



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Monday, July 22, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Chester Deorocki, Chip Hussey, Rick Hussey, Jim Rolston

Members Absent: Steve Smith

Also Present: Matthew Scruton - Town Administrator

Chair Hussey opened the Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:00 p.m. A roll call was taken; it was announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being live streamed and recorded.

I. APPOINTMENT

1. Fire Department RFP – Exterior Repairs: Chief Cresta

One bid was received for the exterior repairs to the Fire Department from JBC Construction in Londonderry. The warrant article is for \$74,000; the bid came in at \$56,612 (a difference of \$17,388). M. Scruton checked a reference with the Raymond School District; they were very pleased with the vendor and quality of his work. M. Scruton recommended this be approved.

Chief Cresta stated he would like to meet with JBC Construction to look at the entire building for the exterior repairs. If anything is missed, Chief Cresta will discuss it with M. Scruton. Chair Hussey noted that the money is for exterior repairs and cannot be spent on anything else. JBC Construction anticipates starting the work within 30 days and completed within 30 days.

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to accept the bid from JBC Construction in the amount of \$56,612 for exterior repairs to the Fire Department. Second – R. Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

2. Fire Department Update: Chief Cresta

Stair Chair: The current stair chair is broken and will be replaced through the Fire Department budget (\$3,400). They've ordered a new Stryker through a State bid. Chief Cresta did not obtain a second bid; the Stryker seems to be the strongest one.

Band Stand Concert: There was a discussion regarding the cones being set up for the concert on Thursday night. Chief Cresta asked to be contacted.

Library Fire Review: Chief Cresta would like to hire Beverly Kowalik for the Library fire review. She works for the State and charges \$80 per hour; funds are available in the Fire and Safety Inspection account. B. Kowalik reviewed Lowe's and Target for the Town. Chief Cresta stated he wanted to do this properly without hiring several people. C. Deorocki agreed with the Chief. Chair Hussey stated he did not want to see any bills until a decision was made by the Court regarding property ownership. C.

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Deorocki suggested a cap of \$1,600 (20 hours). If more hours are needed, Chief Cresta can make that request.

MOTION: C. Deorocki moved to cap the Library fire review by Beverly Kowalik at \$1,600 (20 hours @ \$80 per hour). The review is not to be done until the Court determines ownership of the property. Second – R. Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

M. Scruton clarified that the Board did not want the review of the building plans by a paid consultant to begin until after the Town owns the property; Chair Hussey was in agreement. There are two sets of plans available; Chief Cresta has one set and the Building Inspector has the other.

3. Deeding of Property: Marge Morgan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Marge Morgan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, addressed the Board. There were two properties to be deeded; she preferred not to mention names on live streaming. However, the information was public. M. Morgan explained that both properties are hardship cases. She has drawn up the deeds for both properties as well as deed waiver forms, which allows the Board to waive taking the property; however, it will continue to be lien. M. Morgan strongly suggested the Board waive the deeds. Due to the lien, the Town will get the tax money, plus interest, if there is a change in ownership. M. Scruton clarified that a tax lien has priority over all other liens that may be on the property.

MOTION: R. Hussey moved to sign the Deed Waiver forms for Map R7, 39 and Map R22, 15. Second – J. Rolston; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

M. Scruton stated that the Board could decide at a later date to take possession even if the waiver forms had been signed. M. Morgan agreed, adding this was done annually.

4. Welfare Agreement with the City of Portsmouth: Marge Morgan, Town Clerk

M. Scruton reminded the Board that outsourcing welfare clients to the City of Portsmouth was continued from the meeting on Monday, July 8, 2019; the Board requested additional information. The information given to the Board shows the total welfare distributed from 2015 through 2019 to date. The number of approved cases vs. denied cases was not tracked. The number of cases is dependent on the economy and other factors.

One of the advantages of outsourcing to Portsmouth reduces the likelihood of a recipient shopping around for the best benefit. State law does not restrict a welfare recipient to their own town for assistance. Greenland will still be reviewing its applications. M. Morgan agreed with M. Scruton; \$50 per hour for the time it takes her and M. Scruton to work with a welfare client is well worth the cost. M. Morgan's biggest concern was liability if a client is denied.

