

## MINUTES

### SELECTMEN'S MEETING

November 21, 2016

The Board of Selectmen met for their weekly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Campton Municipal Building. Present were Selectmen, Peter Laufenberg, Selectman Davis, and Charles Cheney and Karl Kelly and Carina Park, Town Administrator and Eleanor Dewey, Office Assistant and recorder. Selectman Wheeler was absent due to a conflict in schedule. During the work session, the Board signed the manifests and reviewed the bills. The Board signed one Tax Agreement and 2 Building Permits.

Call to Order: Chair Laufenberg called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Members of the public present at this meeting were: Ted Hammond and Police Chief Warn.

Approval of Minutes: Chair Laufenberg inquired if there were any revisions or concerns regarding the Public Minutes and Non-public Minutes of November 14, 2016. **After revisions made by Selectmen Davis , a Motion was made by Selectman Davis to approve the Public Minutes as revised and approve the Non-Public as written. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Kelly and with a roll call vote, the Public Minutes were unanimously approved as revised and the Non-public Minutes were unanimously approved as written. Selectman Cheney abstained from the vote.**

Privilege of the Floor: Chair Laufenberg called Ted Hammond who stated he was here this evening to follow-up on the property at 383 Owl Street and his willingness to purchase it from the Town for the back taxes. He understood with the information now received that the property has to go out for sealed bid or auction. There was a discrepancy as to how Town counsel's recommendations were interpreted as to limiting sealed bids to just abutters or opening it up to the public. Mr. Hammond respectfully requested that sealed bids be limited to abutters. Chair Laufenberg explained to Mr. Hammond that the Board spoke with Town counsel; however, the Board has not had a conversation (as a whole) as to how they will proceed, but he assured Mr. Hammond the matter will be discussed this evening. Mr. Hammond reiterated his plea for purchasing and the benefits to the Town if he purchases. Mr. Hammond addressed the issues that have arisen from the unkempt and unsafe conditions of the property, and the fact that he will have no intentions of rebuilding on the land. The Board expressed their sympathy and expressed they understood Mr. Hammond's concerns and expressed the Town's concerns, and explained that the Board will get back to him within two weeks. Mr. Hammond thanked the Board for all their consideration and will await their response.

Discussion ensued as to questions to be presented to Town Counsel concerning 383 Owl Street and Carina will contact them.

Old Business: None

New Business: Chair Laufenberg called on Carina who informed the Board that the preliminary tax rate has been received from NH DRA and the figure is \$24.32. This is a \$1.41 increase. This increase is due to the drop in valuations, the increase in the Town Budget in the previous year, and the decrease in

revenue. Carina explained there have been some large abatements and Selectman Davis mentioned the fact that the values on telephone poles have decreased by approximately 3 million dollars. Discussion ensued as to decreasing the fund balance to reduce the tax rate. The State recommends between 5% to 17% of the total evaluation be kept in the fund balance. There was discussion concerning the anticipation of any equipment being purchased using fund balance funds for 2017, as the Police cruiser was purchased with fund balance funds in 2016. Carina explained that if the Police cruiser is purchased again with fund balance funds there would still remain enough in the fund balance to be within the State's recommendations. **Chair Laufenberg moved for a Motion to reduce the fund balance by \$189,395.00, in order to reduce the tax rate by \$.50. The Motion was so moved and seconded by Selectman Davis and with a roll call vote, the Motion was unanimously approved. This sets the Town tax rate at \$23.82. Carina will draft the necessary documentation for the Board to sign for the State.**

**Carina mentioned that the Campton Village Precinct tax rate has increased significantly and Waterville Estates property tax rate went down by \$.10 which will be reflected with the Town tax rate mentioned above.**

2017 Preliminary Budget Discussion: Regarding Highway Department Budget: Selectman Cheney suggested that the mowing be contracted out. It was acknowledged that the budget is down; however, concerns were discussed regarding some paving revisions. It was also mentioned that the Board has to clear some things up regarding a full time employee position and a decision on the custodial position which will reflect on the Highway Department Budget.

2017 Fire Department Preliminary Budget Discussion: Discussion ensued as to support or non-support for second ambulance. Each Board member expressed their concerns and reasons for or against the purchase of a second ambulance. The consensus of the Board was by majority, that they did not support the purchase of a second ambulance. **The Board did agree that if a surplus was remaining in the Fire Department Budget, the surplus be used for the purchase of fire gear and a wage study for the Fire Department. Carina will firm up the December 19, 2016 date, for a 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. meeting with the Thornton Board of Selectmen regarding the second ambulance and to review the Preliminary Fire Department Budget.**

Health Insurance: Chair Laufenberg called on Carina who informed the Board that she and Chair Laufenberg met with Jennah Partington to review options for a new health insurance plan as Harvard Pilgrim will no longer be offered. After reviewing several plans, they narrowed the selection down to two different plan. One plan reduces the total premium and the other increases the premium. It was suggested that the Town offer 2 plans in which each employee can choose between based on their own individual needs. Discussion ensued regarding the difference between the two plans and deductibles. Carina explained the two plans and some discussion with the health reimbursement account. Carina also explained that Jennah Partington from NEEBCo will come to do a brief presentation on both plans to explain and guide the employees in picking a plan for each employee to suit their own needs on December 6, 2016, 10:00 a.m. **It was the consensus of the Board to offer the two plans which premium contribution will be:**

**Lesser Tier Plan: 93% contributed by the Town, 7% contributed employee, deductible - \$4,000.00 to \$8,000.00**

**Higher Tier Plan: 85% contributed by the Town, 15% contributed by the employee, deductible - \$3,500.00 to \$7,000.00.**

Personnel Policy Revisions: Carina suggested to start in sections. Discussion ensued regarding vacation time. Calendar year calculation of vacation time vs. benefit year was discussed. Also, pro-rated basis accumulation of vacation and accruing on date of hire. Chief Warn expressed being in favor of personal time that the Town currently allows, in addition to vacation time and the reasons therefor.

Because of the extent of possible revisions to the Personnel Policy, Chair Laufenberg suggested that the Board create a sub-committee to review the Personnel Policy and then the sub-committee report back to the Board with their recommendations. **A Motion was made by Chair Laufenberg for the Board to create a sub-committee (comprised of 2 Board members and 2 employees) to analyze the Personnel Policy and for the sub-committee to present their recommendations to the Board by May 1, 2017. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Davis, and with a roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved the Motion.** Chair Laufenberg and Selectman Kelly agreed to be members of the sub-committee and Police Chief Warn agreed to be a member as long as the second employee be an hourly employee. The Board will discuss further to consider all Departments to get a variety of sub-committee members.

Correspondence: Chair Laufenberg called on Carina who informed the Board that White Mountain Oil's contract is up in December and the 2017 price per gallon is \$1.39 per gallon for propane and \$1.89 per gallon for heating oil. **Discussion ensued and it was the consensus of the Board to approve a one year contract with White Mountain Oil for 2017.**

Carina stated that Angie Van Sickle has informed her that she is ready to proceed with a closing for the purchase of the Chamber of Commerce Building and would like to present her understanding with the Board. After discussing with the Board, Carina will arrange to have Mrs. Van Sickle meet with the Board.

A request was made to use the Community Room for a small birthday party by a Campton resident. The request is out of the realm of the intended use of the room and the request was respectfully denied. Carina will contact the resident.

**Carina informed the Board that there is a Town welfare lien on the property, (in the amount of \$580.00) at 172 Merrill Road, which property is up for auction. Carina inquired if this lien will be forgiven and released with the sale of the property. The Board concurred.**

Carina explained an issue that she, Mary Durgin, Town Treasurer, and Hannah Joyce, Town Clerk/Tax Collector are experiencing. Carina has reached out to Town Auditor, who she will be speaking to on Monday.

An update on TAN. The Northway Bank has 90% of the documentation needed and it is hoped the Town will have funds available very shortly.

**Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II (a) regarding personnel. A Motion was made by Selectman Davis to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (a), the Motion was seconded, and with a roll call vote, the Board unanimously agreed to go into Non-Public Session.**

**The Board returned to Public Session and a Motion was made and seconded to seal the Non-Public Minutes, and with a roll call vote, the Board unanimously agreed to seal the Non-Public Minutes.**

Adjourn: There being no further business, Chair Laufenberg declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor M. Dewey, Office Assistant and Recorder