

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

Selectmen Present:
Ernest Hartley and Colin Stubbings

The meeting was called to order @ 7:00pm by Selectman Hartley. He announced that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of preparing the minutes.

Minutes – The minutes for the December 17, 2013 Selectmen’s Meeting were reviewed by the Board. Corrections were made. Selectman Stubbings asked Ms. Collins if she had found out if there was a way to run reports out of Avitar for the changes that they make. She noted that she hadn’t asked them yet, but she was going to be speaking with them tomorrow and she would find out. Selectman Stubbings also asked if Ms. Collins had met with the Tax Collector to discuss questions that she had with the balancing reports. Ms. Collins reported that she had not met with the Tax Collector because their schedules did not overlap, but she would contact the Tax Collector and see if there was a time that they could get together. Selectmen Hartley moved to accept the minutes as amended. Selectman Stubbings seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of this motion.

Manifests – The manifests were reviewed and signed by the Board.

Emergency Management – Bernie Marvin reported that work on the Emergency Operation Center continues. There were two recent storms that required that the Emergency Operation Center to be activated. Mr. Marvin noted that he had mailed the information booklet that he had made up and he has received about 16 replies to the mailing from people that have resources available for use by the EMD if needed. Mr. Marvin will be scheduling more table top exercises like he did last year. They will most likely be held in early February at the Old Church Building. Selectmen Hartley inquired as to whether the sessions would be held in the evenings or during the day. Mr. Marvin said that there would be some during both times. Mr. Marvin made mention of a fire that took place on Christmas Day in Wentworth, NH. He noted that 6 members of the Piermont Fire Department responded and were out for about 7 hours and Mr. Marvin thanked them for their time.

Police – Chief Garvin stated that he had nothing to report at this time.

Highway – Frank Rodimon noted that as of this past Saturday (01/04/14), there had been no logging activity on Piermont Heights Road. Tomorrow (01/08/14) Mr. Rodimon will take the truck back down to Thomson’s Auto Body to finish the repair work on it. The sand pile for the public was refilled again. Mr. Rodimon noted that this was the 3rd time this season that they

have had to refill it. Selectman Hartley asked if everything was all set with Wayne Godfrey and the Recycling Center. Mr. Rodimon noted that he had not heard anything further from Mr. Godfrey, so he assumed everything was okay. Mr. Rodimon said that he has noticed that the one ton is running a little dog legged down the road. He got a quote from McClouds for new springs and they will cost about \$1,500 installed.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Bruce Henry reported that they had 45 calls for 2013. Last month there was a structure fire out in East Cornith and Piermont was the first department out there with a tanker. Chief Henry noted that there were some issues with this fire and the departments are going to review. There were some issues with the radios. Chief Henry mentioned the fire in Wentworth and an auto mobile accident on Bean Brook. The school inspection is done and they have a copy of the report and a copy was sent into the State. There was an extrication drill done over in Bradford, VT. Our Fast Squad was involved in this drill as well. Chief Henry was pleased to see them all there. Bunker Gear has been ordered for Hunter Bingham. Mr. Bingham is getting ready to become Level 1 certified. The Fire Department voted in a new member, Chris Brock, last night (01/06/14). Selectman Hartley asked if a background check was run and Chief Henry and Ms. Collins said that it was sent into the State and we are waiting for it to come back. Chief Henry did not foresee a problem with it, but if there was anything they would address it at that time. Chief Henry noted that the Fire Department had purchased some of the 250th Anniversary License plates and have put them on the front of the fire trucks. Chief Henry noted that there was a building out on Lake Armington that they have been asked to burn, but they plan on doing some other training on it before it is burnt. Chief Henry stated that Tim Cole is working on getting permission from the DES before it is burnt. An inspector needs to walk through the building and make sure everything is okay. There is a fee for this walk through, which the Fire Department will collect from the home owner. Selectman Hartley stated that the taxes need to be paid on the property before it can be burned and the department should check with either Ms. Collins or Ms. Stubbings to find out if payment has been made. The batteries in the tanker have been replaced. There is an issue with a valve on the engine. The location of the valve is not ideal, but it will cost about \$3,800 to convert it so they are going to leave it alone. Chief Henry said that they did 15 families for Operation Santa this year. They received donations from Eric Underhill, Hannafords, Four Corners and many others. The department voted last night for their officers and they have remained the same for this year. Chief Henry was voted in as Chief, Andy Mauchley, Deputy Chief, Jared Shipman, Captain and Chris Yeager, Lieutenant. Chief Henry wanted to make note that people should not keep their generators close to their house windows, near dryer vents or inside the home/garage. Selectman Hartley said that the department should get the word out to the public about this. Ms. Collins suggested putting out a public awareness mailing like what Mr. Marvin did for the EMD.

Highway Revisted – Mr. Rodimon gave the Board a written statement concerning the new section of road that was put in by John Giambrone. He had previously discussed this with Ms. Collins to see if there were any changes that should be made. Ms. Collins suggested rewording a few sentences, which he did. He read the revised statement out loud. The Board said that the statement was acceptable.

Executive Assistant – Ms. Collins noted that cash is reconciled thru November and she is working on the December reconciliation. She hopes to have this done by the end of the week. Ms. Collins noted that she will talk with Ms. Stubbings to work out a time that they can be in the office together to work on the reconciliations. Ms. Collins has been working on entering items in for the year end and has ordered the forms to do the W-2s and 1099-Misc. She has also forwarded information down to the auditors for them to process now that the second issue tax bills have been sent out. She sent a deed to Avitar for the sale of a property from the state to a local couple that took place at the end of the last year, which was showing a discrepancy in acreage. This has since been resolved.

