



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2016

Selectmen Present: Nancy Carney, Chris Holman, Susan Silverman

Ms. Carney called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

PRIMARY:

***** BUDGET**

The Selectmen reviewed the budgets in preparation for 2016. Ms. Favreau reported she had updated the budget worksheet and stated that the amount to be raised by taxes was less than last year, if all of the appropriations and Warrant Articles were approved.

All line items were reviewed and the Selectmen agreed with amounts. The Selectmen's recommendations were in line with the Budget Committee.

Capital Projects were reviewed. Ms. Favreau shared that Gene Cuomo's \$30,000 CIP request was taken out as he was able to purchase a used truck out of this year's operating budget. The full amount for a cruiser was added in. The Selectmen discussed the cruiser, reviewed the lease contract from Ford at 6.5% and the price being lower than anticipated at \$33,500. Ms. Favreau shared that she had used \$36,000 in her calculations. Ms. Carney shared that she doesn't want a new cruiser for the next 3 years. Ms. Silverman stated the 09 was being replaced. Ms. Silverman would like to know what the voters think and the Selectmen need to decide yay or nay. Ms. Silverman shared that they haven't gotten a definitive reason for purchasing 3 cruisers. Ms. Carney stated she understood the wear and tear and that Police Officers needed to feel safe in the vehicles but it wasn't realistic to have 3 cruisers.

Ms. Silverman stated that she doesn't think that Chief DiSalvo spent a lot of time working on his budget and didn't know if he enjoyed that part of his responsibilities but he needed to make it realistic. Ms. Silverman also stated that she was on the fence about 3 cruisers and agreed with Ms. Carney. Ms. Favreau stated the Selectmen could decide not to recommend and that it was done a couple of years ago and it went on as a Petition Warrant Article. Ms. Favreau stated that it was her recommendation to purchase the cruiser out right if the Selectmen were to recommend. Ms. Favreau suggested looking at a lease next year if purchasing another cruiser. Ms. Silverman shared that Chief DiSalvo had said it could be put off next year and that CIP agreed. After a lengthy discussion, the Selectmen recommended purchasing a new cruiser and would explain their rationale at the Town meeting, if needed. The Selectmen would bring up their rationale at the Budget Public Hearing as well. Mr. Holman stated they were all in agreement that a new cruiser was needed. Ms. Silverman stated it was taxpayer money and that people are struggling to pay their taxes. Ms. Silverman suggested that Chief DiSalvo attend some budget workshops. Ms. Carney stated that other departments aren't going higher – they are staying the same and that sometimes people need to step back and look at things from the perspective of the taxpayers. The Selectmen recommended up to \$34,000.

Paint one side of the Town Hall – Need to determine what side. Ms. Favreau stated that it could be put off. Mr. Holman stated that repairing the steeple had been discussed. Ms. Carney stated that painting one side of the Town Hall wouldn't interfere with the steeple. Ms. Favreau would contact Dennis Wright to look into and let the Selectmen know if it was necessary to do.

Cemetery Records – Ms. Silverman stated that Phase 2 wasn't done and they were asking for money for Phase 3. Mr. Holman asked if the funds were good for 2 years. Ms. Silverman asked that funding for Phase 3 be postponed until Phase 2 had been completed. Mr. Holman agreed since they haven't done what was allocated. The Selectmen are not recommending.

Cemetery Mower – Ms. Carney stated that last she knew, if there were only 2 guys they have to be together for safety reasons. One could be weed-whacking and the other mowing. Ms. Carney shared that this past summer they spent a lot of

time looking for parts for the mower. Ms. Silverman stated that she thought the Selectmen decided years ago that it wasn't safe for them to be working alone, whether weed-whacking or mowing.

Mr. Holman asked if the Selectmen had an upcoming meeting with the Cemetery Commissioners to get an update on the issues they had. Ms. Favreau stated that they were to let the Selectmen know the outcome and she hasn't heard anything. Mr. Holman stated that he was nervous about a new mower and incurring unnecessary damage if hitting head stones. Ms. Silverman reviewed the Cemetery Commissioners' request to CIP. Ms. Silverman stated it was obvious that the safety policy was being ignored. The Selectmen were not recommending.

