



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2017
6:30 p.m.

Selectmen Present: Susan Silverman, Nancy Carney, Daniel Baker

Ms. Silverman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRIMARY:

*** **BUDGET DISCUSSION**

- **Review CIP Requests**
- **Review Department Requests**

Review CIP Requests – Ms. Silverman shared that CIP had cut a lot of items back. Due to the unknown costs of the steeple project, \$120,000 was added to the General Government Building Expendable Trust Fund. The Library decreased. Ms. Silverman wasn't sure if CIP needed a full meeting to discuss as they weren't recommending anything but painting next year – rated as necessary. The \$8,500 request for the Library fence needed more research and the tree planting – rated as deferrable. CIP lowered the amount for road repairs to \$250,000 from \$300,000. Mr. Baker asked why. Ms. Silverman shared the draft of CIP requests – bottom line for 2018 was \$50,000 higher than 2017. Ms. Favreau stated it was higher because Gene Cuomo usually has a carry forward and this year there isn't a carry forward. Ms. Silverman shared that the funding from the State was used to get ahead of his projects. Mr. Baker noted that Mr. Cuomo has 3 guys to keep busy and people look at the roads and they are in much better condition than they have been in a few years. Mr. Baker mentioned added the bridge and the capital reserve that he didn't have last year. Ms. Silverman shared that Mr. Cuomo asked for \$35,000 for bridge and culvert and CIP reduced to \$20,000. Ms. Favreau shared that originally Mr. Cuomo asked for \$20,000 and when he took out the hot box, he increased it to \$35,000. Ms. Favreau asked if CIP was looking at saving half for the cruiser and purchasing in 2020. Ms. Silverman replied "yes".

Ms. Silverman shared the discussion about the cruiser and CIP recommended putting \$21,000 – rated as necessary and to split over two years as opposed to all in one year. Ms. Silverman wasn't sure if the steeple project would need another \$50,000 as we still don't have an honest/clear picture of the work needed. Ms. Silverman felt that the cuts made by CIP were manageable.

Ms. Silverman shared the Firewards requested \$5,000 for maintenance/repair. CIP reduced to \$3,000.

Mr. Baker stated he doesn't feel any of it was unreasonable. Ms. Silverman stated it put 2018 at \$470,550. Mr. Baker noted there was some merit in looking forward as we may have a different tax formula next year.

Mr. Baker stated that generally he would support this and asked if the requests rated as urgent got funded. Ms. Silverman replied "yes".

Review Department Requests – The Selectmen and Ms. Favreau reviewed department requests for 2018. Ms. Carney asked about the number of elections. The Supervisors of the Checklist at their meeting with the Budget Committee stated there were three plus a special election in 2018.

Trust Funds – The Selectmen increased to \$11,000. Ms. Favreau would ask the Trustees of the Trust Fund about the administration fees. Ms. Favreau shared it was done through Citizens Bank. Ms. Favreau estimated the audit would increase to \$19,000 as it goes up every year. The amount spent to-day is \$16,602. Ms. Favreau noted that it could be reduced in 2018 to \$18,000.

Emergency Management and Forestry were combined into one.

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The Selectmen discussed the cost of street lights. Ms. Favreau noted the Town has 55 street lights.

The Selectmen reviewed the local agencies that have requesting funding. Ms. Favreau shared Account #4415 have been requests for many years and the others are requests from agencies during the past few years. The Selectmen asked about the services provided by Hundred Nights Shelter. The Selectmen agreed to fund local agencies that made 2018 requests. The Selectmen wanted to increase Meals on Wheels to \$500. Account #4584.2 , the Selectmen agreed to add \$1,000 for a new Christmas Tree.

Ms. Favreau shared that Planning/Zoning had budgeted for 35 hours per week. Mr. Baker asked if the Selectmen meet with them. Ms. Favreau shared that the Selectmen usually just meet with Mr. Cuomo and Chief DiSalvo. Mr. Baker asked if the Selectmen could ask why the hours are 35. Mr. Baker asked if they work 35 hours consistently we need to pay benefits. Ms. Favreau shared that if an employee works 35 hours we need to provide retirement. Mr. Baker ask why they increased it from 25-30 to 35 hours. Ms. Carney would look into, since she is the Selectmen's representative to the Planning Board. Ms. Silverman suggested putting in the request and change as needed. Ms. Carney questioned if the Economic Committee had increased their budget.

General Government Building – Ms. Favreau shared it was over expended due to the unexpected column work.

