

MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2008

The Board of Selectmen met for their weekly meeting at 6 p.m. in the Town Office Meeting Room. Present were Selectmen, Sharon Davis, Charles Cheney, Charles Wheeler, James McGarr and Craig Keeney. The Board spent the first half hour going over the manifest and reviewing the bills. They signed one abatement, one Elderly & Disabled Tax Deferral Application, two Residency Applications and one Application from Community Development Financial Authority Payment Request.

At 6:30 p.m. Chairman James McGarr called the meeting to order. The Board first met with Ann Marie Foote and May Brosseau regarding Selectmen's Office staff issue. Ann Marie and May indicated that due to the increased amount of traffic in the office, particularly from increased welfare, that they would like to have their office assistant's hours increased to 36 hours a week. Ann Marie also pointed out that when May was put on full time several years ago that she did not have the Planning and Zoning positions. Her responsibility in these departments has taken time away from some of the Selectmen's Office responsibilities, and their assistant has been helpful in filling in this void. They both indicated that during the past month, they have both on occasions been tied up interviewing a client, and their assistant has been able to assist other people who come in for assessment information, dump stickers etc. Both women were aware that this would make the position full-time. The Board agreed that they had presented the appropriate information that supported the need and agreed to their request.

The Board then met with Town Clerk/Tax Collector Hannah Joyce to advise her as a courtesy that they had decided that since she is a department head that she should be on salary like the other department heads.

At 7:00 pm. Chair McGarr called on Police Chief Warn for his continuation of review of Proposed 2008 Police Department Budget. Chief Warn went down his budget and some of the items addressed were fuel being a large increase. Chief Warn acknowledged a 3% cost of living increase across the board for his officers and secretary and acknowledged there would be no request for an additional officer hired as previously requested at the Selectmen's Meeting on January 28, 2008. Chief Warn explained his need for an additional officer in the near future as court cases were coming up which would necessitate 4 police officers taken away from duty for lengthy testimony. Chief Warn explained how hard it is to keep the Department running properly under these conditions. The Police Chief was concerned that in the past, it was decided that the public not be made aware of the police activities in Town, but at this particular juncture, he felt that the public should be kept informed of just how busy the Department is. At the end of his presentation the Board accepted Chief Warn's budget as revised and thanked the Chief for his time.

Next on the agenda, Chair McGarr asked for review of other budget items for 2008. Ann Marie continued with health insurance issues. Many concerns were discussed from Police Chief Warn, Road Agent Robert (Butch) Bain and the Board of Selectmen. Some concerns of Chief Warn

were co-pay and deductibles were doubled if medical service was utilized out of state. Ann Marie explained that the MVP Insurance quote included a PPO Rider which eliminated the doubling of the co-pay and deductibles. Other concerns were the need to get different insurance agent quotes and to make comparisons of benefits. Chief Warn felt it necessary to have employees voice their individual needs. Butch Bain was concerned about the financial burden placed on present employees if a percentage amount was going to be required to be paid by the employees. Selectman Craig Keeney felt the price quote and benefits from MVP were very good and felt all employees should contribute 10% to the cost of the premium. After much discussion, a motion was made by Selectman Sharon Davis, and seconded by Selectman McGarr that a Benefits Committee be appointed, with one person from each department and a gross amount of \$146,000.00 be placed in the 2008 budget, for health and dental coverage. Health insurance is up for renewal in July, and the Benefits Committee should make their recommendations before that time. A roll call vote was called: Selectman McGarr – aye, Selectman Davis – aye, Selectman Wheeler – aye, Selectman Cheney – aye and Selectman Keeney – nay, motion carried.

In line with health insurance benefits, Selectman McGarr made a motion to add to the Employees' Personnel Handbook the following language: All new hire employees eligible for insurance benefits starting February 29, 2008 will pay ten (10%) percent of their insurance benefit costs, seconded by Charles Wheeler, with a roll call vote from Selectman McGarr – aye, Selectman Davis – aye, Selectman Wheeler – aye, Selectman Cheney – aye, Selectman Keeney – nay, motion carried.

Next on the agenda, Chair McGarr called for correspondence. Ann Marie distributed copies of Proposed 2008 Budget and reviewed changes made from the previous meeting starting with the Town Clerk's changes under the supervisors of the checklist eliminating the laptop and printer, and adjusting the supervisors' rate of pay by 3%. Ann Marie also pointed out that it was time for the auditors to come back and their fees have increased due to more extensive requirements and she distributed literature to the Board explaining these requirements. This line item comes under the Financial Administration section of the budget. Selectmen McGarr inquired as to the necessity of an audit and it was verified by Selectman Davis that the Town would not be able to have the opportunity to borrow monies without an audit.

Ann Marie continued down the list of expenditures for the budget indicating some items remaining the same and some items going up such as postage. The Buildings budget line was up considerably due to increase in fuel and electrical costs. Craig Keeney indicated that he would hopefully have a more accurate quote for the well at Blair Cemetery, but felt \$17,000 would cover the cost for budget purposes.

It was suggested by Selectman McGarr a support figure to the non profit organization, Lakes Region Community Council be increased to \$500.00 even though the organization only asked for \$300.00; this was agreed by all.

Ann Marie felt a necessity to increase the Welfare budget based upon the fact that \$4,000 has already been expended during the month of January.

A letter was also received from DES regarding Beebe River Village District existing water source and the Department's conclusions and recommendations.

Ann Marie also stated a copy of a letter from Attorney Latici directed to Attorney Wood was received regarding Beebe River Development vs. Beebe River Village District and Town of Campton. Attorney Latici going forward with a Motion for Condition Default due to overdue discovery requests and information from Attorney Wood and also information that he has regarding the dissolving of Spritzes Beverage and Beebe River Development from the Secretary of State's Office.

Further correspondence was received in the Miller, Infascilli vs Miller and Town of Campton matter. Patrick Miller and the Infascilli's have joined together on the suit, and is looking for the Court to overturn the Planning Board's 2007 decision to allow Meredith Miller to build a house on her back lot. Ann Marie presented a certificate of the \$10,000 award, which was presented to the Town from Dubois & King, Inc., which will be helpful for initial engineering work for the Blair Bridge project in conjunction with the State Bridge Aid money.

There being no further correspondence Chair McGarr went on to approval of the Minutes from the previous meeting. Chair McGarr made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Selectman Davis; the Minutes were approved by all.

Chair McGarr proceeded with Other Business/ Selectmen's Input. Selectman McGarr felt that now that there were going to be three full time employees in the Selectmen's Office a cross training of duties might be appropriate. Ann Marie explained that each employee has a general understanding of the other's position, and can answer the basic questions, help with the assessing questions, transfer station stickers, directions, tax maps etc. but each also has their area of expertise that is sometimes required to be answered by that particular individual. For instance, Ann Marie pointed out that May Brosseau was more knowledgeable about Planning and Zoning issues since she is the Planning and Zoning Board Clerk.

There being no further business, there was a motion from Selectman Davis to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Wheeler, and voted by all, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor M. Dewey
Office Assistant to Ann Marie Foote, Town Administrator