Town Hall Steeple – Ms. Silverman stated that she doesn't feel it was enough money. Ms. Carney asked about putting \$50,000 in this year. Ms. Favreau shared it could be done as an Expendable Trust. Ms. Silverman asked that other towns be contacted to find out how they handled steeple repairs. Ms. Favreau asked about increasing the General Government Buildings Expendable Trust and the increase could be explained at Town meeting.

Transfer Station – The Selectmen approved as the work had been put off. Mr. Holman asked about changing to a non-pervious surface. Ms. Carney shared that it was already changed. Mr. Holman stated he was concerned about drainage. Ms. Carney shared the scope of the work to be done. The Selectmen recommended.

Paint Library building – one side – Ms. Silverman questioned the cost of \$7,000. The Selectmen recommended.

Ms. Carney noted total capital was down to \$491,100, with the Selectmen's recommendations.

Legal budget – The Selectmen agreed to leave at \$80,000.

Insurance – Ms. Favreau doesn't have the final numbers and could make an adjustment before the Town meeting.

Police Department budget – Ms. Favreau shared the budget had be revised and overtime was reduced to \$8,000 and gasoline reduced to \$10,000. The Selectmen recommended cutting \$3,000 from overtime and \$5,000 from gasoline for a total cut of \$8,000. Total budget - \$322,588.

Fire Department – Ms. Silverman shared that the budget had been reduced and asked Ms. Carney if it was sufficient to run with the wage increase. Ms. Carney stated that it was difficult to determine and that the budget was workable. Mr. Holman asked if an additional \$2,000 should be added for a buffer.

Ms. Carney shared that work needed to be done at the emergency shelter to make it handicap accessible and a grant couldn't be written for the repairs. The General Government Buildings fund couldn't be used because we don't own the building. Ms. Carney also shared the cost of the repairs was \$3,000 and she wasn't sure who was responsible for those improvements. Mr. Holman asked if the Lion's Club could help and he would bring it up.

Ms. Carney stated the Selectmen needed to make a decision regarding Highway Department on-call pay. Ms. Silverman thought it was decided to do a study and suggested that the on-call be taken out of the budget, as it was a backwards way to compensate employees. Ms. Silverman asked that the \$1,200 be left in the budget but not call it on-call. Ms. Favreau would have Mr. Cuomo meet with the Selectmen to discuss. Ms. Favreau felt that she had already looked at the Highway Department when the Selectmen had the wage discussion and stated that she would look at it again. Mr. Holman asked that a letter be generated stating that at this point the Selectmen felt they don't have enough information to support on-call pay. Ms. Silverman asked what the increases would be if their wages were adjusted and that we would be compensating for time worked instead of compensating for on-call work. Discussion was held on putting the Highway Department on the same wage scale as the Police Department. Ms. Favreau reported that it would be quite an increase as the Highway was Grade 6 - \$14.35 per hour and Police was Grade 9 - \$16.61 per hour. Ms. Silverman stated that she would rather change the wage scale. Mr. Holman wanted to avoid using one department to measure another. Ms. Favreau stated the need to base the decision on job responsibilities. Ms. Carney reviewed the old wage scale against the new wage scale for Police and Highway employees. The Selectmen reviewed the new wage scale and discussed the experience of Highway employees and also the fact that Police Officers have to go through training. Ms. Favreau suggested an alternative other than changing the wage scale and the Selectmen agreed and would like to meet with Mr. Cuomo to discuss in greater detail.

Ms. Favreau asked about Attorney Matthew Serge, since Mr. Holman wasn't available to come in early last week and was this something they still wanted to do. Mr. Holman stated that he doesn't believe the discussion should be in public session and that there was incorrect information in Attorney Serge's letter. Ms. Favreau shared that she asked Attorney Serge again if it could be discussed in public session and Attorney Serge agreed. Mr. Holman talked about his shirt and said there was a whole history with this argument. Mr. Holman stated that he was concerned with the accuracy of the information but that he didn't want it to cost the town any further expense.

