

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, November 13, 2017 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 to accept and expend a forestry grant in the amount of \$4,000 for the Fire Department at 6:33 p.m. Chief Walker noted that they applied for and were awarded the grant. The grant is for town's under 10,000 populations. This is a 50% match. Chief Walker has the match included in this budget for 2018. He would like to purchase 25 headlamps, 20 new helmets and 15 rolls of hose. Selectman Bailey asked about the shipping. It is included. Selectman Knapp moved to accept and expend the forestry grant in the amount of \$4,000, seconded by Selectman Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. The public hearing closed at 6:37 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chief Williams noted that the male officers will be growing beards for "Beards for Bucks" with the money going to the food pantry.

APPOINTMENTS

Recreation Commission – Chairman O'Brien reviewed the comments from the previous meeting when a motion to cut \$20,000 from the recreation operating budget for 2018 was tabled to this meeting. Selectman Knapp met with Tara Barker this past week. Tara noted that she and the Rec. Comm. met before this meeting and she doesn't anticipate any more discussion until their next meeting next week. The Recreation Commission and Tara are proposing tabling this motion until the two boards can sit down and look at the financials, minutes of town meetings and the MOU. They feel that it is important to sit down as a group. She would like to see this issue put to bed. She has a big project that needs to be done this spring and needs to know the intention of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Hatch supports the plan of sitting down with the two boards. Chairman O'Brien agreed and would like the town's attorney to review the warrant articles prior to this meeting. It was decided to have a work session on December 11th at 6:30 p.m. with both boards. It was stated that the Recreation Department is much bigger than the original plan in 1997. Selectman Bailey questioned the money in the revolving fund. We need to come to a decision shortly. There was a question of whether to have the town's attorney present for this work session. Selectman Knapp feels all of the documentation should be sent to the attorney for review before the meeting. Selectman Ayer stated that people have commented to him about the Recreation Department being self-sufficient. Tara reached out to Rick Sirois who was instrumental in the original warrant article 1997. She feels that salaries and office expenses were never intended to come out of the revolving fund - self-sufficient activities not salaries and office expenses. Selectman Bailey asked where the money comes from in the revolving fund – program fees. Is there any discussion of reducing the fees as the program fees now exceed expenses? Tara noted that the money in the revolving fund helps projects instead of coming out of tax dollars. Selectman Ayer feels they should be competitive as they have no overhead. All questions to be asked at the joint meeting must be sent to Administrator Scruton by Tuesday morning for the attorney's review. Tara asked about the

procedure for putting a warrant article for town meeting. Chairman O'Brien moved to table indefinitely the issues, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS – Planning, Library and Police

Planning – Marcia Gasses presented this budget. There is an increase of \$8,313 in this budget. Most of the increase is in wages, earned time buyout and employee benefits. In part-time hourly wages there will be a reduction of \$500. Several lines were reduced. The revenue to date was \$13,095.

Library – Amy Inglis and Sam Boduch presented this budget. There is an increase of \$18,425 in this budget. The major increase is in full-time hourly wages with added hours and one part-time employee will be moving to full-time. There is an increase of \$8,380 in the employee benefits lines. They are requesting a warrant article of \$3000 to be added to the library technology capital reserve fund. Sam Boduch stated that Amy Inglis has given her notice and will be working part-time. With the hiring of a new library director there may be an increase in the benefits line, if the employee has the family plan for health insurance, which has not been included in this proposed budget. Under Digital Materials, there is Hoopla, a service that provides patrons with streaming movies, music, comics etc. This has been paid for in part by the Friends of the Library. Selectman Ayer thanked Amy for her time. Selectman Bailey also thanked Amy for her management of the library and her staff. Selectman Hatch stated that she does an excellent job.