The welfare official in Portsmouth has been handling cases for 20 years. M. Morgan worked with the former Town Administrator for one to two years, and didn't have much training. Both M. Morgan and M. Scruton were concerned about the Town being sued when there's a tough case involved. M. Morgan reiterated that recipients don't have to live in our Town; if they're in our Town, we have to help them. The liability is scary. There has been an influx of cases over the last week, and there are times when there are no requests for help.

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J. Rolston stated he wasn't concerned about the cost; he felt \$50 per hour was reasonable. He was concerned about a resident who deserved help getting lost in the shuffle in Portsmouth. J. Rolston felt that the law could be changed; he thought it was ridiculous that someone from another town could come to Greenland for assistance and take our tax dollars. M. Morgan added that she felt the Town was safer having Portsmouth handle welfare. The Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Portsmouth can be cancelled at any time and expires in a year. M. Scruton explained that the Town would not be giving up control; the Town could direct Portsmouth to provide assistance even if someone did not qualify.

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to approve the City of Portsmouth's Welfare Office to process Greenland's welfare applications. The Town Administrator is authorized to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Portsmouth. Second – R. Hussey; three in favor, one oppose (C. Deorocki). MOTION CARRIED

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Individuals wishing to speak must sign in prior to the meeting. Time limit: 3 minutes per individual. The total time allotted shall not exceed 20 minutes, unless extended by the Board.

There were no requests to speak.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Monday, July 08, 2019

MOTION: C. Deorocki moved to approve the minutes of Monday, July 08, 2019. Second – R. Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Coakley Update

There was no update at this time.

2. Weeks Library Update

The Building Inspector is reviewing the building plans for the Library expansion. The Hearing for Clarification was held this morning in the Rockingham County Courthouse in Brentwood.

3. Seacoast Cancer Cluster Appointment

Martha Wassell, resident and Town Health Inspector, has applied for appointment as the Town's representative on the Seacoast Cancer Cluster Commission. She was the Town's representative for a short time and would like to serve again; there were no other applicants.

MOTION: C. Deorocki moved to appoint Martha Wassell as the Town's representative on the Seacoast Cancer Cluster Commission. Second – J. Rolston; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

4. Review: Personnel Policy

Many of the changes in the Personnel Policy were discussed in 2017; a formal vote does not appear to have been taken. In addition, the policy now includes a Surveillance Policy, worked on by Chief Cresta and Chief Laurent. M. Scruton recommended the Board approve the policy as presented. It can be modified over the next few months. He wanted to have a baseline to work with; nothing is written in stone and changes can be made as needed.

J. Rolston noted that Section 4.2 refers to Performance Evaluations, and asked if those were going to be done. If not, that section should be removed from the Personnel Policy. J. Rolston added it had been discussed before and decided it was not the best thing to do; Chair Hussey was in agreement and recommended it be eliminated.

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to accept the Personnel Policy as presented, striking Section 4.2 – Performance Evaluations - subject to further review. Second – R. Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Chief Laurent pointed out there were comments she had made in red in the Personnel Policy. She asked if they were adopted as questions, and used page 15 as an example: should the Board address the questions. J. Rolston responded that his motion was “as presented”; that would include any comments in red. M. Scruton added with the exception of anything in parenthesis. Chief Laurent noted there are questions throughout. Chair Hussey stated that the Board had to do something right now. J. Rolston suggested going with the motion as made, and look into it further at the next meeting. Chief Laurent will be present at the next meeting.

5. Other Old Business

J. Rolston questioned the rat situation at the Transfer Station. M. Scruton updated the Board that GSC was there last week; he has not received a report. M. Scruton had told GSC the Town would prefer an organic solution that would not hurt the wildlife. GSC was going to review the Transfer Station set up and make recommendations, which have not been received. R. Hussey and J. Rolston have not seen rats.

