

MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2015

The Board of Selectmen met for their weekly meeting at 6:30 p. m. at the Campton Municipal Building. Present were Selectmen, Charles Wheeler, Sharon Davis, Charles Cheney, Karl Kelly and Peter Laufenberg. The Board signed the manifest and reviewed the bills.

A members of the public who was present at this meeting, but not on the agenda was Hannah Joyce.

At 6:45 p.m. Chair Wheeler called the meeting to order and called on Angela Bain, Chair of the Supervisors of the Checklist and Sally Moulton, a Supervisor of the Checklist. Ms. Moulton explained that 2 locked file cabinets containing Supervisors of the Checklist confidential information have been moved from the locked closet in the Community Room to the Selectmen's Room in the Selectmen's Office. Ms. Moulton explained that she spoke with the Secretary of State's Office and believed this was illegal. Police Chief Warn acknowledged that 2 non-resident police officers moved the locked cabinets to the Selectmen's Room and he also confirmed that he spoke with the Secretary of State's Office and this was not an illegal action. Ms. Moulton expressed that she was concerned that this took place without all the Supervisors' of the Checklist knowledge. It was explained by Chief Warn that he spoke with Angela Bain, as the Chairman, and that it was understood that the locked file cabinets were to be moved. Mrs. Bain confirmed that the exact date of the move was not known to her. Police Chief Warn also confirmed that the reason for the locked file cabinets being moved was to make room for the \$50,000 worth of EOC equipment that will be stored in the locked closet. Hannah Joyce expressed that the Supervisors of the Checklist information is confidential information and the closet was the designated storage area assigned to the Supervisors of the Checklist to store this information. Selectman Davis expressed that when the building was built it was not known that there would be a need to have EOC equipment, nor the need to have storage space to store same; therefore, there is now a need to make the change. Ms. Moulton then expressed that she felt it was a courtesy issue to notify all 3 Supervisors of the Checklist. Chief Warn further explained that after the move, he was speaking to Butch Bain on another issue and he requested that Mr. Bain inform his wife, Angela Bain, that the file cabinets were moved. After further discussion, arrangements were made for the Supervisors of the Checklist to work out of the Selectmen's Office and accommodations will be made for locked storage and another file cabinet. There was discussion as to the remaining items in the storage closet in the Community Room that were in boxes. It was agreed that this confidential information is to remain in the closet until accommodations are made for temporary storage until it is shredded.

Chair Wheeler explained to Angela Bain that the Board had some questions pertaining to the breakdown on the Supervisors of the Checklist Proposed 2015 Budget. The Board inquired about the \$800.00 Public Notices line because last year only \$433.00 was spent.

After discussion it was agreed that the previous \$800.00 be changed to \$450.00 for Public Notices.

Chair Wheeler then called for a Motion to approve the Minutes of February 5, 2015. After one revision made by Selectman Laufenberg, Selectman Davis made a Motion to approve the revised Minutes, seconded by Selectman Laufenberg, the revised Minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair Wheeler called on Ann Marie to review correspondence. Ann Marie indicated that a copy of the DES Shoreland Permit application for the Campton Village Precinct Wellhead Embankment Stabilization Project was received. This project will correct an erosion issue.

Ann Marie updated the Board regarding the revaluation of the Town. She indicated that Phil Bodwell, Town Assessor and Jason Bickford, Data Collector, at the Assessor's Office, have revisited properties (after speaking with property owners during the review appointments) and have now made some adjustments. Letters have gone out from the Assessor's Office notifying the property owners of the revisions. This decision was made in order for the property owners to have time to file an abatement if they still desire to do so as the deadline to file the abatement is March 1, 2015.

