

Minutes
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Tuesday June 14, 2016

Selectmen Present:
Randy Subject, Colin Stubbings, and Terri Mertz

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

Chairman Subject announced that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of accurate minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance – The meeting was started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Charlie Chandler – Charlie Chandler introduced himself to the Board and the public and announced that he was running for the State Senate District 2 seat being vacated by Jeanie Forrester. Mr. Chandler talked about his background. Abby Metcalf asked him why he chose to run for the position. He said he chose to run for this seat after being asked by Senator Woodburn. Mr. Chandler said after Senator Woodburn approached him, he gave it a lot of thought and felt he had the qualifications, the vision and the ability to work across the aisle to get the job done.

Town Grounds – John Metcalf – Mr. Metcalf said Selectwoman Mertz had asked about the herbicide which was used on the landfill to kill the Knotweed. Mr. Metcalf had contacted Northeast Agriculture and they told him it was a product called Milestone. Mr. Metcalf wanted to know if the Board had made any decision regarding the use of Roundup on the Town Grounds. He said he had discovered some poison ivy at the Town Pool and at Cedar Grove Cemetery which he wanted to treat and he also wanted to use some on the baseball diamond now that the baseball season was over. The Board said they are waiting for a report from the Conservation Commission before they make any decisions. Mr. Metcalf also asked the Board if he could put a lock on the carriage shed. Ms. Collins would look to see if she had an extra lock in the office for him to use, otherwise Mr. Rodimon had a spare one he could give Mr. Metcalf.

Town Clerk – Bernadette Ratel – Ms. Ratel asked the Board if they had received the May revenue reports and they said they had. She also indicated that the notices would be going out to residents who had still not registered their dogs informing them they need to get them registered or they would be charged a civil forfeiture fee.

Fire Department – Bruce Henry – Chief Henry reported the department has had 17 calls to date. Camp Walt Whitman has sent the Fire Department a letter letting them know that they are getting the camp ready to open for the season and the Fire Department can come do their annual tour at any time. Chief Henry has said that they are still having issues with their radios even with the new repeater. Communication from Twin State is muffled while Hanover dispatch comes in clearly. Chief Henry noted they wanted to paint the floors of the station and wanted the Board's permission to do so. The cost would be approximately \$200. The Board approved the expenditure. Jared Shipman has cleaned up around the Mazzilli Fire Pond. Chief Henry showed the Board an example of the SCBA equipment they are looking to replace so they would know what was actually being purchased by the Town. Chief Henry also mentioned that Haverhill, Woodsville and Haverhill Corner Fire Departments are also looking to replace their SCBA gear and hopefully they can combine their orders to get better pricing. He said that the Fire Department is looking into

three different vendors and while they are considering the price of the units they are also looking at functionality. It is extremely important to them that the units they purchase are functional. Chairman Subjeck informed Chief Henry he would like to attend their next meeting.

Trustee of Trust Funds – Abby Metcalf – Ms. Metcalf informed the Board John Sundnas had resigned since he was moving to Montana. The Trustees would like to have Eileen Belyea appointed in his place. The Board was in agreement that Ms. Belyea would be a good candidate. Ms. Metcalf asked the Board if it would be okay to set up a meeting with the Select board, Trustee of Trust Fund and the Cemetery Sexton to discuss the cemetery contract. The Board will schedule a date.

Highway Department – Frank Rodimon – Mr. Rodimon reported the Indian Pond paving project had been completed and he would begin the shouldering work in a week or two. The salt shed floor was done this morning. Mr. Rodimon wanted to know if the Piermont pool should be locked and unlocked each day or remain unlocked until the end of the season. It was decided that pool would remain unlocked until the end of the season, so Mr. Rodimon will unlock it tomorrow. Ms. Collins noted that porta-potty had been ordered for the pool area. Mr. Rodimon attended a lecture on liability in regards to Town roads. He said it was a good lecture and he learned that towns are not required to put anything out to bid for Highway Department projects unless the Town specifically has a policy in place which states bids are required. He has received no word on when the Church Street/Route 25 intersection project will start.

