



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
P.O. BOX 725
FITZWILLIAM, NH 03447
(603) 585-7723 Fax: (603) 585-7744
Email: fitzwilliamnh@fitzwilliam-nh.gov

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 28, 2019
7:00 P.M.

Selectmen Present: Nancy Carney, Daniel Baker, Charles Kenison

Ms. Carney called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

PRIMARY:

***** APPROVE MINUTES**
- January 22, 2019

Mr. Kenison made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Baker seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

***** APPROVE MANIFESTS**

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the manifests. Mr. Kenison seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

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

***** REVIEW CONCERN FROM A RESIDENT**

Ms. Carney reviewed the concern from a resident about the transfer station employees working on Thursday as the wind chill would be 20 below.

Mr. Baker made a motion to take under advisement. Mr. Kenison seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

7:15 MEET WITH THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

The Selectmen discussed the questions they would like to ask the Commissioners: how the tax was calculated for Fitzwilliam and the apportionment; and any data looked at on a use basis for Fitzwilliam, i.e. the number of residents that use the services. This information would be helpful to explain to tax payers the services that we receive. The Selectmen agreed that they needed to voice their opinion on increases and question if anything has been done to provide ambulance services. It was noted the budget seemed to be very top heavy and additional staff have been hired.

Chris Coates, County Administrator, Sheryl Trombly, Finance Director and Terry Clark, City Council Member met with the Selectmen to discuss the County budget. Chris Coates thanked the Selectmen for inviting them to their meeting. Ms. Carney shared that the Selectmen were looking for information to be able to share with residents, such as the use of services. Mr. Coates shared that they could answer the Selectmen's questions and wanted to also discuss the use of infrastructure that town's already have instead of building. Mr. Coates shared that from the County perspective, 90% was statutory driven and they have 450 employees. Mr. Coates discussed the departments within the County. Mr. Baker asked if there was some kind of metric the Selectmen could look at to understand the use of services, census data for Fitzwilliam, and whether the county was growing or shrinking. This would be information to give to constituents. Sheryl Trombly stated they weren't necessarily prepared to answer those questions today but she explained some of the departments that are utilized and how. Ms. Trombly mentioned that programs do track where constituents are from. Mr. Baker noted that it wasn't sustainable to continue. Mr. Coates shared that the bump this year was the bond for 3 million for the nursing home. Ms. Trombly shared the nursing home was the main reason for the increase. Ms. Trombly noted that the Town's recent revaluation, combined with the nursing home bond, caused the Town to be hit double.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 28, 2019**

Ms. Trombly shared that DRA uses equalized valuation. Ms. Trombly explained how the Town's portion was calculated and gave handouts to the Selectmen. Ms. Trombly thought the Town could see a lower apportionment next year. The valuations are out of their control. Terry Clark shared that \$658 million worth of property wasn't taxed in Keene. Mr. Baker stated that was 25% of property. Ms. Trombly shared that last year was the first year for the bond payment. Mr. Coates shared they are in the midst of the budget cycle. Mr. Coates mentioned that for many years the County has had less than a 2% increase. Discussion was held on the inmate revenue; one-time projects with the rest going back to the tax payer; the dispatch center, grant writing to help offset the cost; and a matching LCHIP grant to replace windows. Mr. Coates mentioned that they have developed a capital improvement list.

When asked how the County funds their budget, Ms. Trombly shared they were on a calendar year and they have a fund balance to run off of the first part of the year and they get TAN for the remainder. Discussion was held on why Towns aren't billed a couple times a year. Ms. Trombly shared that it sounded like it wouldn't be a burden for Fitzwilliam but it would have to be a Statute and she discussed that some towns have to take a TAN out themselves and those towns could be hurt by twice a year billing. The Statute would have to be for non-specific dates. Ms. Trombly noted it was good feedback to consider.

Mr. Baker asked about the ambulance service. Mr. Coates stated that meetings started about a year ago and they have known it was an issue and they are getting information to start having conversations with the chief in each town. Mr. Coates discussed the number of calls and who answers those calls. This is the difficulty towns face now that industries have left the area. The goal is to start dialogue and meet with the chiefs and then the Select Boards of each town. Mr. Coates shared that he met with a lot of chiefs at the mutual aid meeting a month ago and shared what he had heard. It is a top agenda item and the Commissioners want to move it forward. Ms. Carney shared that it has been a topic of conversation for many years. Ms. Carney shared her concerns and the need to work together to have services. Mr. Coates agreed that it should be community based. Ms. Carney stated that unfortunately the conversation kept starting and stopping and she doesn't want to rely on private EMS services or rely on Keene, as they are professional fire fighters in Fitzwilliam. Mr. Coates shared that he has heard the same thing. Ms. Carney stated it was the same cross the country. Ms. Carney noted that there wasn't an RSA for ambulance services. Mr. Coates stated that he would bring back this concern to the delegation. Discussion was held on hours for EMTs and Fire Fighters; the increase in calls for service; and that Fitzwilliam and Troy are toned together to assure enough manpower is there to assist the community.

