

Draft Minutes
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday August 30, 2016

Selectmen Present:
Randy Subject and Colin Stubbings

The meeting was called to order @ 7:00 pm by Chairman Subject. The meeting will be recorded for the purpose of accurate minutes.

Mr. Marvin led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Avitar Update- Mark Stetson gave an update on the revaluation of property in Piermont. Avitar has completed the preliminary phase of sales and a field review of all the properties in town. They are getting ready to mail out preliminary notices which will include the dates and times to call to schedule an informal hearing with the assessing staff. Notices should go into the mail tomorrow or Thursday. Informal hearings will take place in the Old Church Building on the 19th and 20th. Avitar is looking to deliver the final product before October 1st and the updated tax maps should be available at the same time.

Sealed Bids for School Lot Lease- There is one sealed bid. Administrative Assistant, Jen Rugar read the terms of the 5 year lease. Chairman Subject opened and read the bid from Lisa Knapton. Selectman Stubbings made a motion to accept the bid. Chairman Subject seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

Appointment of Deputy Treasurer- Diane Kircher has volunteered for the position. Chairman Subject made a motion to appoint Diane Kircher as Deputy Treasurer. Selectman Stubbings seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

Hazard Mitigation Consent Form Update- Mr. Marvin provided an agreement for the Chairman of the Board to sign. The agreement, submitted by MAPS (Mapping and Planning Solutions), outlines every possible turn of events that may or may not happen. Selectman Stubbings made a motion to accept the agreement. Chairman Subject seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

Department Head Update:

EMD- Bernie Marvin stated there are two upcoming Hazard Mitigation meetings; October 3rd at 10 am and November 7th at 10 am. Four meetings are planned for next year. The meetings will be noticed; to include EMD, E-911, Ambulance, Capital Improvement, Planning board, Highway, Fire, Selectmen, Police, and the School.

Notices will go out tomorrow regarding Id. Badges for employees and elected officials. The information needed is correct spelling of name, title, expiration of term, and a photo. If a photo cannot be supplied, one can be taken. The badges for those involved in the elections will be done first with the others to follow.

Fire Dept. – Tim Cole gave dept. report. He and Chief Henry attended a workshop for assistance with a firefighters grant in Littleton. They will be applying for a grant online in mid-September for new air packs.

Bookkeeper/Assessing Clerk- Susan Belyea gave the Board a financial report. An updated one will be provided at an upcoming meeting once the bookkeeping programs are merged.

Administrative Assistant- Jen Rugar reported that organizing and filing in the selectmen's office is continuing. Several Current Use applications have been returned from Avitar and are ready to be filed with the property cards.

Treasurer- Heather Subject gave an update regarding reconciliation of Town bank accounts.

Regarding a topic that was brought up in a previous board of selectman's meeting, Chairman Subject read a letter from town counsel regarding the leave of absence by Selectwoman Mertz:

"Dear Board Members:

You have inquired as to whether Selectwoman Mertz's self-proclaimed leave of absence is permitted by New Hampshire law. That topic is not specifically addressed in the statutes, although I recognize that some might argue that taking a leave of absence is a violation of her oath of office.

That being said, since she is not serving as a selectwoman, she is not entitled to be paid for that time. Therefore, you should pro rate her stipend so that she is not compensated for her leave of absence time.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any other questions or concerns about this, or any other, topic."

Chairman Subject read a statement written and previously read by Administrative Assistant, Jen Rugar:

"In an effort to understand what is going on in the Piermont Town Office without any unnecessary cost to the taxpayers, I contacted New Hampshire Municipal Association to answer some of my questions.

The first question I asked was is there really a "leave of absence" from an elected position?

The response I got is that there is no such thing as a leave of absence from an elected position. An elected official is essentially on the board unless they resign. The "leave of absence" could be accepted as a letter of resignation from the Board.

So a "leave of absence" is not really an option, it is just a person not doing their job."

Chairman Subject made a motion to accept town counsel's recommendation to not pay Mrs. Mertz during her leave of absence. Selectman Stubbings seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

Approve Manifest- The payroll manifest was reviewed and signed by the Board.

Old Business- none

Public Input- Suzanne Woodard asked what time the Work Sessions begin now. Chairman Subject stated they will begin at 7 PM.

Diane Kircher told the Board that she has sent an email to the Attorney General's office asking what, if anything, can the taxpayers in Piermont do regarding the leave of absence of an elected Selectboard member. She is awaiting the response.

Kelly Sackheim reported that she is doing regular maintenance on the hydro dam this summer and plans to be here for another week or so. She will be taking apart the turbine and if anyone is interested in seeing what it looks like inside, let her know.

Town Office Key Control and Building Access- In an effort to maintain the integrity and security of files and records kept in the Town Office, the existing policy regarding keys to office buildings will be updated to reflect the new security and alarm system installed in the town office building. Authorized employees and elected officials should have their own code for the alarm. Chief Hebert was given direction by the board to update the existing policy.

Approve Minutes- Minutes from August 23, 2016 BOS Work Session were reviewed; corrections were made. Selectman Stubbings motion to approve minutes as corrected. Chairman Subject seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Non-Public Session – none

Motion to Adjourn – Chairman Subject made a motion to adjourn regular meeting. Motion seconded by Selectman Stubbings. Passed 2-0 Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Attendees (from sign-in sheet)- Mark Stetson (Avitar), Heather Subject, Suzanne Woodard, Diane Kircher, Tim Cole, Bernie Marvin, Susan Belyea, Kelly Sackheim, Chief Hebert

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Rugar

Board of Selectmen

Chairman Subject

Colin Stubbings

Terri Mertz

Approved 9/6/16