Police Department – Chief Gary Hebert – Chief Hebert gave the Board his statistics and Police Blotter for the month of May. He asked the Board to allow him to purchase an air conditioner for the Police Department. Chairman Subjeck asked Chief Hebert if he could get the Board some prices and Chief Hebert will bring them to the next work session. In reviewing his fuel invoices, Chief Hebert noted the Town was paying \$2.79/gal from the State pumps, which is well above the pricing of the retail stores in the area. For now, he will purchase his gasoline from the Four Corner Store. Ms. Collins had talked to NH DOT and they explained the reasoning behind the pricing, which Ms. Collins relayed to the Board. Chief Hebert stated he had sent the Board members an e-mail regarding the rate change for dispatch fees. Due to the large increase in call volume since Chief Hebert took over an agreement was reached to cap the Town's fee increase to 30% for one year only. Chief Hebert is still negotiating with Alarmco to bring the price of the panic alarms down.

Emergency Management Department – Bernie Marvin – Mr. Marvin reported the homes located on Moses Hill Road have now been assigned new numbers. He noted a shelter survey had been done at the Piermont Church on behalf of the State of NH. Mal Kircher and Rob Elder are the current shelter managers. Mr. Marvin is working on finishing up the reimbursement paperwork for the repeater in Rescue 1. There are still other E-911 addresses which need to be addressed. The first hurricane meeting will be scheduled soon.

Police Department Revisited – Chief Gary Hebert – Chief Hebert mentioned to the Board that his radio issues were the opposite of what the Fire Department was experiencing. It was recommended that a meeting be scheduled with the Fire Department, Police Department, Grafton County Dispatch and Hanover Dispatch so they could figure out what the issue(s) are.

Executive Assistant – Jennifer Collins – Ms. Collins stated she had given the Board the May expenditure reports. Login IDs and passwords had been created for the Board of Selectmen in the BMSI and Avitar systems. The only program they cannot have a login for is Avitar Town Clerk

because access is restricted to Town Clerks, Deputy and Assistant Town Clerks per the State. Ms. Collins mentioned she had received some of the background check requests from the Fire Department, but there were a couple who resided in VT and the Town needed to run a VT background check as well for those individuals. Ms. Collins discussed a safety issue that arose today in the Town Clerk's office that stemmed from a resident entering the Library without permission and was expressly informed she could not enter the Library. Chief Hebert suggested getting a keyless lock for the door into the Library. The Safety Committee will discuss this issue. Ms. Collins mentioned she had received an e-mail from the Town's Attorney stating she had assented to a motion made by the Attorney for Camp Walt Whitman in regards to the 2014 abatement appeal. The motion was to continue the trial and extend discovery deadlines into 2017 because the 2012/2013 abatement appeals would not be heard until September 2016. The Board signed a New Hire Rate of Pay form for Dalton Thayer who would be working under Frank Rodimon in the Highway Department. The Board also signed an Intent to Cut for Helga Mueller on R09-31. A bill of sale for the projector the Town successfully bid on from the PLT was signed by Chairman Subject. Ms. Collins had presented the Board with some abatements, which Avitar has sent recommendations back for, but these were tabled to the next work session. Ms. Collins had received an e-mail from Beth Peck with FEMA and she was looking to close out the grant for the Indian Pond Road Bridge Project. The Board asked to table discussion on this item to the next work session. Ms. Collins asked the Board for clarification on the Town's business cards. She had created a uniform business card for Town Officials and Employees. When Selectwoman Mertz was elected Ms. Collins ordered her business cards using the same template updating the information to include Selectwoman Mertz's name, title and email address. Unbeknownst to Ms. Collins, Selectwoman Mertz had ordered business cards of her own and had replaced the Town supplied cards with the ones she ordered, which included her photo, a change in her title and a "splotch" located on the back of the card. Chairman Subject pulled the cards Selectwoman Mertz had ordered and asked Ms. Collins to replace them with the ones purchased by the Town. There was discussion on this subject and Selectwoman Mertz was asked why the new cards had been ordered and what the "splotch" was on the back of the card. She said that the other business cards were wrong. Chairman Subject asked her what was wrong with them and had she informed Ms. Collins that the cards were wrong. Selectwoman Mertz stated the cards had the wrong title on them. They referred to her as Selectman and she wanted to be referred to as Selectwoman and she was not aware that there was a policy in the Town about how business cards should be. Chairman Subject made a motion that all business cards for the Town of Piermont be uniform. The motion was seconded by Selectman Stubbings. In discuss on this issue, both Selectman Stubbings and Ms. Collins stated when Selectwoman Mertz was first elected she had been asked how she wanted to be referred to and her response was Selectman. Selectman Stubbings further stated he was actually unaware until this very meeting that she had changed her mind about her title. He also said he was not upset with the new business card per se and in fact liked having the picture on the card and he was also fine with the fact that she wished by be referred to as Selectwoman. The issue he had was that she took it upon herself to make the corrections and not inform anyone. Chairman Subject asked Selectwoman Mertz again if she had informed Ms. Collins that the business cards were incorrect and she said she had not. There were a number of comments from the public expressing their displeasure with how this Board appeared to be working against each other and they wanted to see the Board members start working together. All three Board members agreed they did need to start working together better. The Board said this matter should be discussed further at the work session and Chairman Subject withdrew his motion. Ms. Collins also informed the Board that per the Town Attorney, the Board was not allowed to e-mail each other. All communications from a Board member needed to go through Ms. Collins and then she would forward to the rest of the Board. Any responses needed to be directed