Chair Wheeler then called on Police Chief Warn. Chief Warn thanked the Board for agreeing to speak with him as a follow up to the Police Department's 2015 Proposed Budget. Chief Warn expressed his appreciation of what going on with assessment issues and higher taxes; however he expressed annoyance that he heard rumors that he, as Police Chief, was "fluffing" numbers pertaining to research information on population. Chief Warn expressed that the numbers are "hard data" and he in no way "fluffed" numbers and confirmed that the Police Department is a busy department. Chief Warn asked the Board to think about increasing the wage percentages that he initially presented to the Board regarding the Police Department and he continued to address reasons why. Some of the reasons being the Towns of Plymouth and Bristol offer a higher rate of pay (and Chief Warn quoted salary amounts) and Campton cannot compete in this market at the present pay scale. He also addressed the fact that all his staff works wells together. Some other hard data he presented represented that there should be 2.3 officers per thousand of population. With the present number of Campton Police Department staff, the Department would be serving a population of 2,400, representing a shortage of staff to serve the Town of Campton. It was explained by the Board that 1.7% was the representation of COLA and the Board was unable to do performance evaluations this year, so the Board agreed that 2% would be the merit increase across the Board for 2015. Chief Warn presented a 4.5% increase for patrol officers and a 2.5% for the Chief, Executive Secretary and Sargent and he asked the Board to rethink their decision.

There was discussion about the body camera and questions were presented to the Chief regarding cost of maintaining the camera. Fuel was also discussed and it was agreed by the Chief and Board to drop the fuel figure from the proposed \$25,000.00 to \$23,000.00. The training figure was discussed and the Chief confirmed that he would like to do

something outside of the common training and he hoped to get a grant to help fund the some of the training. There was also discussion about number of officers on duty through the week during the day and prosecution duties.

Chair Wheeler then inquired of each Board member what their thoughts were on increasing the Police Department wage percentages. At this point there were 3 not favorable to the increase and 2 favorable. The Board expressed that they had long conversations about their decision of 2% and, at the time, agreed the 2% was fair to tax payers and employees, and some Board members felt that if they do it for one department they should do it for all departments. Chief Warn thanked the Board for letting him come back to discuss the 2015 Proposed Police Department Budget and for listening to him this evening.

Chair Wheeler then called on David Goodwin. Mr. Goodwin informed the Board that he wanted them to know that he, and he alone made the decision to run for Road Agent. He expressed that he made the decision based on that fact that he would like to “better himself” and to advance himself. Mr. Goodwin explained that he wanted the Board to know this because he heard rumors to the contrary. Mr. Goodwin also stated that Butch Bain, Road Agent expressed to him that anyone can run against him if they want to better themselves. With that, Mr. Goodwin made the decision to run. Mr. Goodwin also expressed that he and Butch Bain have a good relationship. The Board thanked him for coming, and some Board members acknowledged that they had not heard these rumors.

Chair Wheeler then called for Other Business – Selectmen’s Input and he called on Hannah Joyce, Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Mrs. Joyce confirmed that her office always charged individuals for returned checks. The amount charged is \$25.00. Selectman Davis confirmed that the school gets charged \$30.00 from the bank for returned checks and with that in mind felt the charges should match. Mrs. Joyce will speak with Mary Durgin, Town Treasurer regarding this issue.

Mrs. Joyce also confirmed that she will schedule her appointment with the Board concerning tax agreements after this week as she realizes the Board has other priorities at present.

Ann Marie also mentioned that Northway Bank now charges for deposit slips. Ann Marie informed Mrs. Joyce that she has another company in mind that can provide deposit slips at a reduced rate and she will give this information to Mrs. Joyce to use when she needs to purchase additional deposit slips in the future.

Chair Wheeler once again opened the discussion regarding the proposed increase in wage percentages for the Police Department. Chief Warn expressed that he has the best case files due to good police work and getting the work done even though they are under staffed (per hard data) and taking into consideration what other towns are paying.

Selectman Laufenberg pointed out that by accepting Chief Warn’s proposed wage figures it would only increase the bottom line by approximately \$3,000.00; however, it will be

even less now that the fuel was reduced. Also, he mentioned that the Board might want to rethink the budget again as they agreed to a 5.6% increase for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's position.

Chair Wheeler again inquired of each Board member if they have reconsidered the increased wage percentages for the Police Department. Each Board member expressed their reasons in favor of or against. At this point, there were 3 Board members in favor of the increased wage percentages and 2 Board members unfavorable. The two unfavorable expressed that the morale of other departments might be jeopardized, and they still felt the 2% initial increase was fair to taxpayers and employees. The final decision by the Board was to increase the Chief's salary, the Sergeant's wages and the Executive Secretary's wages to 2% and the Corporal and the three officers would be increased to 4.5%.

Ann Marie confirmed that she will recalculate new values on the budget, figure offsets and calculate revenues for the Board to review before the Budget Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room at the Municipal Building.

At 8:30 p.m. Chair Wheeler declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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