

MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
BOND HEARING
BUDGET HEARING
FEBRUARY 9, 2009

The Board of Selectmen met for their weekly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Campton Historical Society Building. Present were Selectmen Charles Cheney, Sharon Davis, Craig Keeney and Marsh Morgan. Selectman Wheeler was not present due to a conflict in schedule. The Board spent approximately the first 15 minutes going over the manifest and reviewing the bills. They signed 1 approval for abatement, 1 appointment of Power of Attorney for Primex regarding Unemployment Compensation Insurance and two appointments for 2 new Police Officers.

At approximately 6:45 p.m. Chair Davis opened the meeting by calling on Police Chief Chris Warn. Chief Warn introduced himself to those who did not know him. He then, graciously gave a little background on himself and the cherished memories of his own personal experience upon first taking the oath of Police Officer. Chief Warn proceeded to introduce Colby Morrison and Kevin Foss as the two new Police Officers to be appointed to the Department this evening. Officer Morrison is being hired full time and Officer Foss is being hired part time. Chief Warn invited Hannah Joyce, Town Clerk/Tax Collector to administer the Oath of Office to both officers. Family and friends were also present to witness their appointments.

Chair Davis then proceeded with the Selectmen's Meeting by making a Motion to adopt the Resolution to Enter Primex Membership Agreement as follows:

RESOLVED: To hereby accept the offer of the New Hampshire Public Risk Management Exchange (Primex) to enter into its Membership Agreement as of the date of the adoption of this resolution, and to be contractually bound to all of the terms and conditions of Primex risk management pool membership during the terms of membership. The coverage provided by Primex in any year of membership shall be as then set forth in the Coverage Documents of Primex.

Motion was then seconded by Selectman Morgan, and with a roll call vote Selectman Morgan – aye, Selectman Davis – aye, Selectman Keeney – aye, and Selectman Cheney – aye, the adoption of the resolution unanimously passed.

Chair Davis then opened the Bond Hearing at 7:00 p.m. by an introduction regarding the necessary repair work already done on the Bump Bridge and the further repair work needed to complete the Bump Bridge, together with the future repair work needed on the Blair Bridge. She explained that the Bump Bridge was closed by the State during the passed months because of emergency repairs, and the bridge is now open. Chair Davis explained that while the emergency work has been completed, additional work has been

recommended by Stan Graton. Chair Davis then referred to the Bonding Example for Covered Bridges which was distributed to the public at the beginning of this meeting. An example of some of these additional repair items are guard railing, metal roof, fire retardment, paving and re-chink of both abutments. Chair Davis called on Selectman Keeney to explain the recommended re-chink procedure. After going over each line item of repairs, Chair Davis stated that \$119,250.00 was needed to finish the work on the Bump Bridge.

Chair Davis explained that the Blair Bridge is also desperately in need of repairs and has been on the "red list" with the State of New Hampshire for several years. Chair Davis proceeded to go down the line items pertaining to the estimated costs being \$1,000,000.00 and the fact that the State of NH would reimburse 80% of these costs, making the total needed by the Town of \$200,000.00 for the Blair Bridge and then making the grand total of both bridge amounts needed by the Town to be \$319,250.00. Out of that figure \$100,550.00 would come from the Capital Reserve Fund making a total amount to bond in the amount of \$218,700.00. With some discussion and questions asked by the public present, it seemed to be the general consensus that the two bridges were "near and dear to the Town" and it was absolutely necessary to repair and preserve the vocal point that the two bridges provide to the Town; compounded by the mere necessity and convenience the bridges provide.

Chair Davis then declared the Bond Hearing being officially ended at 7:30 p.m.

Chair Davis then proceeded with the Budget Hearing and called on Ann Marie to proceed. Copies of the proposed budget were distributed to the public present. Ann Marie went down the pages and briefly explained some of the reasons for increases and decreases. Some of the increases included 3% COLA for employees and some merit raises for others. Also there were some increases included for 2 new computers and software packages to accommodate Town Auditor recommendations and to convert to a new tax system. The Capital Reserves were increased to allow for a \$200,000.00 reserve to be added to the Municipal Building Fund, (a Warrant Article has been drafted) this figure would be added to the already existing figure being held. Some of the decreases being the Planning Board which is being attributed to the anticipation of less construction. The Fire Department has also decreased their budget by \$35,000. Ann Marie also explained Police Chief Warn felt comfortable decreasing the detail figure by \$3,000 and there will be no new Police cruiser this year. Some items had remained the same such as \$45,000 for Welfare and \$1,000 for Health Officer costs. The Selectman did answer questions and also Kelly Bolger (Building Committee Chairman) was on hand and responded to inquiries about the plans for the Municipal Building. Kelly Bolger stated that while the Town puts money aside for the proposed new building, it is hoped that construction costs might drop in light of the present economy. Ann Marie did state that with the proposed bottom line figure of \$4,284,754.13, the Town Tax Rate would increase by approximately \$0.63.

With no further business, the public hearing and Selectmen's Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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