Ms. Carney asked if there were any questions or concerns about budgets. Ms. Favreau reported that the Budget Committee cut \$3,000 from the Library budget and didn't specify where to cut – it was left up to the Library Trustees. The Selectmen recommended cutting the Library budget by \$3,500.

Mr. Holman left the meeting at 7:05 p.m. to attend part of the Recreation Commission meeting. Mr. Holman returned to the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

***** APPROVE MINUTES
- January 11, 2016**

Ms. Silverman made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Carney seconded. Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes.
Approved – 2-0

***** APPROVE MANIFESTS**

Ms. Silverman made a motion to approve the manifests. Ms. Carney seconded. Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes.
Approved – 2-0

****** REVIEW SIGNATURE FOLDER – The Selectmen reviewed and signed.**

***** SIGN PURCHASE REQUISITION
Police Department – Desk**

Ms. Carney reviewed the purchase requisition from the Police Department for the purchase of a desk from Staples in the amount of \$1,799.95. Ms. Silverman stated that she doesn't feel we should spend that amount of money on a desk. Discussion continued on other alternatives. Ms. Carney asked Mr. Holman if he wanted to approve the expenditure or to ask them to look at Houston's to find an alternative. Mr. Holman shared that he was told the leg came off of the desk and they caught the computer before it fell. Mr. Holman stated the need to protect the equipment and suggested in the meantime to swap out with another piece of furniture. Ms. Silverman stated that it was an awful lot of money – taxpayer's money and asked if they could find a used desk at Houston's. Mr. Holman stated that the last time the Police Department went to Houston's, they purchased file cabinets and now they can't use them because of the locks. Ms. Silverman suggested that they should talk with Dave and show him what they want and he would find it.

Ms. Favreau stated that Chief DiSalvo was at last week's Selectmen's meeting when they approved the purchase and she wasn't sure if the desk had already been purchased. Mr. Holman stated that he understood where the Selectmen were coming from but doesn't want them to feel like we say one thing one day and change it on another. Ms. Favreau shared that she knows some taxpayers would have a problem with this and that word had gotten out in the community about the \$3,000 desk. Ms. Silverman stated that it was an approved budget – not free money. Mr. Holman stated that he understood and doesn't disagree. Ms. Silverman discussed the policy on purchasing. Ms. Carney asked Ms. Favreau to contact Chief DiSalvo to find out if the desk had been purchased and to let him know that the Selectmen revisited the purchase and have concerns.

**8:00 MEET WITH CARLOTTA PINI
Re: Grants**

Mr. Holman shared that he invited Carlotta Pini to meet with the Selectmen to discuss FastRoads. The Selectmen discussed the benefit to the Town. Mr. Holman suggested sending a survey out to people in the community to see what they have. Mr. Holman would like to collect information. Ms. Favreau asked if the Economic Committee should be the key player in this. Ms. Silverman asked what Mr. Holman was suggesting and Mr. Holman replied that he wanted to look at collecting more information. Discussion continued on the benefit to the town, costs involved, and that originally, it would have been a build out from the Town Hall.

Ms. Favreau contacted Ms. Pini as it was getting late to reschedule the meeting.

***** REVIEW LETTER FROM EVERSOURCE
Re: Tree Cutting**

The Selectmen reviewed the letter from David Crane and Ian Farley, Arborists with Eversource Energy as a follow-up to their meeting on December 7, 2015. The letter outlines the specifications for Eversource's standard maintenance and the NH Enhanced Tree Trimming program and included a map highlighting the areas to be trimmed. Ms. Silverman stated she would like to make it clear to property owners that they don't have to give Eversource permission. The Selectmen discussed the areas to be worked and asked Ms. Favreau to write a letter to Eversource.