Old Business

Encumbrances –

Highway Department

- Rodimon Lane Bridge - \$37,548.00
- Hal Covert – Excavator Rental - \$2,000.00
- Indian Pond Bridge Project - \$ 305,130.00
- One-ton Springs - \$1,500.00

Police Department

- Medical Reimbursement - \$1,000.00

Fire Department

- Fire Ponds - \$7,350.00
- Bunker Gear - \$1,650.00
- Generator - \$478.00

EMD

- Emergency Operations Center - \$12,275.00

General Building Repairs

- Insulating Old Church Building basement \$7,000.00
- Well Repairs - \$1,400.00
- Generator Hook-up - \$1,500.00

Executive

- Website - \$2,500.00
- Network Server - \$1,500.00
- Legal Fees – Camp Walt Whitman - \$5,000.00
Tax Collector - \$200.00

Selectman Stubbings noted that the tax collector is going to need funds for evictions on property that is scheduled to be deeded to the Town and also for the 2011 property taxes. Due to issues with the liens on the 2011 property taxes the Town cannot recover the outstanding taxes through the deeding process so we will be filing small claims to recover these taxes. It will be about \$6,000 to recover the \$105,000.00 we currently have in 2011 outstanding property taxes.

Credit Card Fees – Town Building – Panic Alarm Batteries - \$22.00
Police Hitch - \$35.00
Tax Collector Phone - \$37.00
Office Supplies Paper - \$50.00
Postage - \$105.00
Town Common Fund - \$60.00
Highway Diesel - \$90.00

Chief Henry asked if there was going to be any insulation done at the Fire Department. Selectman Hartley said that was included in the \$7,000.00 that was encumbered.

Chief Henry also noted that there were still issues with the wall at the Fire Department. Selectman Hartley discussed digging a trench. Mr. Rodimon said that they would try and do something to at least get a ditch started.

Mabry's Personal Property – Selectman Hartley wanted to know if all Mabry's Personal Property had been returned to him with the exception of the vehicle. Chief Garvin said that Mr. Mabry didn't want anything to do with the vehicle. Chief Garvin said that the Board could contact him and see if Mr. Mabry wants to sign it over to the Town, but if he doesn't do anything with it, the Town will start charging him storage fees. Selectman Hartley said that we needed something in writing stating that he didn't want the vehicle and any expenses that the Town incurs getting rid of the vehicle will be charged to Mabry. Chief Garvin noted that this issue is beyond the criminal case and has become a civil issue. Mr. Rodimon said that if the Town does receive ownership of the car, he knows of a couple of people who would be interested in it. Selectman Hartley questioned whether the Town can be involved in selling a vehicle that was being building for illegal purposes. Mr. Rodimon noted that the person he knows is only interested in the motor. The Board asked Chief Garvin to get in contact with Mr. Mabry to find out what he wants to do with the vehicle. Selectman Stubbings asked if there was VIN number on it. Chief Garvin will have to look at the case file to see if he has it. Selectman Hartley asked again if Mabry had all his personal property. Chief Garvin said that he had everything that he cared about.

Bagley Mediation – The Board will sit down with Mark Stetson from Avitar and our Town Attorney to discuss this case. The Board is looking at January 16th, 23rd or 30th to sit down with everyone at around 8:30am in the Old Church Building. This is a required part of the appeal process to see if a resolution can be reached before the courts get involved. Ms. Collins noted that the cost for Mark Stetson to be there is covered under the days that we budget for our

annual contact. However Mr. Stetson noted that the Town has been using 12-13 days for the last couple years, which is more than the 10 days that we budget for, so we may want to increase our annual assessing budget

Mazzilli Fire Pond – Selectman Hartley and Selectman Stubbings met with Peter Mazzilli and toured the Fire Pond and a statement was written up and Mr. Mazzilli has agreed to sell the fire pond to the Town for \$1. Now the Town needs to bring in a surveyor to survey the pond. The Town would like a 20’ buffer, where available, around the pond for maintenance.

New Business

Budget Hearing – The Budget Hearing will be January 29th @ 7:00pm in the Old Church Building.

Warren Town Line Issue – Polly Tafrate sold some property to Fairpoint Communication last year and she also had the property surveyed. On the survey done by Timothy W. Sutherland Land Surveying (Plan # 14525), it was noted by the surveyor that the Town of Piermont has the Piermont/Warren Townline in the wrong place. Therefore, the Town is assessing the incorrect acreage on the property and possibly other properties on the Townline as well. Ms. Collins sent this issue to the assessor to look over and he said that he would feel more comfortable if he saw something in writing that said that the Piermont Selectmen and Warren Selectmen were in agreement on the Townline. Ms. Collins will get the tax maps from Warren that show the Townline and see if it can be determined if their maps show the same thing as ours or not. Selectman Hartley said that he talked with Eric Underhill about this, but Eric did not preambule the Piermont/Warren line. This was done by David Ritchie and Selectman Hartley will follow up with Mr. Ritchie tomorrow. Charlie Foote was involved on the Warren side.

Public Input – Ms. Collins asked Mr. Marvin if there were any drills scheduled for the personnel that will be helping out with the emergency shelter. He said that Mel Kircher was in charge of the shelter and he would check with him.

Selectman Hartley moved to adjourn to executive session at 8:11 pm for a welfare issue. Selectmen Stubbings seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of this motion. The Board adjourned from executive session at 8:49 pm. Selectman Hartley moved to adjourned from the regular meeting at 8:49 pm. Selectman Stubbings seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of this motion.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer L. Collins

Board of Selectman
Ernest Hartley, Selectman

Approved:

Members of the Public Present at the general meeting as recorded by “sign-in sheet” included:
R. Garvin, B. Marvin, H. Mueller, B. Henry, F. Rodimon and J. Collins