

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2018

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, January 15, 2018 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectman Ayer, Selectman Hatch, Selectman Knapp, Chairman O'Brien, Administrator Scruton and Clerk McNeil. Selectman Bailey was absent.

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

Chairman O'Brien opened the public hearing on the proposed 2018 warrant and budget. Administrator Scruton noted several changes that were recommended by the Dept. of Revenue and the town's attorney. Administrator Scruton also noted the impact on property taxes if the various articles are passed. An additional article was added to the warrant asking the town to allow operation of Keno games within town. Chairman O'Brien explained how Keno works. It was felt that if Keno passed, it might bring restaurants to town. Selectmen Ayer supports new businesses coming to town. Chairman O'Brien asked if there was any public comment. The only comment was if Keno was a petition article. It was not a petition article – it was put on the warrant by the Selectmen. Selectman Ayer moved to support adding the Keno article to the warrant, seconded by Chairman O'Brien. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Chairman O'Brien moved to recommend the Board's warrant articles except for #11 and petition article #22, seconded by Selectman Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Chairman O'Brien moved to not recommend article #22 which was a petition article, seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. The public hearing closed at 6:45 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Royce asked if there would be any more discussion on petition article #22. He felt that passage of the article would not help the budget in the future.

Chief Walker noted that they are currently working on the bid package for the purchase of a new ambulance. The purchase would be after town meeting. Our current ambulance is back in service. Chief Walker thanked MacGregor Ambulance for their help while our ambulance was being serviced.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – January 8, 2018 and January 11, 2018 – Selectman Knapp had a correction to the minutes of January 8th regarding the sale of town owned lots. At the meeting on January 15th, the Board decided to postpone the sale until May. Chairman O'Brien moved acceptance of the minutes for January 8, 2018 as amended, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Chairman O'Brien moved acceptance of the minutes of January 11, 2018, seconded by Selectman Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Administrator Scruton asked the Board about adding money to the budget for the deputy town administrator, whether the Board wanted to add the money in the executive line or the contingency line? The Board decided that if they hired a deputy town administrator they would work within the 2018 proposed budget.
2. The Board will be reviewing the draft Selectmen's Report for the town report for the next meeting.

Clerk McNeil

1. Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: several eviction notices, vendor manifest dated 1/10/2018 (2), and payroll manifest dated 1/7/2018.
2. Clerk McNeil asked the Board if they wanted to meet again with the developer and surveyor regarding Orchard Hill Road. It was decided to have the Planning Board review the proposal first.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Ayer noted that the last Conservation Commission meeting was cancelled due to snow.

Selectman Hatch will be attending a ZBA meeting where they will be asked to continue a case.

Selectman Knapp reported that he and Selectman Ayer attended the school board proposed 2018 budget public hearing. At the school board meeting, Selectman Knapp asked why there was no public comment on the agenda. They added public comment and Selectman Knapp was critical of the sale of the tractor and noted that it violated four of the board's policies.

Chairman O'Brien had nothing to report.

Chairman O'Brien moved to go into non-public session at 7:05 p.m. per RSA 91-A:3 II for personnel, and land, seconded by Selectman Knapp. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien – aye. The motion passes.

Selectman Ayer moved to come out of non-public session at 7:42 p.m., seconded by Chairman O'Brien. Chairman O'Brien asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, O'Brien – aye. The motion passes.

Selectman Ayer moved to seal the minutes for six months as general discussion might render a decision ineffective, seconded by Selectman Knapp. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Back in public session, the Board revisited Article #11 regarding space for the police station and town hall. Selectman Knapp moved to drop the police station from the article and amend the sum of money down to \$750,000, and to use fund balance for the following warrant articles with no impact on 2018 property taxes #12, #13, #14, #15 and #19, seconded by Selectman Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Article #11 will read as follows: "To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$750,000 for the purpose of purchasing property for the town offices, renovating and expanding the building; and further to authorize the Selectmen to purchase such property; this sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. This is a special warrant article and will not lapse until the building completed or December 31, 2019, whichever is sooner. (Majority Vote Required). (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0)
*Note: This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #9, the operating budget article. This article has no additional impact on 2018 property taxes.

It was asked why the Police Station was removed from the article. Selectman Knapp stated that they are still working through the LEAN process, design, and planning to see what the next step will be.

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More needs to be looked at regarding the police station. There will be more information available at the next meeting regarding article #11.

The ABC has made their recommendations on the warrant articles except #11. They will make a decision on article #11 when more information is made public.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.