*** **DISCUSS JOINT LOSS MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS**

Ms. Favreau shared that there hasn't been a meeting for quite some time and Committee member's terms have expired. Ms. Favreau suggested the following representatives: Highway Department - Chris Silvia, Police Department, Recreation Department – Cindi Beedi, Fire Department and Ms. Favreau.

*** **APPROVE SOUTHWEST REGION PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT**

Ms. Favreau shared that the Planning Board approved the appointment of Gene Cuomo who was interested in serving as Southwest Region Planning Commission Commissioner for Fitzwilliam. The Selectmen approved.

*** **DISCUSS REQUEST TO ATTEND WORKSHOP**

Ms. Carney reviewed Mr. Holman's request to attend the Plan NH – Visioning for Sustainable Communities *After Hours* of 2016 on February 10th at a cost of \$35. Their events are a way to bring together those that care about the impact of the built environment on the health and vitality of towns and neighborhoods. Ms. Silverman shared that she didn't have an issue with attending events if there was a project the Selectmen were working on.

Ms. Silverman made a motion to deny Mr. Holman's request to attend the event on February 10th. Ms. Carney seconded. Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes. Approved – 2-0

*** **PIPELINE**

- **Letter from Massachusetts Municipal Coalition**
- **Memo from Tad Putney- Conservation Commissions**
- **Motion to Intervene – Coalition**
- **Motion to Intervene – NHPUC**

Letter from Massachusetts Municipal Coalition – The Selectmen reviewed and discussed.

Memo from Tad Putney- Conservation Commissions – The Rindge Board of Selectmen sent a letter to FERC regarding the wetlands mitigation issue. The Selectmen reviewed and asked Ms. Favreau to forward the information to the Conservation Commission. Ms. Silverman shared that Rick Van de Poll finished the report on Scott Pond and the Gaseau property.

Motion to Intervene – Coalition – The Selectmen reviewed and discussed the Motion to Intervene and Protest filing submitted by the NH Municipal Pipeline Coalition – which consist of the following towns – Brookline, Fitzwilliam, Greenville, Litchfield, Mason, Merrimack, Milford, New Ipswich, Pelham, Richmond, Rindge, Temple, Troy and Winchester.

Ms. Silverman asked if Attorney Arthur Cunningham should review what we are submitting as a member of the Coalition.

Ms. Silverman made a motion to approve the draft and look at the final version of the filing. Ms. Carney seconded. Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes. Approved – 2-0

Motion to Intervene – NHPUC – The Selectmen reviewed and discussed the Motion to Intervene filed by the New Hampshire Office of Consumer Advocate.

*** **PQDG REMOVAL REPORTING - KMO**

Ms. Carney reviewed the January 2016 KMO Associates report for PQDG removal. There were 46 truckloads (9 trailer loads pulled by ¾ ton pickup, 1 trailer load pulled by 1 ton dump truck, 1 – 10 wheeler dump truck, 7 – tractor trailer loads, 1 – tri axle dump truck, 1 – ½ ton pickup, 3 – ¾ ton pickup, 12 – 6 wheeler dump truck, 1 – 6 wheeler flat bed, 4 – 6 wheeler roll-off, and 6 – 1 ton dump truck) for a total of 153.52 cubic yards of PQDG removal.

Ms. Silverman requested that the Selectmen write a letter to DRED asking them to look at the lot and to schedule something for spring. Ms. Silverman would like a follow-up to make sure they are still within the 5 acres.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **Letter of thanks from Monadnock Family Services**
- **Robblee Tree Service – Schedule to meet with BOS 2/18 @ 1:30**
- **Letter from WideOpen Networks – FastRoads-ready Gigabit fiber network**
- **Selectmen's Town Report** – NC would start a draft report.

Ms. Carney stated that the Budget Committee would be discussing CIP recommendations on Thursday.

Ms. Silverman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Mr. Holman seconded and the motion passed. 3-0

Submitted by:

Sheryl White
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen

Nancy Carney, Chairman

Chris Holman

Susan Silverman
Board of Selectmen