V. NEW BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE

1. PA-28 Inventory of Taxable Property

M. Scruton recommended that Greenland not use the PA-28 Inventory of Taxable Property form this year. This form is used prior to a revaluation; it was used in 2017. Residents would be subject to a 1% tax penalty if not returned.

MOTION: R. Hussey moved to not utilize the PA-28 Inventory of Taxable Property in 2020. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

2. Water Cooler for Town Office

There was a discussion about the need for a water cooler in the Town Office. The water cooler in the hallway is not working and repairs could cost as much as \$15,000. Chair Hussey asked that water systems be researched; options were reviewed by the Board. The Police Department utilizes a piped in system from Crystal Rock. A system from Stonybrook Water Company was also researched. Bottled

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water was another option. M. Scruton reminded the Board a water cooler was not budgeted this year. He suggested purchasing bottled water and including the water cooler in the budget next year.

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to approve the purchase of 8 to 17 ounce bottles of water as needed and make them available. Second – R. Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

3. Abatements

The assessor prepared several abatements for approval.

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to grant the abatement plus interest for 56 Niblick Lane (Map R4, 19), as recommended by the assessor. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to grant the abatement plus interest for 4 Shore Drive (Map R18, 20), as recommended by the assessor. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to grant the abatement plus interest for 55 Ridgecrest Drive (Map R2, 46), as recommended by the assessor. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to deny the abatement for 14 Sage Lane (Map U7, 10BF), as recommended by the assessor. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to grant the abatement plus interest for 4 Waters Edge (Map R14, 8), as recommended by the assessor. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to deny the abatement for 278 Ocean Road (Map R20, 5), as recommended by the assessor. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to grant the abatement plus interest for 7 Ridgecrest Drive (Map R2, 53), as recommended by the assessor. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to deny the abatement for 28 Osprey Cove (Map R14, 31), as recommended by the assessor. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to grant the abatement plus interest for 2 Hickory Lane (Map R5, 3C), as recommended by the assessor. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to grant the abatement plus interest for 776 Post Road (Map R3, 12), as recommended by the assessor. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to grant the abatement plus interest for 23 Osprey Cove (Map R14, 22), as recommended by the assessor. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to grant the abatement plus interest for 685 Portsmouth Avenue (Map U6, 68), as recommended by the assessor. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: J. Rolston moved to grant the abatement plus interest for 42 Ocean Road (Map R21, 60), as recommended by the assessor. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

4. Other New Business

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Don Miller, Post Road, informed the Board that one of the cameras on the live streaming was not working. M. Scruton will look into the issue.

J. Rolston stated they did an excellent job on Waters Edge. It was beyond what he thought was going to happen.

C. Deorocki asked about the deterioration on Osprey Cove due to electrical work. M. Scruton has reached out to Eversource and is waiting to hear back. C. Deorocki stated top soil has been put on top and it's covered up; M. Scruton stated it was covered with loam the last time he was looked. He has called Eversource, telling them loam should not have been used. C. Deorocki added that with the other side just being done with brand new hot top and gravel was how it was supposed to be done; this was how it was not supposed to be done. It's getting worse every day. M. Scruton noted the top soil is eroding. He will continue to follow up with Eversource, and asked C. Deorocki to keep him informed of the conditions.

J. Rolston stated that he would like to step down as Chairman of the 300th Anniversary Committee. After a brief discussion, J. Rolston will remain as Chair.

VI. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2019

1. Payroll Manifest 15

MOTION: R. Hussey moved to approve Payroll Manifest 15 in the amount of \$55,817.28. Second – J. Rolston; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

2. General Fund Manifest 15

MOTION: Chair Hussey moved to approve General Fund Manifest 15 in the amount of \$690,857.81 (School - \$500,000). Second – R. Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Chair Hussey noted that he pulled two invoices. At the meeting on Monday, July 08, 2019, the Board accepted a donation of plantings for Van Etten Drive from Barry Posternak; the value was between \$1,400 and \$1,800. Included in the manifest were bills for the plantings, which were not approved by the Board. Chair Hussey recommended not paying either of those bills.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Chair Hussey moved to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. Second – C. Deorocki; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Monday, August 05, 2019 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted – Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant

Approved: