



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Monday, April 02, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Chester Deorocki, Chip Hussey, Vaughan Morgan, Jim Rolston, Paul Sanderson

Staff: Karen Anderson – Town Administrator

Chair Sanderson opened the Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:00 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; he announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

I. 6:30 P.M. – AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. Promotional Ceremony – Officer Wayne Bertogli

A Promotional Ceremony was held at the Police Department for Officer Wayne Bertogli. Chair Sanderson was unable to attend and offered his apology; he congratulated Officer Bertogli on his promotion.

II. APPOINTMENT

1. Jim Marchese, Building Inspector: Request to Issue Temporary Occupancy Permit

The appointment was cancelled after it was determined the Board of Selectmen didn't have a role in the decision.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Monday, March 19, 2018

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve the minutes of Monday, March 19, 2018. Second – J. Rolston; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Coakley Update

K. Anderson reminded the Board there is a Coakley Landfill public meeting at the Bethany Church on Thursday, April 05, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Chair Sanderson stated that the State Legislature will be busy with Coakley issues in the upcoming days, including a bill on the remediation plan.

2. Other Old Business

Snow Plow Contract: C. Deorocki told members the draft of the revised contract should be available for review at the next meeting.

300th Anniversary Update: There will be a meeting of the 300th Anniversary Committee on Monday, April 09, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room. The logo winner will be decided at that meeting. They will also be discussing selling items to raise funds. C. Hussey asked that Somersworth and Stratham be contacted about where they purchased their flags.

Planning and Zoning Conference: One Planning Board member has signed up for the conference on Saturday, April 28, 2018. Chair Sanderson encourages members of the Planning Board and ZBA to attend; training in the land use area is important.

V. NEW BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Review of Town Administrator's Bi-Weekly Report

K. Anderson reviewed her bi-weekly report for those present. A copy is on file.

LED Lights: The Town has seen a significant savings since converting the street lights to LED. Positive comments have been received from residents. K. Anderson has spoken with the company about doing LED conversions in the municipal buildings.

Copiers: New copiers were recently installed in the Town Offices. There was a savings by turning in the balance of the lease on the old machines. The new copiers were leased through a company in Newington, have more features and are faster. There won't be a charge for overages.

March 13 Snow Storm: The Town's cost was approximately \$42,000. New Hampshire Homeland Security has requested FEMA approve costs as a declaration due to the blizzard and the additional costs that occurred due to voting day. If approved, the Town may be able to recoup 80% of the costs. \$380,000 of the budgeted \$420,000 has been spent to date for snow removal.

Fire Grant: K. Anderson has submitted a grant to Homeland Security for the Fire Department SCBA's. The Town has made it through the initial round; notification should be received by the third week in April if the Fire Department made it through the peer review section. Funds were transferred from the Special Revenue Fund to the General Fund for payment when the SCBA's are delivered.

Hillside Drainage: There continues to be drainage issues on Hillside Drive near #2. Underwood Engineers is contracting it out to a company that will camera the pipe from the last catch basin on the right going diagonally across. The camera will look for breaks in the piping; the center of the road is beginning to show signs of water underneath. A dye test was done recently, and there was dye in a resident's basement.

Article 6 Recount: A recount of Article 6 was held on Monday, March 26, 2018.

2. Tuition Reimbursement Policy and Request

Chief Laurent has requested tuition reimbursement for Sgt. Young. The Board received a copy of the policy in their packets. Money is reimbursed on a first come, first serve basis. The budget for Tuition Reimbursement this year is \$2,500.

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to approve tuition reimbursement for Sgt. Wayne Young according to the Town's Personnel Policy, contingent on available funds. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

5. Seavey Way Current Use Releases

Seavey Way is the new 10 lot subdivision on Breakfast Hill Road across from Stone Meadow Way. Two of the properties are being released for current use. Based on the average lot value of \$175,000, lots are being released at \$17,500 each.

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve the current use releases for 3 Seavey Way and 18 Seavey Way. Second – J. Rolston; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Two other lots have been released from current use, and will be taxed at their full value for the first half. Tax bills will not be issued until the land is disturbed. Once lots no longer qualify, the Town has 18 months to bill.

