SELECTMEN’S MINUTES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017

The Selectmen’s meeting for Monday, December 18, 2017 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectman Ayer, Selectman Bailey, Selectman Knapp, Chairman O’Brien, Administrator Scruton and Clerk McNeil. Selectman Hatch was absent.

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

Chairman O’Brien opened the public hearing on the acceptance of a portion of St. Matthews Drive as a Class V town maintained road at 6:33 p.m. The town received a “Petition” to accept a portion of St. Matthews Drive. The sides of the road need to be mowed. The town will do the mowing per mutual agreement with developer and deduct $800 from bond that is owed back to the developer. Chairman O’Brien asked if there was any public comment. Paul Howes who lives on Homestead Lane made the following comments: 200’ of Gerrior Drive is in Barrington and that has not been addressed, there is a bad (unnecessary) curve at St. Matthews Drive and Homestead Lane – the road is used as a shortcut - there are many walkers and the road is dangerous, the rock pile is an attractive nuisance – children climb the rocks, neighbors take the rocks – there needs to be a fence around the area, or posting no trespassing signs and there are two uninhabitable houses in the area where their properties are scattered with rubbish. Selectman Ayer moved to accept, as a public highway, a portion of St. Matthews Drive with the conditions regarding mowing the sides of the road, seconded by Selectman Bailey. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. The public hearing closed at 6:35 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Peter Royce stated that he was disturbed that after the non-public session at the previous meeting there was the approval of two new warrant articles. He feels that this is an inappropriate way to do business by making a grandiose plan that no one knew anything about. He had previously asked for update on any major expenses and no one mentioned any plans. “This whole thing stinks.”

REVIEW OF MINUTES – December 11, 2017 – Selectman Bailey noted that the minutes have their pages numbered and list “draft” on their review copy. Selectman Knapp moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Selectman Bailey. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Clerk McNeil asked the Board to amend the agenda so that she could have a public hearing on the issuance of a building permit for John and Mary Houle, 332 Long Shore Drive – a private road. The notice had been posted and the abutters were notified. Selectman Bailey moved to amend the agenda, seconded by Selectman Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. The Houle’s are in the process of putting an accessory dwelling unit over their garage. Peter Cook viewed the road and found it in rough shape and in need of grading. He recommended that the road be graded from Second Crown Point Road to the site after completion of construction. Abutter, Travis Gay noted that he loves living in Barrington but is concerned about the encroachment and he was hoping that the Houle’s do not increase the footprint. Selectman Knapp moved to issue the building permit, seconded by Chairman O’Brien. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Page – 2 -

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. The Board had previously discussed employees buying out sick time which is owed to eight employees out of 2017 funds The total cost if everyone did the buyout would be $42,873.49. The money is in the operating budget. Selectman Knapp moved to offer the buyout, seconded by Selectman Bailey. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
2. Peter Cook is recommending the purchase of the Chevrolet pick-up truck over the Dodge even though their bid was $1,484 higher. The Chevrolet is available immediately whereas the Dodge would not be available for 6-8 weeks. The current pick-up truck is broken beyond repair. Mr. Cook would like to do more research on the ton (5.50) truck before he recommends a purchase. Selectman Ayer supports the purchase of the Dodge as it is easier to get parts. Chairman O’Brien moved to support Mr. Cook’s recommendation to purchase the Chevrolet pick-up with money from the State SB38 funds that was allocated for highway purposes, seconded by Selectman Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
3. Town Clerk, Kim Kerekas budgeted to lease a copier in her proposed 2018 budget. Instead Administrator Scruton recommends the copier in the planning/codes office would be moved to the town clerk’s office and planning/codes could buy a new machine. Chairman O’Brien moved to purchase a new copier from Seacoast Business Machines out of the 2017 budget, seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. The town clerk’s proposed budget will be reduced by $1,100.
4. Administrator Scruton presented the Default Budget for the Board’s review and did the Board or ABC have any changes. The big change is repayment of the conservation bond. The ABC will review as they just received it tonight. Several changes were made to the default budget. It can be discussed further at the public hearing.
5. From minutes in 2016, the Board suggested that a town forest task force be established. Nothing has been done. Administrator Scruton suggested that the Board either appoint 3-5 members to the Town Forest Committee, or put a warrant article on the warrant to delegate it to the Conservation Commission. Selectman Ayer will ask the Conservation Commission to bring forward names for the forest committee.
6. To clarify a previous vote, Chairman O’Brien moved to request $102,800 from the Trustees of the Trust Fund for the purchase of the John Deere backhoe using funds from the Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Fund, seconded by Selectman Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

OLD BUSINESS

Finalize Proposed 2018 Budget – The Board reviewed the Advisory Budget Committee recommendation.