Police Department – Chief Williams and Katie O'Brien presented this budget. There is an increase of \$49,945 in this budget and that increase is what is needed to support a department of this size. There is an increase of \$33,089 in full-time hourly. They currently have two full-time lieutenants, one full-time police sergeant, six full time officers with an additional one being hired next year. There has been no staffing increase since 2008. Chief Williams is looking at a strategic plan to increase his staffing. He budgeted for one new full-time officer. Chief Williams went through the budget line by line stating the increases and decreases. The ABC had a question on the benefits line that will be reviewed. Chairman O'Brien questioned the percentage increase. He will meet with Chief Williams. Selectman Knapp noted with a full complement of staff he said the overtime line should drop. However, two experienced officers left the department so the overtime had to be used. The percent increase will change if a new union contract is approved.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – November 6, 2017 – Selectman Hatch moved to accept the minutes of November 6, 2017, seconded by Selectman Bailey. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. Administrator Scruton stated that the Board has a request to forgive back taxes on a mobile home that was sold at auction. The mobile home is going to be removed and replaced with a newer home. Selectman Ayer noted that he goes to a lot of auctions and he has to figure out additional expenses when he makes his final bid. Selectman Hatch feels we have to be careful of how much we grant. Selectman Knapp noted that this should have been worked out with Co-op and land owner. The mobile can't be removed until the property taxes are paid.
2. The Board has voted to accept the SB 38 additional money for highway needs in the amount of \$185,620.26. Peter Cook would like to replace the one ton with plow, wing and body and the pick-up truck with plow. The estimated cost is \$135,000. This purchase needs to go

through the bid process or use state bid prices. It was suggested to go out to bid and compare with state bid price. Selectman Knapp wants to see the breakdown of the maintenance costs of these vehicles – the information was provided when Mr. Cook did his presentation. The Board delayed the decision for another week.

3. The town's rate for winter contractors has not been adjusted for several years. The impact on the winter contract line is \$13,000 if \$/10 per hour. Selectman Hatch and Chairman O'Brien abstained from the discussion and vote. Selectman Ayer moved to increase an additional \$10 an hour to stay competitive, seconded by Selectman Bailey. The motion passes – 3-0-2.
4. Chairman O'Brien moved to approve the holiday schedule, seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
5. Administrator Scruton asked the Board if they wanted to reconsider the vote on the landlocked town owned parcels in the middle of the SELT property. John Wallace asked if the Board would consider transferring the properties to SELT. The Board voted to not transfer the properties.

Clerk McNeil

1. Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: tax payment agreement, three Intent to Cut Timber forms, abatement #25, vendor manifest dated 11/07 and payroll manifest dated 11/05.

OLD BUSINESS

Acceptance of St. Matthew's Drive will be discussed in non-public session.

NEW BUSINESS

With regard to the employee Christmas party, Selectman Ayer wants to include volunteers, seconded by Selectman Bailey for the sake of discussion. It was noted that there had been a volunteer cookout in August; unfortunately it was not well attended. It would be hard to plan for a winter party with a potential for a large crowd given venue size limits. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call vote, Ayer – aye, Bailey – nay, Dawn – nay, Knapp – nay Casey – nay. The motion fails

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Selectman Ayer had nothing to report.

Selectman Bailey had nothing to report.

Selectman Hatch had nothing to report.

Selectman Knapp recently attended the School Board meeting where they discussed the following: budgets, test scores and trends, employee benefits, supplies, professional development, increased band width, additional science curriculum, increase in health insurance costs.

Chairman O'Brien attended the Veteran's Day program in Rochester. At the recent Planning Board meeting, they discussed a proposed landscape nursery, a one lot subdivision and the Conservation Commission parking lot on Town Farm Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marcia Gasses stated that the City of Dover will be giving veterans a 25% discount for the use of the gym, pool and ice rink.

Chief Walker did more research on the purchase of the old Milton ambulance and felt that it would not fit the needs of Barrington. He would like to purchase a new ambulance at an approximate cost of \$180,000. The price will increase of 3.5% a year. What is our ambulance worth - it doesn't have good trade-in value. Chief Walker ask the Board "what direction" do you want him to take - to go out to bid for a new ambulance. The last one was a demo. There is money in his revolving account for this purchase. Should he pursue a new ambulance – is it needed – the current one is 10 years old. A second ambulance makes good sense. Selectman Knapp asked how he would staff the second ambulance – available volunteers. One ambulance would be basic and one ALS. Selectman Ayer moved to go out to bid and consider a demo, seconded by Selectman Bailey It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. They will keep the old ambulance.

Chairman O'Brien moved to go into non-public session at 9:33 p.m. for reputation per RSA 91-A3 II, 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.

The Board discussed an issue related to reputation.

Chairman O'Brien moved to come out of non-public session at 9:50 p.m., 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.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.