



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Selectmen Present: Susan Silverman, Nancy Carney, Daniel Baker

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

PRIMARY:

***** APPROVE MINUTES**
- **January 29, 2018**

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

***** APPROVE MANIFESTS**

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

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

***** DISCUSS POLICE BUDGET REQUEST**

Ms. Silverman shared that Chief DiSalvo had asked to increase his budget by \$16,895 under the health insurance line.

Ms. Carney made a motion to approve the change in the Police Department budget. Mr. Baker seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes. Approved – 3-0

***** REVIEW 91:A REQUEST FROM FAIRPOINT**

Ms. Favreau reported that she received a 91:A request from FairPoint regarding their second billing for 2017. Ms. Favreau contacted Mark Stetson, Avitar and he advised that a copy of their assessment card be sent. He also asked that they contact Gary Roberge if they had any questions. Ms. Favreau drafted a letter to Tim St. Onge for the Selectmen to sign.

***** REVIEW LETTER FROM RECREATION DEPARTMENT**
- **Paint Class**

The Selectmen reviewed the letter from Cindi Beede, Fitzwilliam Recreation Coordinator. The Recreation Department plans to offer a Paint Night at \$30 per person on Saturday, March 10th to be held at the Fitzwilliam Depot. The Recreation Department would make a donation to use the space.

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

***** DISCUSS TOWN REPORT**
- **Unpaid Taxes**
- **Veterans Health Administration**

Unpaid Taxes – Ms. Favreau reported that Jane Wright, Tax Collector had informed her that the Tax Collector's Association sent an e-mail stating it wasn't a good practice to publish names of uncollected taxes. Ms. Wright shared that there was a

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Warrant Article to rescind publication of these names and it failed. Ms. Favreau checked with NHMA and they responded that the Town wasn't obligated to publish these names and they advised that we stop publishing this list of names. Ms. Silverman reviewed the e-mail from NHMA and shared that sometimes people have paid their taxes by the time the Annual Report comes out.

Ms. Silverman asked the Board what they would like to do. Ms. Favreau shared that a statement could be made stating that we are no longer publishing the list of uncollected taxes and residents could go to the tax kiosk to find current information.

After discussion, Ms. Silverman made a motion that a disclaimer be added to the Annual Report and let residents know where to find the information. The motion included Ms. Favreau's suggestion and adding Mr. Baker's statement that the kiosk is updated more frequently. Ms. Carney seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes. Approved – 3-0

Veterans Health Administration – Ms. Favreau shared that she received an e-mail containing an open letter addressed to veterans who reside in Fitzwilliam and are taxpayers. They are trying to reach veterans who are not enrolled in or are not utilizing their services and asked that their letter be included in our Annual Report.

The Selectmen reviewed the letter and thought that it would get lost in the Annual Report. They didn't feel it would be an effective means of communication. The Selectmen agreed not to publish the letter in the Annual Report but to publish it in the newsletter and have copies when they come to the VA clinic. Ms. Favreau would find out the cost to have it published in the newsletter.

**** **REVIEW BLASTING APPLICATION**

The Selectmen reviewed the Blasting and/or Explosive Demolition Permit Application for Map 23, Lot 26. Ms. Favreau shared that David Streeter submitted the application as there was one rock – 14' that needed to be removed for the foundation. Ms. Favreau shared the ordinance was pretty extensive but doesn't come up that often. Ms. Carney felt that this was an exception. The Selectmen reviewed the Blasting Ordinance. After discussion, the Selectmen asked that notification of direct abutters or those within 250 feet be done and written verification that the notification has been done. The Selectmen also wanted verification that the contractor has appropriate liability insurance.

Ms. Carney left the meeting to handle an emergency.

*** **DISCUSS SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA**

Ms. Favreau drafted an article illustrating the operating budget scenarios for funding formulas of 75/25 and 50/50. The Selectmen discussed where to post. Ms. Favreau shared that the March newsletter wouldn't come out until the first of March. Ms. Silverman thought to get some political type signs which state Vote No on Article 8. Ms. Silverman didn't know whether town funds should be spent on this. Mr. Baker stated he doesn't feel that Fitzwilliam has a unified message. Discussion was held on the need to vote down the 50/50 formula and comments on the Fitzwilliam Community page. Mr. Baker asked if there was anyone that was trying to step up and champion the issue. Ms. Silverman mentioned the person who spoke at the deliberative session and shared there were two people that might be willing to take on the issue. Ms. Silverman, with the Board's permission, would like to put information out through Stephanie Scherr and to add the information on the Town's website. Ms. Silverman shared that two people came up to her and mentioned they were interested in being on a committee to address withdrawing from the district. Ms. Silverman stated withdrawing was a long process that would take over a year. Ms. Silverman shared that she was willing to form a committee. Ms. Favreau stated the first step would be to determine where we would send our children. Ms. Silverman shared that was part of the process and suggested inviting people in and starting a small committee, who would follow-up with the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Baker discussed that when the district was formed, he couldn't figure out how those lines were drawn. Ms. Silverman stated that the northern towns were supposed to be part of Keene but Keene wouldn't let them in. Ms. Silverman shared that Karen Craig mentioned to her that she was willing to start up a committee and there are other towns willing to be part of this. Ms. Silverman asked Ms. Favreau to contact Ms. Craig and schedule an appointment for her to meet with the Selectmen. Ms. Silverman thought maybe the committee could look into RSA 7 & 8 and lobby to get it changed.

Mr. Baker stated if we have a message that was informational – he would go along with purchasing the signs but he wouldn't support that if we are buying 200 signs that state Vote No. Mr. Baker wasn't sure that's what the taxpayers want. Ms. Favreau suggested other language. Mr. Baker didn't want to put a condition on it. Ms. Silverman shared that many people don't know what the impact is. Ms. Favreau stated that was why we need to engage people other than the Selectmen.

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Ms. Favreau asked if the Selectmen wanted to make any changes to her draft. Mr. Baker liked the information as it didn't tell voters how to vote. The Selectmen asked Ms. Favreau to get the information out and include it in the newsletter. Ms. Silverman also asked Ms. Favreau to e-mail it to her and she would forward.

Ms. Silverman shared that someone would raise money to purchase signs.

***** MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE**

Ms. Favreau shared that Mike Grab was looking for members. Ms. Silverman asked members of the Economic Committee if they would be willing to volunteer to assist Mr. Grab in planning the activities.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Before leaving the meeting, Ms. Carney asked the Selectmen to review the grant that she had prepared asking for funding for SCBAs. The Selectmen reviewed.

Ms. Silverman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Baker seconded and the motion passed. 2-0

Submitted by:

Sheryl White
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen

Susan Silverman, Chairman

Nancy Carney, Vice Chairman

Daniel Baker
Board of Selectmen