back to Ms. Collins and Ms. Collins only. Then Ms. Collins would forward the response on to the other Board members. Ms. Collins also informed the Board the auditors would be looking to come into the office at the end of June or beginning of July and they would be forwarding over the documents Ms. Collins would give to each department with the items they needed to gather for the audit.

Treasurer – Susan Belyea – See attached report. Ms. Belyea also provided the May reconciliation.

Town Grounds – John Metcalf – Mr. Metcalf said the Fire Department has been unable to find time to burn the landfill this year, so he will have to mow that area twice this year with a bush hog. This will be an additional expense of \$250 or more. The Board said this additional expense was okay.

Manifests

The Board reviewed and signed the manifest. Ms. Collins noted the quarterly stipends were included in this week's payroll. Only one of the manifests was signed by all three Selectman. The other two were signed by Chairman Subject and Selectman Stubbings. Selectwoman Mertz did not give a reason for not signing the other manifests.

Old Business

- a. **Primex Quotes** – The Town had received quotes from Primex for their Workers' Compensation, Unemployment Compensation and Property Liability lines of Insurance. There were no other companies who were willing to quote the Town for these lines of insurance because they were not able to offer comparable rates to Primex. Chairman Subject moved to accept the quotes presented by Primex. Selectman Stubbings seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.
- b. **Transfer Station Revenue Collection Policy** – Selectwoman Mertz said the Wayne Godfrey had asked for a written policy regarding the collection of money at the Transfer Station. She also said she had provided Mr. Godfrey with receipt books, which he was going to start using. The receipt books provide triplicate copies of a receipt. Ms. Collins will look up the RSA regarding how often money needs to be deposited.
- c. **Other Old Business** – none

New Business

- A. **Letter from Mike DiPietro** – Selectwoman Mertz read an e-mail she had received from property owner Mike DiPietro that requested that the Board of Selectmen direct all secretaries of Boards and Commissions to forward their minutes to the web administrator so they can be placed on the Town web site timely.
- B. **School Lot** – Selectwoman Mertz said the lot cannot be sold and a handout had been received by the Board. See attached.
- C. **Other New Business** – none

Public Input – none

Minutes – The minutes were tabled to the work session on June 16th.
Chairman Subject moved to adjourn the regular session at 9:17 p.m. Selectman Stubbings seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer L. Collins

Board of Selectman

Randy Subject

Colin Stubbings

Teran Lee Mertz

Approved: July 7, 2016

Members of the Public present at the general meeting as recorded by “sign-in sheet” included: J. Metcalf, S. Belyea, T. Cole, B. Henry, A. Metcalf, C. Chandler, S. Rounds, H. Saarion, D. Kircher, S. Woodard, G. Stelzner, B. Ratel, G. Hebert, F. Rodimon, B. Marvin, J. Kenyon(Valley News) and J. Collins.