



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 23, 2017
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**
- **October 16, 2017**

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Carney 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.

***** BUDGET DISCUSSION**
- **Review Health Insurance Rates - 6.2% Decrease**
- **Discuss COLA**
- **Discuss CIP - Executive & General Government Bldg.**

Review Health Insurance Rates - 6.2% Decrease – Ms. Favreau reported that Health Trust had an overall decrease in their health insurance rates of 8% and as a result the Town's rate decreased 6.2%.

Discuss COLA – Ms. Silverman reported that Social Security would be getting a 2% increase. Ms. Silverman shared that the Selectmen generally go with the increase that the Social Security Administration gives. Mr. Baker shared COLA was based on inflation and if the wage was 3% we would always be behind. Ms. Silverman noted the Town doesn't have that much turnover and shared that there were certain advantages, i.e. flexible hours, short commute, not quite comparable to other jobs and people tend to stay in their positions. Ms. Silverman shared the hardest positions that we have to fill was the part-time police officers. Ms. Favreau shared we had just completed a wage study. Mr. Baker asked if this was done across the board. Ms. Favreau acknowledged that it was. Ms. Silverman shared that if someone was at the top of their wage scale – this would be their only increase. Ms. Favreau shared the step increases were 3% and someone could conceivably get 5%.

Ms. Favreau mentioned she has been looking at a longevity stipend. Ms. Silverman asked what the Selectmen wanted to do. Mr. Baker stated he was fine with 2%. Mr. Baker asked when the salary study was done. It was noted the salary study was completed 2 years ago. Mr. Baker asked when hiring if someone could be hired above the starting salary. Ms. Favreau explained the hiring process. The Selectmen asked Ms. Favreau to look into the longevity stipend.

Mr. Baker made a motion to adopt the 2% COLA, effective April 1, 2018. Ms. Carney seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes. Approved – 3-0

Ms. Favreau explained how departments would handle the increase in their budgets.

Discuss CIP - Executive & General Government Bldg. – The Selectmen and Ms. Favreau discussed the Executive and General Government Building CIP needs. Mr. Baker mentioned that Bergeron Construction did some work at Troy's Town

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Hall. Ms. Favreau shared that Southgate Steeplejacks would be available in December and she hasn't heard from the other company. Ms. Favreau suggested putting another \$80,000 in the General Government Building fund. Ms. Favreau thought that some of the column work expense could come out of this year's General Government Building fund.

Ms. Favreau mentioned the estimate for replacing the heating system at the Public Safety Building was \$7,880. Ms. Silverman asked if it could be a Warrant Article and asked for another quote. Ms. Silverman shared she had the name of someone to get a quote from and would get the contact information to Ms. Favreau.

*** REVIEW VETERAN TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATION

Ms. Silverman reviewed the Veteran Tax Exemption Application of Corey Goodwin (Map 4, Lot 43-8). Ms. Favreau shared it would be effective next year.

Ms. Carney made a motion to approve the Veteran's Tax Exemption for Corey Goodwin. Mr. Baker seconded.

Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes. Approved – 3-0

*** REVIEW APPLICATION FOR RENTAL OF TOWN PROPERTY

- Elliot Institute Trust Fund – Annual Tree Lighting

Ms. Silverman reviewed the Application for Rental of Town Property request from William Davis for the Elliot Institute Trust Fund for December 3, 2017 for their Annual Tree Lighting on the Town Common. The Selectmen asked that there be one Police Officer present.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the Application for Rental of Town Property request from the Eliot Institute Trust Fund for December 3, 2017 on the Town Common. Ms. Carney seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes. Approved – 3-0

*** DISCUSS TOWN HALL COLUMN REPAIRS

- Removal of Old Columns
- Trees in front of Town Hall

Removal of Old Columns – Mr. Baker discussed the value of the old columns and stated they shouldn't be thrown away.

Mr. Baker shared antique pine was worth \$8-\$13 per board foot. Mr. Baker mentioned having bids for a piece of the pine and also suggested using the pine as paneling if there was a room that needed to be redone. Ms. Silverman thought it was a great idea – could fundraise. Ms. Silverman asked the Selectmen to think about this. Ms. Favreau would contact Bill Harper and let him know the Town wants to keep the columns. The Selectmen agreed they could be held in the Highway Department's cold storage.

Trees in front of Town Hall – Mr. Baker mentioned the trees needed to be taken down as there wasn't any room for the work to be completed.

Ms. Silverman made a motion to remove the trees in front of the Town Hall to properly complete repairs to the Town Hall. Ms. Carney seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes. Approved – 3-0

Ms. Silverman shared that she has been looking at different types of trees that wouldn't get more than 20-25 feet in height. The Selectmen agreed the trees would be cut down now and replaced at a later time.