Cemetery – Ms. Silverman thought that even though the Cemetery Trustees liked working without a Sexton, she felt there should be one. The Sexton's job responsibilities were being defined and the Trustees oversee the Sexton. Ms. Silverman suggested including the cost of a Sexton in the budget. Ms. Silverman asked the Selectmen what they wanted to do. Ms. Favreau noted the Sexton was a working Sexton at \$16.14 per hour. Ms. Favreau mentioned a stipened position and that might be a better approach to have a Sexton position, who does the paperwork and have laborers to perform the work. Ms. Favreau would do some research. The Selectmen agreed to table the discussion.

Police – Ms. Silverman stated the budget was up significantly. Ms. Carney shared that a part-time officer had resigned. Mr. Baker suggested leaving the budget where it was and noted it was up. Ms. Silverman shared the Budget Committee would review.

Ambulance – Ms. Carney shared it covered supplies and pay. Ms. Carney stated that there were 370+ calls – all calls – Mutual Aid. Ms. Silverman asked about expenditures. Ms. Favreau reported that through last week – ambulance has spent \$26,312 and payroll was \$15,892. Ms. Silverman thought \$18,000 could be left flat with cutting out Troy. Ms. Carney shared the Board of Firewards would be back with different options to make sure we have coverage. Mr. Baker stated that \$33,800 probably wouldn't be spent if cutting out all of Troy calls. Mr. Baker suggested leaving as is. Ms. Carney shared that the Board of Firewards would be making an appointment with the Selectmen and also meeting with the Budget Committee. Ms. Silverman suggested reviewing later.

Highway – Ms. Favreau shared that Gene Cuomo had reduced one full-time salary by three months. Budget at \$416,566.

Street Lighting – The Selectmen agreed to increase to \$16,000

Animal Control – Ms. Favreau shared they often budget more than they spend. Mr. Baker asked if based on the number of calls. Ms. Favreau shared it was based on hourly and included Monadnock Humane Society. Ms. Carney shared that previously when the budget was at \$4,000, the Police Officers were handing calls as we didn't have an Animal Control Officer. The Selectmen reduced to \$6,500.

Library – Mr. Baker noted they added another position. Ms. Silverman shared the increase was mostly salaries. Ms. Favreau mentioned they were asking for an additional part-time position.

Conservation – The Selectmen agreed to reduce to \$2,500.

APPROVE MINUTES
- **December 11, 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

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***** 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.**

***** REVIEW LETTER FROM STATE OF NH**
Re: KENO

Ms. Silverman reviewed the letter from Charlie McIntyre, Executive Director of NH Lottery. Ms. Favreau shared that if the Town wanted to allow it, it would need to be put on the Warrant. The Selectmen agreed to add it to the Warrant.

***** REVIEW CERTIFIED AMBULANCE GROUP**
Re: 2018 Rates

Ms. Silverman reviewed the letter from Certified Ambulance Group regarding the 2018 rates. Three options for new rates: Medicare Inflation Increase – 1.1%; keep rates the same; or provide your own rates or increases. Ms. Favreau shared that last year the Selectmen went with CAGs recommendation to increase.

Ms. Silverman made a motion to approve a 1.1% increase. Mr. Baker seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes. Approved – 3-0

***** REVIEW LETTER FROM AVITAR ASSOCIATES – LAND USE CHANGE TAX ABATEMENT**
Re: Map 14, Lot 8-5

Ms. Silverman reviewed the letter from Mark Stetson, Assessor Supervisor with Avitar regarding Land Use Change Tax Abatement recommendations for Map 14, Lot 8-5. Ms. Favreau shared that Mr. Sylvester had sold his home so the property was no longer eligible to be in current use. When Mr. Sylvester came in to meet with Ms. Favreau, his argument was that the land was valued lower before the revaluation and that was what it should be assessed at. Ms. Favreau noted that Mr. Sylvester

Map 14, Lot 8-5 – Ms. Carney made a motion to accept the recommendation of Avitar to deny the abatement request. Mr. Baker seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes. Approved – 3-0

***** REVIEW EMAIL FROM JAY SOUTHGATE**

Ms. Silverman reviewed the e-mail from Jay Southgate. Mr. Southgate wanted to know if the Selectmen had any comment to his report. Ms. Silverman would like to have three different bids. Mr. Baker liked that he would replace and not scrape and paint. Mr. Baker noted that the other contractor wouldn't remove the steeple and he would like to get a bid from him as well. Ms. Favreau would contact the two contractors to get bids.

***** FINALIZE NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**
- Last day to submit petition warrant articles to school – January 9th

The Selectmen discussed the funding formula. The Selectmen reviewed and approved the newsletter articles.

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

At 8:19 p.m. Ms. Silverman made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(a). Ms. Carney 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. Ms. Carney seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Rick Brackett notified the Selectmen about a possible land donation (Map 11, Lot 64) but he needed to get additional information from the property owner. Mr. Brackett would follow-up with the Selectmen so that a Warrant Article could be written, if needed.

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Mr. Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 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