ambulance or fire call he will let the Highway Department know where they are headed and the Highway Department will go over to make sure that roads are clear. The Highway Department has always been there to make sure police, fire and ambulance can get where they have to go. They do a darn good job. Thank you to the road agent and all of the guys.

Katrina LaBrecque stated that you have someone making decisions on the roads who has years and years of experience. What is the point of cutting back? - It would make a huge difference on how the roads are maintained.

George Bailey noted that the school buses can't be forgotten with our children and grandchildren on board. Think of that when considering making cuts to the budget.

Peter Cook said that he has been the Road Agent for 17 years. The last year and a half have been rough with too much micro-managing. He further stated that he thought of quitting recently as a result of the Selectmen's questioning his operations. He feels the people of Barrington deserve more than the minimum.

Ken Grant spoke of government waste, abuse and fraud at the national level. He feels the roads are done well in Barrington. He asked about the “satellite sand pile” on Second Crown Point Road and a cost analysis.

Doug Hatch, Jr. spoke of the satellite sand pile and how it saves time in the winter. It is convenient for the town for plowing on the Rochester end of town. Instead of taking the time to come across town to Smoke Street, the sand pile is conveniently located on Second Crown Point Road.

George Cook supported the town and school workers helping with the construction of the storage building at the public safety building.

Peter Cook stated that he is a competent person and can do this job. He has been taking classes and also attained the Master Roads Scholar from the UNH T2 School. Carol Reilly spoke about all of the effort that goes into achieving that status.

Jason Pohopek stated that he moved to Barrington because of the type of community, the housing, the schools and the roads we have. How the roads are kept in winter makes a difference in their long term maintenance. He plows for the town – there is not a lot of money in it. He plows because the road agent has a lot of passion for his work.

Chris Vachon stated that some people in town feel the Highway Department has been attacked. You can't squeeze money and have unsafe roads. He asked, "are we talking about a policy or spending?"

REVIEW OF MINUTES – December 9, 2016, January 2, 2017 and January 9, 2017. Selectman Gaudiello moved to accept the minutes of December 9, 2016 and January 2, 2017 as amended, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Selectman Gaudiello moved to accept the minutes of January 9, 2017 as amended, seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. Administrator Scruton requested signatures on the MS 636 (proposed detailed budget and projected revenue), the warrant and the budget.
2. The Board was asked about dedicating the town report to George Musler and Pat Bedford. The Board agreed.
3. The Red Cross supplies the Fire Department with smoke detectors to give to residents. Chief Walker noted that they keep several in the trucks. They give out about six a year. Selectman Knapp moved to support continuing this practice, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
4. Administrator Scruton suggested wording for the purchase and sale agreement/deed for the sale of land on Route 125/Old Green Hill Road. Selectman Ayer stepped down from the Board. Selectman Gaudiello moved to prepare a purchase and sale agreement and authorize Administrator

Scruton to sign, seconded by Selectman Hatch. The motion passed.
Selectman Ayer abstained from the vote.

5. Administrator Scruton reviewed what neighboring town's charge for outside detail for the Police Department. Selectman Gaudiello moved to increase the charge for outside details to \$75, seconded by Chairman O'Brien. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
6. Administrator Scruton will put the numbers together for the Board's review in response to a construction administration contract with Hoyle/Tanner for the Young Road culvert.
7. For installation of the Young Road culvert a small permanent easement and a temporary construction easement is needed from a property owner living out of state. We have been unable to contact this homeowner as she has recently moved. Selectman Knapp called her and left a message. Another certified letter will be mailed out. It was the consensus of the Board to start the process for an appraisal on the property.
8. There will be a change in signing the payment manifests. The manifests will need to be signed weekly. The office will continue to prepare the manifest to pay accounts payable on Thursday but will not mail the payments until the next Tuesday except in an emergency. The manifest can be signed at a Monday Selectmen's meeting. If there is no meeting on a Monday, the Selectmen must come to the office to review the manifest and sign it.
9. Selectman Gaudiello moved to accept and expend \$500 from a employee wellness grant for activities that can only be used to promote wellness, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
10. A public meeting has been scheduled with Metrocast on February 13, 2017.