*** DISCUSS CONSERVATION COMMISSION REQUEST FOR DONATION EXPEDITURE

Ms. Silverman reviewed the Conservation Commission's request. Ms. Favreau shared that they had submitted a donation request last week in memory of David Green. Ms. Favreau questioned their second donation request. Ms. Silverman shared that if the Conservation Commission wanted to do this it should go to Town Meeting. Mr. Baker asked about charitable donations. Ms. Favreau stated the Town does get requests from social agencies and the Selectmen decide which agencies are included in the budget to be approved at Town meeting.

Discussion was held on there not being any benefit to the Town from memorial donations, donations shouldn't be done with Town money, having the Conservation Commission bring to Town Meeting for a vote and the Selectmen's struggle with it being taxpayer funds. Ms. Favreau shared the Conservation Commission was meeting with the Selectmen in November and the Selectmen decided to discuss this at their meeting with them.

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*** DISCUSS E-MAIL FROM ROXBURY REGARDING SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA

Ms. Favreau shared that Win Wright received the Selectmen's letter and he agreed and was looking into it. The Selectmen discussed having a Petition Warrant Article and they discussed the motion that was presented at the district meeting. Ms. Carney discussed the misinformation that was being circulated. Ms. Silverman shared valuation values would be a 3 year average.

Ms. Carney discussed pushing an information meeting into November or December – not sure when the deliberative sessions have been scheduled. Mr. Baker shared what was compelling for him was how much one town was paying and why would you put yourself in a position to tuition elsewhere.

The Selectmen agreed to having an informational meeting and putting a flyer in the Newsletter and meet the beginning of December. Ms. Carney shared that Fitzwilliam's school representatives needed to give the Selectmen information. Ms. Silverman thought if there was enough interest, a small committee could be formed to work on this issue.

*** UPDATE FROM NANCY CARNEY – REPRESENTATIVE TO PLANNING BOARD

Ms. Carney shared with the Selectmen the Planning Board members were feeling overwhelmed with the amount of information they were working on. Ms. Carney noted the Planning Board was working on a Solar Ordinance, and the Shorelands Ordinance was brought back up. Ms. Carney stated in 2001 the State in their Shorelands Overlay Protection District had dropped the setback to 50 feet. Ms. Carney shared that if towns hadn't brought up the shorelands act before that, the setback couldn't be more than 50 feet. Some members felt the information being brought to them was too much. Ms. Favreau mentioned the Selectmen have always been told they were the enforcers and the Selectmen should have some input. Ms. Carney shared the next item to come before the Planning Board was solar, followed by historic buildings, solar plans, permits, and site plan review. Ms. Carney stated Planning Board members agreed they should be looking at solar and Ms. Carney asked if a Solar Ordinance was put in place, how the Selectmen would enforce it.

*** NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II(a) – EMPLOYEE MATTER

At 8:11 p.m. Ms. Carney made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(a). Mr. Baker seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes.

At 8:13 p.m. Ms. Silverman made a motion to leave non-public session. Ms. Carney seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes.

*** NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II(a) – EMPLOYEE MATTER

At 8:13 p.m. Ms. Carney made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(a). Mr. Baker seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes.

At 8:25 p.m. Ms. Silverman made a motion to leave non-public session. Ms. Carney seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes.

*** NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II(a) – EMPLOYEE MATTER

At 8:25 p.m. Ms. Carney made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(a). Mr. Baker seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes.

At 8:35 p.m. Ms. Silverman made a motion to leave non-public session and seal the minutes as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of the person other than a member of the board. Ms. Carney seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes.

OTHER BUSINESS:

*** **SWRPC Fall Meeting – November 14, 2017** – The Selectmen reviewed.

Ms. Silverman shared that she received a call from a representative of Revision Energy. Ms. Silverman noted that she has talked with Ms. Favreau about a municipal project. Revision Energy has worked with municipalities – their approach is to have a group of investors that would pay for the project and 6 years out the town would have the option to buy the equipment. The project would be sized to the need - street lights or municipal buildings and the Town would be the owner operator and continue to run it. Ms. Silverman mentioned to the representative that he could come in to meet with the Selectmen. He mentioned if he could get a copy of our bills, including street lights – he could come in with more information. Ms. Silverman would get back with him.

Ms. Favreau mentioned that John Fitzwilliam thought the old chain should stay up on the second floor for historical purposes with the clock. Ms. Favreau shared that Mr. Cuomo didn't agree with that and to let the Selectmen deal with it. Mr. Baker stated the chain couldn't be there during construction. Ms. Favreau would asked Mr. Cuomo to hold onto it.

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Ms. Silverman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Ms. Carney seconded and the motion passed. 3-0

Submitted by:

Sheryl White
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen

Susan Silverman, Chairman

Nancy Carney, Vice Chairman

Daniel Baker
Board of Selectmen