

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

FEBRUARY 11, 2013

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: John Chiarella, Chairman; Don Hill, and Leigh Callaway.

Others present: Bryan O'Day, Gene Hayes, John Trachy, George McCusker, Bill Huntoon, Justin Hastings, Peter Abair, Road Agent; and Mike Beaulieu, Police Sergeant.
Fire Department members, Pete Lacaillade, Fire Chief; Brian Putney, Kevin Roberts, Alex Moskalenko, and Jack Hedges.

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

Five bids for the roofing project were opened and reviewed. John stated intent for this meeting is to review the bids for warranty and price to be sure that a reasonable number is being recommended for a warrant article. The Selectmen agreed they would like to take more time to compare the bids more closely. John noted that the bids confirm that the amount proposed is a reasonable number. They are not prepared to award bids at this time and would like more time for review. Gene Hayes noted concern that the bids were being opened in a public session and questioned if they should be a public document. John reiterated that the bids are being opened to be sure the warrant article request is adequate to cover the cost. The bids themselves are not being deliberated and a bid will not be awarded at this time. The Selectmen agreed that three bids appear to meet their criteria and proposed cost. They will need to look at them in further detail to compare other parameters.

Warrant Article review:

Fire Department: Brian Putney presented the Board with details regarding the proposal for a multi-use rescue vehicle. Comparisons were made and shown for local towns (Wilmot, Newbury, and Sutton) with similar population and calls for service. The rescue vehicle goes to all medical and fire calls of these departments. These towns have vehicles similar to what the fire department is looking at. The report compares used and new trucks and trucks with 9' and 11' bodies. They would prefer to have the larger body for adequate storage for their backboards and stokes basket. Brian noted that the price for a new truck is a standard quote at this time, and has not been negotiated. Peter Lacaillade stated the fire department is looking for a number to work with to allow for negotiations. Discussion followed regarding used versus new. The fire department will continue to look for a used vehicle that will meet their needs. John stated that he was not in favor of a used vehicle for this purchase. Don stated it would be a disservice if a 9' body was to make budget but an 11' body is what is needed. Pete L. stated that they wanted to present all options. The Selectmen discussed whether to fund the purchase through a three-year loan, or through the unreserved fund balance.

(The description of the warrant articles included is for discussion purposes only; final versions are to be reviewed and approved by the Department of Revenue before they are considered final).

Draft Article Fire Department: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety Nine Thousand Dollars (gross budget) to purchase and equip a rescue truck for the Fire Department, and to authorized the Selectmen to enter into a three-year purchase agreement for such, and to raise and appropriate the sum of (amount will be included once it is determined by the lending institution) for the first year's payment for that purpose.* This article requires a 2/3 ballot vote. Motion by John Chiarella to recommend the article, seconded by Don Hill and unanimously approved.

Police Department Draft Article – *To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a three-year lease agreement for Thirty Five Thousand, Nine Hundred, Forty Dollars (\$35,940) (gross budget) for the purpose of leasing and equipping a police cruiser for the Police Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand, Six Hundred, Eighty Five Dollars (\$12,685) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause.* Motion by Leigh to recommend article as written, seconded by John and unanimously approved.

Grant Application Draft Article *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for the purpose of supporting the Planning Board's effort to complete a comprehensive assessment of the Town's wetland regulations. This appropriation is contingent upon receiving a grant from the New Hampshire Housing Finance Agency's Community Planning Grant Program in an amount up to \$30,000, with no amount to be raised by taxation.*

Explanation:

The 2005 Springfield Town Plan identifies protection of natural resources, including wetlands and wetland buffers as important natural resources contributing to the quality of life and rural character of the town. This grant application is part of an ongoing process by the Planning Board to support the Town Plan. Motion by Don to proceed with the article as written, seconded by John and unanimously approved.

Highway Roof Draft Article - *To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) for the purpose of insulating/roofing the Highway Garage/Fire Station building; this sum to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) with no amount to be raised through taxation.* John Chiarella stated three bids met the specifications and came in under the number the Selectmen had presented. John amended draft article to appropriate a sum "up to".. Motion by John to accept as amended, seconded by Leigh and unanimously approved.