6. Veterans Credits

Three applications for Veterans Credit have been received. All applicants qualify based on NH residency. All Veterans Credit of \$500: 83 Boxwood Path and 3 Sage Lane; Veterans Credit of \$500: 30 Shore Drive. The application deadline was April 01, 2018.

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve the All Veterans Credit in the amount of \$500 for the residents at 83 Boxwood Path and 3 Sage Lane, and the Veterans Credit in the amount of \$500 for the resident at 30 Shore Drive. Second – J. Rolston; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

7. Elderly Exemption

An application has been received from the resident at 511 Portsmouth Avenue for an Elderly Exemption. The resident qualified based on age, income and assets.

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to approve the Elderly Exemption Level 1 for the resident at 511 Portsmouth Avenue. Second – V. Morgan; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

8. Abatement

An abatement request for Northern New England Telephone dba Fairpoint Communications has been received. The assessor has recommended granting the abatement in the amount of \$6,755 plus interest, and that the Town update their pole license to include language from RSA 72:23.

Chair Sanderson stated this issue has been ongoing for years, and was unsure if the Town's pole licenses have been modified. K. Anderson responded they are modified as they are received (one by one). A public hearing has not been held to do a "blanket" approval. K. Anderson has researched, and was

unable to find an updated global license. RSA 72:23 states the land cannot be taxed, which the Town hasn't done. It's now based on the inventory of the poles; the Town is required to use the inventory of assets supplied by the taxpayer.

K. Anderson explained that Northern New England Telephone is the phone provider. For many years, only the electric company was taxed for telephone poles, conduit, wire, air space used, etc. As other utilities attached to the same pole, some towns started charging the same amount they were charging the electric company. It's been in court over the years for double taxation. Greenland has never taxed the telephone company for being attached; they have been taxed for their share of the pole and connections based on the inventory submitted to the Town. Poles now have to be depreciated; when it was done by the assessor, it was too late for 2017. The abatement request was expected.

Chair Sanderson added that pole licenses need to be updated to indicate that the owners of the license are obligated to pay real estate taxes. K. Anderson stated Fairpoint has been billed for several years and the abatement will be easy to settle because it was based on RSA 72:23. There are still four years of abatements pending that Donahue, Tucker and Ciandella is handling through a joint lawsuit that includes 28 other towns. K. Anderson pointed out that a notice will need to be done and a public hearing held to adopt a pole license.

Chair Sanderson noted that the Planning Board Subdivision Regulations will need to be updated to include a utility license. A license is not always needed if private subdivisions are approved by the Planning Board. If a utility installation is approved by the Planning Board, it will be subject to property tax.

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to grant the abatement to Northern New England Telephone dba Fairpoint Communications in the amount of \$6,755 plus interest. Second – V. Morgan; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

7. Other New Business

There was no other new business to discuss.

VI. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – THURSDAY, APRIL 05, 2018

1. Payroll Manifest 07

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to approve Payroll Manifest 07 in the amount of \$50,164.12. Second – C. Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

2. General Fund Manifest 07

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to approve General Fund Manifest 07 in the amount of \$575,617.94 (School - \$160,000). Second – C. Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

It was noted that after Town Meeting, the Town has 30 days to transfer funds from surplus to the Trustees of the Trust Funds. \$195,000 was transferred for roads and other surplus passed at Town Meeting.

3. Ambulance Special Revenue Fund Manifest 03

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve Ambulance Special Revenue Fund Manifest 03 in the amount of \$154,898. Second – J. Rolston; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

K. Anderson noted this included \$3,000 for the ambulance billing expenses as well as the SCBA funds as voted at Town Meeting to withdraw from the Special Revenue Fund. Monies will be transferred into the General Fund; dependent on the grant, any remaining funds will be returned to the Special Revenue Fund.

4. Fire/Safety Manifest 03

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve Fire/Safety Manifest 03 in the amount of \$206.68. Second – C. Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

5. Police Special Revenue Manifest 01

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve Police Special Revenue Manifest 01 in the amount of \$58,486.50. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. Second – J. Rolston; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 16, 2018 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted – Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: Monday, April 16, 2018