

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JANUARY 25, 2016

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.

Selectmen present: Don Hill, Chairman; Leigh Callaway and George McCusker.

Others present: Bryan O'Day, Peter Abair, Mike Lawlor, Tom Duling, B. Manning and Ken Jacques, and Tim Julian.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: Motion by Leigh to accept the January 11, 2016 minutes as written, seconded by George and unanimously approved.

Leigh shared his updates for the Position Description for a Zoning Compliance officer.

Leigh announced the Budget Committee's last work session is scheduled for Monday, February 1. The Budget Hearing is Tuesday, February 9th.

Ken Jacques addressed the Board with concerns from the Budget Committee. There does not appear to be any major issue with the general operating budget. The Budget Committee has some issues with capital expenditures and what appear to be changing dynamics.

1. The proposed amount for paving has increased with an appropriation from fund balance as well the operating budget. The Budget Committee is interested to know if this is to be anticipated as the "new normal". There was discussion about budgeting an amount every year, then encumbering funds for a larger amount of paving to be done every other year.

2. Purchasing new SCBA apparatus for the fire department this year seemed to prematurely cut short existing years of service of the existing equipment. During CIP discussions a year ago, the service life of the SCBA was not discussed. Pete Lacaillade has indicated the SCBA will no longer meet certification at the end of 2018 early 2019.

3. Plans for changes to the library and town office have been in the process of being reviewed by a space needs committee. Capital costs associated with this project are not showing up anywhere and should be included when looking at future costs.

4. The Budget Committee began discussions relative to the life span of both of the used highway trucks and most agreed it would be a good time for an appropriation from the fund balance in a non-lapsing warrant article since there are no large capital expenditures anticipated for this year

The general feeling of the Budget Committee is maybe the \$200K the Selectmen have “set aside” in the fund balance for costs associated with pending telephone pole litigation, could be relaxed a bit to provide an opportunity for more of the funds to be used toward capital items. The Fire Department is going to be looking at replacing their tanker in a few years, and engine 2 a few years after that. B. stated the committee totally supports the SCBA equipment and agree pushing the replacement out to the end of life in 2018 makes sense. They have suggested pushing the tank truck replacement out to as long as they can, and perhaps moving replacement of engine 2 up.

The Board discussed the rationale behind holding funds in the event of a litigation ruling, but agreed it makes sense to relax that a bit now. If money is available when taxes are set, the Selectmen would still use some, if necessary, to offset the town tax rate. A non-lapsing warrant article using fund balance to replace a highway truck, would mean the money is available when the time comes. Leigh noted his preference is to borrow money for a truck and leave money in the fund balance to offset increased appropriations for paving. Discussion followed regarding how borrowing with a non-lapsing article would work. George stated he likes the idea of a non-lapsing appropriation but would like to find out how it works with long-term borrowing. Don stated makes sense to let go of some of the legal money set aside in the fund balance. It will give some room to purchase a truck from the fund balance.

Leigh noted at some point, the culverts on George Hill Road, at Gove Brook, and McDaniel’s Marsh need to be considered for repair/replacement. The building committee is assessing needs, for the office, library and police, and at some point money for that will come into play as well.

The Board agreed to continue further budget discussions to Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Tim requested approval to order the cruiser. Production on the current model will have stopped if he waits until Town meeting. The dealer will allow \$3,000 trade-in allowance. The Board approved Tim ordering the cruiser, with the caveat that if the appropriation is not approved at Town meeting, the purchase will not take place.

New Business: Request for the Selectmen to “close-out” a recent building permit on an antennae placed on the Oak Hill Tower. Selectmen agreed they cannot certify as to completion and have no means to verify installation.

Board and Department Reports:

Planning: Amendment to the Wetlands Overlay District in the Zoning Ordinance was voted to go to town meeting.

A Joint Hearing was held with Sue-Ann Connary of Select Shepherds. The Planning Board felt the documentation they were provided was inadequate to make a determination. The Zoning Board voted to accept the application with the information they were presented, and voted to continue the Special Exception Hearing to their next meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2016.