Sand Shed Draft Article - *To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) for the purpose of building a new sand shed; this sum to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) with no amount to be raised through taxation.*

John Chiarella stated recommendation from Ross Stevens if the shed is rebuilt without any changes to codicils and the conservation easement the building could be located where the existing shed is. The motivation behind getting this done, is the existing shed is in rough shape. The plan for a shed that fits Pete's needs is smaller than what was proposed several years ago. The question is if it needs to be done this year. Leigh noted the discussion that has taken place at the budget meetings is whether this proposal best meets the long-range needs. He would like to put together a group of people representing town boards with consultants to do long-range planning and to see whether it makes sense to consider swapping the conservation easement area. The existing building will need some shoring up for another year. Leigh recommended putting an additional \$4,000 in the operating budget and allow time to be spent with consultants and a committee to determine the best scope of the project and whether it makes sense to move easement area. If the committee cannot recommend a better alternative, then next year he would recommend the shed be replaced. Motion by John Chiarella to withdraw the draft article for a sand shed, seconded by Don and unanimously approved.

Town Hall Repair Draft Article - *To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of Nineteen Thousand Dollars (\$19,000) for the purpose of ~~fixing the steeple and windowsills~~ steeple preservation and repair and painting windowsills at the Town Hall; this sum to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) with no amount to be raised through taxation.* John amended draft article to appropriate a sum "**up to**". Leigh described the problems that have been encountered and reported on. Motion by Leigh to recommend the article as amended, seconded by John and unanimously approved.

Old Home Day Expendable Trust Draft Article - *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) for deposit in the Old Home Day Expendable Trust Fund in accordance with RSA 31:19-a; with said funds to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) with no amount to be raised from taxation; (this represents proceeds collected in 2012 by the Old Home Day Committee).* Motion by Don to recommend as read, seconded by Leigh and unanimously approved.

Operating budget:

Recommend increasing executive consulting - by \$4,000 for increased engineering costs associated with long-range planning for the municipal lands and buildings, as discussed. Leigh noted that he would also like to have a consultant in to look at the Personnel Manual to be sure it meets all the labor standards requirements.

Purchase of laptop for Planning & Zoning Assistant use – Motion by Don to decrease executive computer supply/support by \$500.00 and create a new line for \$500.00 under Planning and Zoning. Motion seconded by John and unanimously approved.

John stated that more storage cabinets are needed for archived materials so they can continue to be sorted and scanned. The Selectmen agreed they will need to look further at the needs and will consider funding through the buildings and grounds maintenance line

Selectmen recommended decreasing the Crown Vic repair line by \$1,000.

Kevin Roberts questioned if the Selectmen felt there was enough money in the consulting line to do required research for hydrant ownership/replacement? The Selectmen felt that there was.

Late request received from the Newport Food Pantry for a contribution. The Selectmen declined the request for this year, but will notify and encourage the Food Pantry to give them more specific criteria for next year.

The Selectmen agreed the line item for debt service would be amended when details for financing are received from the lending institution.

John questioned if the Selectmen wanted to consider using the unreserved fund balance for purchasing the truck, since the proposal for the sand shed is on hold this year. The Selectmen were not in favor.

Estimated revenue for sale of municipal property will be adjusted to include the potential for the sale of 3 parcels recently tax deeded. 20% of the assessed value will be determined and use for the worksheet.

The restoration company is scheduled for next week. The heat will be turned back on. The insurance adjuster is recommending replacing the smoke sensors.

Board and Department Updates:

Leigh reported the Conservation Commission is recommending that Pierre Bedard prepare a mylar from his survey of the town lot on the Gratton line to be recorded at the registry. Motion by Leigh to have Pierre make a mylar and record at registry, second by John and unanimously approved.

The Conservation Commission is looking into logging of the Kingsley lot.

The Conservation Commission would like the town to keep the 154 acre parcel at the Grafton line that was deeded for non-payment of taxes. The property has a lot of wildlife activity.

Leigh stated that he would like to look through town properties acquired through taxation and see if any of them make sense to divest the town of.

New Business:

Selectmen noted the hazard with ice build up on Stoney Brook Road from a faulty driveway culvert. Peter Abair says the culvert has holes and the whole thing needs to be replaced. The Selectmen will send a letter to the landowner notifying them of the specific problem and the liability for the traffic hazard it creates.

January 28, 2013 Minutes: Don moved to approve as written, seconded by Leigh and unanimously approved.

Correspondence from Tim Julian regarding findings relative to a mobile home issue .

John stated if the budget committee proposes a significant change in the budget or warrant articles, he will decide at that time if the Selectmen need another meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts