

Minutes
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Tuesday December 16, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

Selectmen Present:
Colin Stubbings, Robert Lang and Ernest Hartley

The meeting was called to order @ 7:02pm by Chairman Stubbings.

Chairman Stubbings announced that the meeting was being recorded solely for the purposes of preparing the minutes and that others inside the meeting may also be recording the meeting.

Michael Scala (Senator Ayotte's Office) – Michael Scala, Special Assistant for Casework and Project for Senator Kelly Ayotte, was present to present a Congressional Record to the Town and the 250th Anniversary Committee from the 113th Congress. Mr. Scala read the Record to the public that was present which included; Abby Metcalf, Susan Belyea, Eileen Belyea, Polly Marvin, Bernie Marvin, Diane Kircher and Tim Cole who are all members of the 250th Anniversary Committee. Chairman Stubbings is also a member of the 250th Anniversary Committee. After reading the Record, Mr. Scala presented it to Abby Metcalf, Chairman of the 250th Anniversary Committee.

Mr. Scala asked if either the Board or the public had any questions or concerns for Senator Ayotte. Tim Cole said that his only concern was the roads. Mr. Scala noted that he had been asked about this very same issue yesterday. He noted that there needs to be a comprehensive infrastructure plan that funds projects for more than a year. The State has seen a decrease in federal funding in the past year of about \$30 million dollars.

Selectman Lang asked Mr. Scala what the Senator's stance was on the budget that was recently passed. Mr. Scala noted that it was a continuing resolution and said that while Senator Ayotte voted for the budget she was not completely happy with all of it. She voted for it because it was needed and wanted to avoid a government shutdown.

Selectman Lang also asked about Social Security. Mr. Scala said that this is an issue that needs to be addressed in the near future since it's forecasted that the fund will go bankrupt around 2028 or so.

John Metcalf commented that he wants to see the Senator work with everyone in Washington not just Republicans.

Selectman Lang expressed his distaste for the negative campaigning that took place this past year in New Hampshire. Mr. Scala said that unfortunately without some campaign reform there is not much that can be done; especially when the strategy appears to work.

Treasurer – Deputy Treasurer, Susan Belyea, reported that the November reconciliation was completed and that they did not have to borrow any money this year to cover the school check or the County taxes.

Emergency Management – This Friday (12/19/14) Mr. Marvin will be attending a Medical Consortium meeting in Lebanon, NH in regards to pandemics. Ebola and H1N1 are part of the agenda.

The Red Cross has gone through a realignment and the headquarters for our area is now located in Manchester, NH instead of Burlington, VT. We are a part of their shelter program.

On January 6th & 7th, Mr. Marvin will be attending a Disaster Management Seminar @ the Lebanon Fire Department. It is a two day seminar.

Mr. Marvin informed the Board that he would like to appoint a Deputy EMD. Selectman Lang said that he did not have a problem with creating this position, but would like to see a job description before they appoint anyone. He also wanted to know if there would be any monetary compensation that went along with the position. Mr. Marvin said that he would draw something up and get it back to the Board. Chairman Stubbings agreed with Selectman Lang and stated that he has no problem with the position, but would like to see something in writing before proceeding.

Selectman Hartley informed Mr. Marvin that the generator that connects to the school and the Old Church Building was struck by lightning sometime this summer and caused an electronic failure so it is not currently working at this time. Hopefully it will be up and running by this Friday. Selectman Lang asked if there was anything that could be done to prevent something like this happening in the future. Selectman Hartley said that he wanted to look into that after the system was back up and running.

Selectman Lang asked Ms. Collins to contact the Property Liability Trust to give them a heads up that we would be filing a claim for the generator repairs.

Selectman Lang asked Mr. Marvin to host a separate meeting regarding the new E-911 budget and project, prior to the actual budget hearing, so that the public could be informed about what would be involved next year and could ask any questions that they might have at that time. Mr. Marvin will put a meeting together. The budget hearing will be sometime at the end of January.

Fire Department – Chief Bruce Henry said that there have been 49 calls this year so far. Most recently they had to go to North Haverhill for coverage during a fire and there were also two motor vehicles accidents in Town. Chief Henry noted that the Fast Squad was a big help with the motor vehicle accidents.

The Fire Department had a burn trailer brought in from the Academy for an all-day training session. Haverhill Corner Fire Department attended this training as well. Chief Henry said that this was an excellent training tool and they would like to do it again at some point.

The School inspection has been completed. There was a little mold in the furnace room due to the fact that non-water resistant sheetrock had been installed down there. The school principal is looking into getting this fixed.

Chief Henry noted that the Department should be up to 14 members next month. He was just waiting on the background checks to come back. Chief Henry expressed some concern over just finding out that the Board wanted VT background checks run on the new members. The Board said that since these individuals live in VT, a NH check would likely yield not results so a check needed to be run in the state that they lived in.

Operation Santa Claus will run this Sunday (12/21/14). The Department still has smoke alarms available if anyone needs any. They are free for the public.

Chief Henry noted that Chief Kennedy from the Woodsville Fire Department was retiring and would be missed. The Department received their run cards from the Town of Orford. Chief Henry was disappointed that Orford only wants the Town's tanker available.

Selectman Hartley told Chief Henry that background checks need to run on all Fast Squad members as well.

Tim Cole said that the Piermont Mutual Fire Insurance Company has some additional funds that they would like to give the Department and he is looking into some e hydraulics to purchase for the Town.

Cemetery- John Metcalf said that the cemeteries are all closed as well as the Town Grounds and the ball field. He also stated that he had been informed by Ms. Collins that there had been a few items for the cemetery department that had been coded to the Highway Department in error. Ms. Collins has made the corrections and Mr. Metcalf reviewed his budget and feels that he will still come in under budget for the year.

Sewer – Mr. Metcalf noted that they still need to finish the winter prep on the sewer. He noted that this was the first month under the new sewer guidelines and he did not have to provide the Department of Environmental Services with a Monthly Operations Report.

Landfill – Mr. Metcalf asked the Board to add \$1500 to the Landfill Maintenance line items for next year and an additional \$700 for Northeast Ag to cover treatment of the knotweed.

Fire Department Revisited – The Fire Department wanted to know how the bylaws were coming. Chairman Stubbings said that he had found a few more changes that needed to be made and would hopefully get them out to the Department this week.

Executive Assistant – Ms. Collins reported that she has been working with the Department Heads to make sure that there expenditures are all being reported correctly. She also noted that she has been working on getting the books ready for year end. Also, there have been a large number of requests for

assessing information that she has been responding to including a request from property owner, Tamin Shansab.

Selectman Lang noted that he had never seen anything in writing regarding Mr. Shansab's issues. Chairman Stubbings reported that he had run into Mr. Shansab at the post office and he had said that he was not looking to have the issues resolved on Thursday when he met with the Board. He was planning on putting something in writing to give to the Board on Thursday and they could discuss the issues at that time. Chairman Stubbings informed the public that Mr. Shansab would be attending the Board's Thursday morning work session this we to discuss issues that he has with his property assessments. Gathering and collating the paper for Mr. Shansab had been very time consuming.

Ms. Collins asked the Board was happening about the inventory penalties. They hadn't been billed with the property taxes and Ms. Collins wanted to know what she needed to do to get them billed. Chairman Stubbings said that the Tax Collector would be billing them, but has not had the time at the moments to do so since she had been busy collecting the money for the property taxes invoices.

250th Anniversary Committee – Chairman Abby Metcalf noted that now that the 250th was coming to the end, there were still some funds left over and they needed to encumber a few items. The Board said that they would like a list of items that need to be encumbered by December 30, 2014.

Manifests – The Board reviewed and signed the manifests.

Old Business

Police Department Update – All resumes and applications that Chairman Stubbings received have been forwarded to the NH Association of Chiefs of Police (NHACOP). There were some individuals who had submitted a resume, but had not yet returned the application. The NHACOP is following up on these applications. Then they will review all the information that they have received and get back to the Board with their recommendations.

Chairman Stubbings stated that the Sheriff's Department no longer wished to have a satellite office in the Police Department. Sheriff Datile had spoken with his officers and they felt it was unnecessary since their offices are located in closed proximity to Piermont.

Selectman Hartley noted that when his father passed the family had asked that any donations be sent to the Town of Piermont Police Department. These funds were then used to upgrade the evidence room at the Police Department. Selectman Hartley further noted that the former Police Chief had indicated that there would be a dedication of the evidence rooms and plaque put up in the late Mr. Hartley's name. This has not occurred. Selectman Hartley asked Ms. Collins to provide him with a report of the donations that were received as well as the expenditures for the construction of the evidence room.

Selectman Lang stated that he had spoken with a gentleman by the name of Rob Wolfe from the Valley News. Mr. Wolfe was doing research on the 1033 grant and wanted to talk to someone about the

Town's acquisitions through this grant. Selectman Lang informed Mr. Wolfe that the Town had received several items through this grant, but the Board had never formally accepted the items. The Board had originally been told that the items acquired through this grant had to remain with the Police Department for a year and then after that time period the items would belong to the Town and could be moved to and used by other departments. The Board has discovered that this is not necessarily the case. Any issues with the 1033 grant items acquired by the Town will be resolved once the Department has a new Chief.

Property Taxes – Chairman Stubbings reported that tax collections are going well. The Tax Collector has already collected about \$800,000 of what was owed, and as previously reported by the Treasurer, the Town did not have to borrow any money.

Court Update – The Town will be in court tomorrow (12/17/14) in regards to a property tax issues for nonpayment of property taxes.

Chairman Stubbings announced that the Town had won the case that had been filed against the Town by Camp Walt Whitman regarding the 2011 assessment of their property. Therefore the Town does not have to issue a refund of any taxes previously paid by the Town. However, the Camp has a right to appeal within 30 days.

Chairman Stubbings noted that the property that the Town will be in court for tomorrow was formerly owned by Anna Williams and has been tax deeded to the Town for nonpayment of taxes. Ms. Williams' son, Adrian Ladd is fighting the eviction notice that was served to him by the Town. Tomorrow will be a preliminary hearing for temporary relief file by Mr. Ladd. The Town through our attorney will be asking for some type of compensation from Mr. Ladd in the form of rent while he continues to reside in the property during this process. The Board is hoping that the outcome of this case will be in favor of the Town.

Thomson Water Easement – Ms. Collins stated that she has been unable to get a hold of Mr. Thomson and will follow up with him so that the Town can finalize the paperwork for the water easement over his property.

Indian Pond Bridge Project – Ms. Collins stated that HEB has not responded to her e-mail regarding the revised dates for the advertisement. She will follow up with HEB to get this finalized.

Veteran's Credit - The Board approved and signed the veteran's credit application submitted by Heather Subject.

Letter to Mary Jane Meier – Chairman Stubbings read a letter written by John Metcalf to the Department of Environmental Services employee, Mary Jane Meier thanking her for her help in getting several conditions removed regarding the maintenance of the Piermont Sewer Plant and the training of the Sewer Operator. The Board approved of the letter and said that it was okay to be signed by Mr. Metcalf and mailed out.

Equalization Ratio – The Board signed the 2014 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate, which will allow the Department of Revenue Administration to finish processing the Town’s equalization ratio.

Public Input – Helga Mueller mentioned that the Library will be painted over the holiday break, but the bathroom will still be accessible. She wanted to know if the Selectmen had any questions or concerns. The Board didn’t have any problems as long as there was still access to the bathroom during the painting.

Selectmen Hartley asked Ms. Mueller to make sure that the CO2 detectors were covered during the painting so they didn’t get contaminated and then not work. Ms. Mueller will check in the painters about this and make sure that they are covered.

Minutes – The minutes from the 11/05/14 meeting were reviewed. Changes were made. Selectman Hartley moved to accept the minutes as amended. Selectman Lang seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of this motion.

Selectman Hartley move to adjourn to executive session at 8:56PM. Selectman Lang seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of adjourning to executive session under RSA 91-A: 3II(c). The Board adjourned from executive session at 9:50PM. The Board voted in executive session to seal the minutes. Selectman Lang moved to adjourn from the regular meeting at 9:50PM. Selectman Hartley seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of adjourning from the regular meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer L. Collins

Board of Selectman
Colin Stubbings, Chairman

Approved:

Members of the Public Present at the general meeting as recorded by “sign-in sheet” included: H. Mueller, D. Kircher, P. Marvin, E. Belyea, B. Marvin, T. Cole, D. Mitchell, B. Henry, S. Belyea, J. Metcalf, A. Metcalf and J. Collins