

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, December 5, 2016 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectman Ayer, Selectman Hatch, Selectman Knapp, Chairman O'Brien, Administrator Scruton and Clerk McNeil. Selectman Gaudeillo was absent.

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

Chairman O'Brien opened the public hearing through the provisions of RSA 41:14a regarding authorization for the sale of Map 223 Lot 0022 at 6:33 p.m. This is the first of three public hearings. Selectman Ayer stepped down from the Board as he works for a possible bidder. This parcel is at the corner of Route 125 and Old Green Hill Road. The sealed bids are due on December 19th. The Selectmen would like to move forward with economic development in this area. Chairman O'Brien opened the public hearing up to public comment Paul Mausteller as a member of the Planning Board stated that the Planning Board had not given their opinion since the decision was made to put the lot out to bid. Administrator Scruton read the October 5th letter from the Planning Board commenting on the project. Dan Ayer stated Mr. Falcone came with a conceptual plan but nothing solid. Chairman O'Brien closed the public hearing at 6:35.

APPOINTMENT

Karen Post – Request to Waive Interest on Property Taxes – Mrs. Post did not attend the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Jeffery presented a citizens petition to submit to the Board for the 2017 Warrant. Chairman O'Brien read the warrant article.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – November 28, 2016 – Selectman Hatch moved to approve the minutes of November 28, 2016, seconded by Selectman Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

STAFF REPORTS

Administrator Scruton

1. Under RSA 31:112, town meeting must decide how a town forest is managed. The town forest could come under the guidance of the Conservation Commission or an appointed forestry committee. Selectman Ayer supported a Forestry Committee. Administrator Scruton will post an advertisement on Channel 26 looking for volunteers to serve on a Forestry Committee.
2. Stonehill Consulting provides assistance for the finance department including training and work with some of the specialized finance functions. There is a 30 escape clause. Selectman Hatch moved to support the 2017 contract for Stonehill Consulting seconded by Selectman Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
3. Chairman O'Brien moved to conditionally award the contract for the Young Road Culvert to Brown Industrial Group at \$297,345 subject to all permits, easement and funding approved at town meeting, seconded by Selectman Hatch. Selectman Ayer stated that he has done work with Brown Industrial. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. There will

be a warrant article for bid of \$297,345, \$20,000 for construction administration, plus contingency of 10% for a total of \$347,080.

4. Chief Walker presented a revised pay scale for the Fire Department that will help the town in cases of FEMA declarations and hiring. Chief Walker explained the schedule. He suggested that the wage scale be adjusted with the town's COLA increase on a year to year basis. Selectman Knapp moved to support the document with recommended changes, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
5. There was a revised number for the foundation of the fire storage building. Paul Sanders estimated it at \$20,000. Selectman Ayer feels it would be closer to \$26,000. The consensus was the warrant article will be \$25,000 pending discussion with John Huckins. The concrete work will go out to bid.
6. The Recreation Dept. noted that they have a small increase in cost for the 2017 Vermont Systems Server for 2017 of \$117.18 with the total amount of \$4,023.18. The Board supported this increase.
7. The benefit line for Land Use was originally incorrectly listed and should be \$21,179.
8. Administrator Scruton asked the Board to review the proposed Default Budget. Selectman Knapp wanted the ABC to review the Default Budget. Selectman Knapp questioned what a Default Budget should represent. Administrator Scruton indicated that the law clearly defines it. Peter Royce noted that the ABC met this afternoon and will have some recommendations for the proposed 2017 budget after another review for the next Selectmen's meeting.
9. The tax office reported that as of December 5th, 93.7% of the 2016 warrant has been collected.
10. The timber harvest on town owned property has been completed. The revenue for the general fund will be \$20,524.83.
11. The office is having a hard time scheduling a holiday party given the uncertainty of attendance, location and budget. The plan now is to have a summer event for employees and volunteers and a smaller party this winter.

Clerk McNeil

Clerk McNeil requested signatures on two deeds from the sale of town property, vendor manifest dated 11/30/2016 and payroll manifest dated 11/27/2016.

OLD BUSINESS

Authorize Merger of SATWaSR Properties – tabled until December 19th.

The Orchard Hill Road guardrail will be installed the end of the week. Selectman Ayer noted that there are drainage issues in that area. Administrator Scruton noted that a lot of this work comes under a Court Order.

NEW BUSINESS

Boy Scout Finn Graff was present at the meeting as he is working on his Citizenship in the Community merit badge. Selectman Hatch noted that the Board is always pleased to recognize the Boy Scouts of Barrington.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Ayer stated that the Planning Board went over zoning changes at their last meeting. They also meet tomorrow.

Selectman Knapp will be attending the School Board meeting tomorrow.

Chairman O'Brien stated that he had attended the Soiree at Calef's corner and there was a good turnout.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Mausteller asked why the finance officer or deputy finance officer have not been attending the budget discussions. Currently, Administrator Scruton is acting as the Finance Director. Selectman Knapp feels that both finance officers should be attending the budget meetings. It was recommended that they attend the budget public hearing in January.

Chairman O'Brien moved to go into non-public session at 7:16 p.m. per RSA 91 A:3 II for personnel, seconded by Selectman Hatch. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien – aye.

Selectman Knapp moved to come out of non-public session at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Selectman Ayer. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien – aye.

Chairman O'Brien moved to seal the minutes because it is determined that divulgence of this information would adversely affect the reputation of a person not a member of the Board of Selectmen, seconded Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.