Clerk McNeil

1. Clerk McNeil requested signatures on a timber tax warrant in the amount of \$913.31 and an abatement (#1) for \$913.31 as the timber cut was for the town and the town is exempt from paying a timber tax.
2. Signatures were requested for the reappointment of Pam Failing for three years on the Conservation Commission, payroll manifests dated 12/18, 1/8 & 1/15 and vendor manifests dated 1/21 and 1/19.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

NEW BUSINESS

Snow Removal Policy – Selectman Knapp suggested putting a committee together to meet with Peter Cook to discuss the policy. Administrator Scruton read the current “Policy” - that states “It is the goal and intent of the town to provide timely and effective winter maintenance, snow removal and ice control on the Town’s roadways for the safety and benefit of the town’s residents and general motoring public”. Carol Reilly stated the policy was developed in response to cars being left in the town’s right of way and there was “no teeth” for the Police Department to have the vehicles towed. Selectman Knapp stated that the policy is fine – it is internal policy that may need to be looked at further. The Board agreed that the current Policy itself is fine for a public policy. Selectman Knapp felt that the internal policy should have a more defining criteria – how are subcontractor’s hired, do they need to present a certificate of insurance, etc. Tara Barker noted that her recreation subcontractors go by a policy that is dealt with through the finance office and expect the same is true for the Highway Department as well. Peter Cook explained that every storm is different. He doesn’t want to be compared to other towns and the State. Selectman Knapp wants to track the cost for every storm. Selectman Gaudiello stated that wasn’t important to her as she doesn’t think it will be informative, since every storm is unique, and she trusts the judgement of the town’s staff and relies on their experience. Selectman Gaudiello also noted that the road maintenance/snow removal reserve set up several years ago will be helpful in covering the cost of any unusual situations like floods or heavy winters. Administrator Scruton reviewed what was spent from 2013 through 2016. Eighty miles of town roads are maintained in Barrington. Selectman Gaudiello noted some of the requests for information from individual Selectmen should be reviewed and authorized by the full Board as such research consumes significant staff time. She asserted that the Board needs to operate as a group.

Chairman O’Brien asked the two Boy Scouts in the audience to speak. Evan Dyer and Andrew Dyer are members of Boy Scout Troop #358 and they are attending the meeting because they are working on their Citizenship in the Community merit badge.

The town clerk’s office will be closed on February 20th for President’s Day and also on February 21st for an upgrade to the State’s computer system. With the State’s computers being worked on, they would be unable to process any car

registrations. This information is posted on the website and is included in registration renewal notices to residents.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Gaudiello attended a recent Conservation Commission meeting where they reviewed their goals for the year. They will also be recommending a new alternate member to the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Hatch was unable to attend the ZBA hearing where the only case was continued.

Selectman Ayer noted that there are two applications for the Planning Board public hearing in February.

Selectman Knapp did not attend the last School Board meeting as it was in non-public session.

Chairman O'Brien and Selectman Knapp attended the public hearing on the warrant and budget for the school. The Recreation Department recently held a skating party at the Christmas Dove pond and has started a curling club that meets on Thursday evenings at the pond.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Hastings spoke of different types of sand that is used by other towns. He wanted to recognize that there are other options out there.

Carol Reilly wanted to add that the town's Snow Removal Policy is similar to what is used by the State of NH. Other communities around the area use the same ordinance. The T2 Program at UNH maybe a resource that could be used. She also asked if other town departments will be asked to track their individual costs. The more the Board is informed the more they understand. She also encouraged the Board to sit down with department heads and ask the questions.

Chris Vachon feels that everything should be tracked. Other Departments need to track what is spent. If the Board feels it is relevant, then he would support that.

Paul Mausteller stated that Peter Cook has done a great job. We want to give more tools. More data is important in justifying the purchase of equipment.

Chief Walker stated that the washer is installed and working fine. A company has donated 100 CO detectors that can be distributed by the Fire Department. Chief Walker reminded everyone when cleaning out a wood stove make sure the ashes are out of the house as CO can be emitted from the ashes.

Katrina Labrecque raised the question regarding the Snow Removal Policy and asked if any of the Board members feel the road agent should be instructed differently than what is currently being done. She asked why the issue arose at this time. Selectman Gaudiello responded that Selectman Knapp and Selectman Ayer had questioned the amount of salt and sand used on the roads at the last Selectmen's meeting.

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

Selectman Gaudiello moved to come out of non-public session at 9:36 p.m., 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 Gaudiello moved to seal the minutes indefinitely to avoid rendering the proposed action ineffective, 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 Gaudiello moved to enter into non-public session at 9:37 p.m. per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) reputation, 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 Gaudiello moved to exit non-public session at 9:44 p.m. seconded by Selectman Knapp. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Gaudiello – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien – aye. The motion passes.

Selectman Gaudiello 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 Gaudiello moved, Chairman O'Brien seconded to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.