Mr. Coates asked about the industry in Fitzwilliam and having an economic plan. Mr. Baker asked them to get back with some of the metrics. The Commissioners agreed.

The Selectmen thanked the Commissions for meeting with them.

***** REVIEW APPRAISAL OF THE HAWAIIAN ART AND ARTIFACTS (LOCKE COLLECTION)**

The Selectmen reviewed the appraisal of the Locke Collection. Ms. Favreau would give the information to the insurance company to make sure the items were covered.

***** REVIEW APPLICATION FOR RENTAL OF TOWN PROPERTY**

Ms. Carney reviewed the Application for Rental of Town Property request from Deborah Shakespeare Thurber, for August 1, 2019 (or July 31st second date choice) for their Project Shakespeare Group performance of The Tempest from 2 – 8 p.m. on the Town Common with use of the Upper Hall for getting into costumes and to be used in the event of rain. Ms. Favreau shared that this was a private organization. A question was asked if there was a fee. Ms. Favreau shared that in the past there was a rental fee and she reviewed the fee schedule. Mr. Kenison asked about the group raising funds. Ms. Favreau shared that one issue was the opening and closing of the Town Hall. Mr. Baker asked if the Library wanted to sponsor them and they could be responsible for getting them in and out. Ms. Carney suggested that the Elliott Institute talk with them and have them as their Thursday entertainment.

Mr. Kenison made a motion to have a Selectman approach the Elliott Institute about sponsoring the Project Shakespeare Group. Mr. Baker seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

***** REVIEW LETTER FROM PAUL GASEWICZ – The Selectmen reviewed.**

***** REVIEW BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT**

Ms. Favreau shared that a change was made to the paragraph regarding Meadowood and wanted the Selectmen to review. After discussion, the Selectmen agreed to leave this information in their report.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 28, 2019**

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **E-MAIL FROM KRISTEN NOONAN – SCHOOL BOARD REP – FOLLOW-UP SCHOOL BOARD MTG – JAN 10TH** – The Selectmen reviewed and discussed. Information has been added to the website.
- **SWRPC – WINTER MEETING – FEB 12TH** – The Selectmen reviewed.
- **E-MAIL FROM SUSAN SILVERMAN – HB57-FN** – The Selectmen reviewed.
- **FUNDING FEDERAL AGENCIES** – The Selectmen reviewed.

It was noted that the Public Hearing on Keno would be held on February 25, 2019

Mr. Baker discussed the land use issues on Mr. Jones' property and questioned whether or not the owner was living on the property. Discussion was held on the definition of a permanent camper. Ms. Favreau reviewed the Town Ordinances. Ms. Favreau shared that Mr. Jones complied with the Selectmen's request for proof that the camper was registered. Ms. Favreau stated a physical inspection was needed. Ms. Favreau shared that she could write to Mr. Jones asking to schedule an inspection. Mr. Kenison shared that the building was bigger than what he told the Selectmen. After discussion the Selectmen agreed that Ms. Favreau would draft a letter.

Ms. Carney mentioned the need to look at the Victory Farm. Ms. Favreau would have Mark Stetson of Avitar look into the matter.

It was noted the Budget hearing was next week.

The Selectmen's meeting next week has been changed to Tuesday, February 5th at 9 a.m.

Ms. Favreau mentioned that Paul Kottila asked if the Annual Report could be dedicated to Katie Metzger. The Selectmen did not object.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

- **STEEPLE PROJECT**

January Meeting Schedule: 9:00 a.m. - Thursday, January 3, 2019
~~7:00 p.m. - Monday, January 7, 2019 - CANCELLED~~
7:00 p.m. - Monday, January 14, 2019
7:00 p.m. - Tuesday, January 15, 2019 – Meeting with NextEra and Planning Board
9:00 a.m. - Tuesday, January 22, 2019
7:00 p.m. - Monday, January 28, 2019

February Meeting Schedule: 9:00 a.m. - Tuesday, February 5, 2019
7:00 p.m. - Monday, February 11, 2019
9:00 a.m. - Tuesday, February 19, 2019
7:00 p.m. - Monday, February 25, 2019

Mr. Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Mr. Kenison seconded and the motion passed. 3-0

Submitted by:

Sheryl White
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen

Nancy Carney, Chairman

Daniel Baker

Charles Kenison
Board of Selectmen