1. Chairman O’Brien moved to remove $10,000 from the executive incident fund and place it in the welfare line, seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
2. Money for the deputy town manager will be discussed at the budget hearings in January.
3. Chairman O’Brien moved to move $10,000 from the assessing contract line to the revaluation line, seconded by Selectman Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
4. Selectman Knapp moved to reduce the legal line by $5,000, seconded by Selectman Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
5. No decision was made on the new police officer.

Page – 3 -

1. No decision was made on the Recreation budget.
2. Selectman Knapp moved to remove $25,000 from the non-lapsing road warrant article, seconded by Selectman Bailey. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Selectman Knapp would like a list of the roads that are being considered for paving for 2018.
3. The addition/new public safety/town office warrant articles will be reviewed and discussed.

Selectman Bailey would like to add $10,200 to the budget to pay planning board members $50 and month and Selectmen $100 a month. Selectman Knapp is against the idea as what you do for one board is not fair to the other boards that are not compensated. He also does not support a fee for the Board of Selectman. Selectman Bailey stated that the Planning Board members put in a lot of effort and time and need some sort of compensation. Selectman Bailey moved to remove the money from fire department budget for an administrative assistant and look at it next year, seconded by Selectman Knapp. Selectman Knapp recommended that Chief Walker’s staff be utilized. The motion was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Selectman Knapp would like to revisit the purchase of a scale at the transfer station. He would like to see fees cover more costs at the transfer station. It was recommended that Selectman Knapp review the price list for the transfer station and make any recommendations.

Selectman Knapp moved to go into non-public session at 7:43 per RSA 91-A:3 II for discussion of land, seconded by Chairman O’Brien. Chairman O’Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Bailey –aye, Knapp – aye, O’Brien – aye. The motion passes.

Chairman O’Brien moved to come out of non-public session at 8:35 p.m., seconded by Selectman Knapp. Chairman O’Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Bailey –a ye, Knapp – aye, O’Brien – aye. The motion passes.

Chairman O’Brien moved to seal the minutes for a period up to a year as it is determined that the information might render the proposed action of the Board ineffective, seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Finalize Proposed 2018 Discussion (Continued)

Selectman Knapp noted the request for a new police officer in the budget and the cost of the for upgrades to the public safety building. Chairman O’Brien felt that maybe we should hold off this year. Chief Williams stated that staffing for the Police Department hasn’t changed in a decade. He would like to hire someone around May 1st. to help reduce the single coverage overnight. This is the year as he had given up a police cruiser. This is the hand that he has been dealt as things keep getting kicked down the road. Administrator Scruton noted that adding staff is protection for the staff and the public. One more staff member will not have a bearing on the current size of the building. The collective bargaining agreement is not included in this proposed budget. Selectman Bailey supports adding this new officer for protection of other police officers and the public. Chief Walker supported “officer” safety and it leaves his people unprotected at the scene when the Police Department has only one officer on duty and who is on the other side of the town. Selectman Bailey move to keep the police officer in the budget – there was no second.

Warrant Articles – The bond for a new police station/town office. Selectman Knapp talked about using money from surplus to lower the cost. Site work still needs to be considered depending on the

Page – 4 –

location. Selectman Ayer suggested using a modular/addition at the public safety building. Selectman Bailey supports the modular for a temporary fix. The Board supported keeping the bond amount in the budget and reviewing at the hearing process.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

SELECTMEN’S REPORT

Selectman Ayer – He missed the last Conservation Commission meeting.

Selectman Bailey- Library Trustees meeting on Tuesday.

Selectman Knapp – School Board is on Tuesday but he will not be able to attend.

Chairman O’Brien – Planning Board meeting on Tuesday. Chairman O’Brien thanked all of the volunteers who helped with the Christmas food/gift distribution.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Boduch asked the Board to recap any of the discussion of the bond warrant article that was discussed after non-public at the last meeting. Administrator Scruton noted the information is available in the minutes.

Steve Saunders asked when there will be clarification of text for warrant articles. It should be ready the first week in January.

Selectman Knapp moved to go into non-public session at 9:17 p.m. per RSA 91-A:3 II for reputation and personnel, seconded by Selectman Bailey. Chairman O’Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Bailey – aye, Knapp – aye, O’Brien – aye. The motion passes.

Selectman O’Brien moved to exit non-public session at 9:55 p.m., seconded by Selectman Ayer. Chairman O’Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Bailey – aye, Knapp – aye, O’Brien – aye. The motion passes

Selectman Knapp moved to seal the minutes indefinitely as it could adversely affect 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, Bailey – aye, Knapp – aye, O’Brien – aye. The motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.