George noted the abutters were not happy the ZBA continued their hearing feeling there has been too much delay in getting this process started. Concern was shared about the noise continuing. He would like to see measures in place as to what will happen if what is proposed does not alleviate the noise.

Victor Rifkin met with the Board for an amended Site Plan. He was asked to get in touch with the Fire Chief to review emergency access, put names of abutters on the plan, and include names of cabins. Victor is also seeking a Variance from the ZBA regarding an addition to the existing theater. The Planning Board voted to continue the Site Plan Hearing.

Cemetery: The Board accepted, with regret, a letter of resignation from Chuck Moore as a Cemetery Trustee.

Board reviewed updated copies of the Star Lake signs designating where and what types of public access is permitted.

Don shared a questionnaire from the NHDOT relative to culvert replacement on Georges Mills Road at the Star Lake Brook outlet. Replacement is not scheduled to begin for several years.

Correspondence received for the Moose Plate Grant Program. There are no projects planned that would qualify, at this time.

Signatures:

Intent to Cut Timber approved for Ecklund on Webster Pass.

Intent to Cut Timber approved for LeBlanc on Route 4A

Highway Mutual Aid Agreement was approved and signed.

Miscellaneous Business:

Motion by George to approve up to \$250.00 each to replace 4 chairs in the office. Motion seconded by Leigh and unanimously approved.

Mary-Anne Petrin, Treasurer, would like to appoint Richard Petrin for Treasurer. The Board agreed, but would like a letter in writing from Mary-Anne.

At 8:40 p.m. the Board voted to continue this meeting to Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

See below for the continued minutes of January 28, 2016.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CONTINUED MEETING

JANUARY 28, 2016

MEMORIAL BUILDING

10:00 A.M.

Selectmen present: Don Hill, Chairman; Leigh Callaway, and George McCusker. Peter Abair, Road Agent was also present.

Meeting reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

Letter from Mary-Anne Petrin, Treasurer appointing Richard (Dick) Hendl for the position of Deputy Treasurer. Motion by Leigh, second by George and unanimous approval by the Board.

The Board discussed the spreadsheet Leigh prepared showing percentages for various scenarios if budget appropriations are made through the fund balance. 2016 is a light year for capital expenditures and it might be a good year to appropriate money toward a highway truck. Using fund balance for paving is an opportunity to give the tax-payers back money from taxes. Paving was less at times in the past due to some unforeseen circumstances, and a sense 5-6 years ago when the economy was bad and taxpayers were struggling. Leigh and Pete have put together a schedule for road paving. If roads are not paved this year or kept on some sort of schedule, maintenance continues to fall behind. The plan is not about a new philosophy, but a way to restore what has been put off. Don note, it might be a good idea at some point, to have a public forum on town roads.

Draft warrant articles were reviewed, including draft language for long-term borrowing for a highway truck when a particular replacement has not been found. The Board agreed they do not like the process required.

The Board agreed to reduce the amount they have been "holding" in the fund balance for litigation settlement. They will not commit to a specific amount to tax rate adjustment at this time, but wait until closer to tax rate setting time, and expect to be able to make some sort of adjustment, if necessary just as they have done for the past 3 years. They proposed using \$95,000 from the fund balance for paving, and adjust the operating budget appropriation to \$80,000; and to appropriate \$75,000 as a non-lapsing article to purchase a replacement truck for the highway department. They will leave the article for a three year loan to purchase the cruiser. Warrant articles will be redrafted.

Miscellaneous Business: A concern was raised as to whether the interior of the house on the point is being expanded beyond what was approved on the building permit with Susan Hankin-Burke. The Board agreed they have the right to inspect and certify that the restrictions are being followed. George stated if Tom is not available, Ryan Peterson is the deputy and is able to do these inspections and is available at any time the Board needs him.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Submitted by,
Janet Roberts

DRAFT