



Board of Selectmen Meeting
Town Office
Wednesday, 12/04/2019
6:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Selectmen: Bob Hamilton, Roberta Oeser, Karl Pruter, Executive Secretary Michele Christian, Town Administrator Sara Gravell, Finance Director Laurie May, Police Chief Dan Anair, Budget Advisory Committee Members: Sharon Rasku Chairman, Al L'Eplattenier, Dan Whitney, Ellen Smith, David Graham, Members of the Community: Holly Koski, Roniele Hamilton, Judy Unger-Clark, Craig Clark, Kelen Geiger, Jim Qualey, Ron Osimo, Charlie Eicher, Phil Motta, Deni Dickler, Jeff Dickler, Charlie Eicher

The public meeting was opened at 6:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Selectmen's Announcements: Bob introduced on behalf of the Board our new Town Administrator Sara Gravell. Sara's background is mostly in human resources. Sara has met all of the department heads and will be at a staff meeting tomorrow.

The Christmas Tree lighting will be at 7 pm on Friday night, December 6th. The Citizen of the Year and Junior Citizen of the Year will be recognized. There will be cookies and hot chocolate available. Breakfast with Santa will be held on December 7th from 8 am to 10:30 at Rindge Memorial School. The Senior Citizen's Holiday Dinner will be at Hidden Hills on Thursday, December 12th. Seating begins at 5 PM and dinner is served at 5:30. Reservations are requested by December 9th. To make reservations contact the Recreation Department at 899-6847. The P.O.O.R. meat raffle is being held on Saturday, December 7th and is sponsored by the Firefighters Association. Early bird tickets are available at 1:00 with the raffle beginning at 2:00 PM. Christmas at the Castle is being sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce from 11-2 on Saturday, December 7th at the home of Jon and Lynda Hunt on Sunridge Road.

Citizen's Forum: Bob reviewed the rules of procedure for Citizen's Forum. Kelen Geiger stated that she really enjoyed Franklin Pierce Football team and she didn't realize that she could watch all of the other sports as well on FPU Ravens where it is live streaming.

Craig Clark would like to compliment the road crew for the great job that they did during the recent storm. There was one man out on medical leave and a few trucks broke down but they did an excellent job in spite of the problems they encountered. Judy Unger-Clark brought up the idea of a flow chart now that there is a new town administrator there should be a structure outline on projects in the town. The public should be able to see how the various boards are responding to these projects. She also stated that when the minutes are available they should be on-line as soon as they are approved. Roberta stated that the minutes are available at the office through Michele. Roberta stated that the minutes are on-line for a convenience but it is not required. Bob said that Michele has been doing double duty for other positions in the last few months so the minutes were behind. They are available at the office or by e-mail upon request.

Changes to the Consent Agenda – none

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of:

- **Minutes 11/19/19, 11/20/19**
- **Payroll 11/28/19, 12/5/19**
- **Accounts payable 11/28/19, 12/5/19**

Roberta made a motion to approve consent agenda as amended, seconded by Karl. Approved 3-0-0

Old Business:

a) Consolidated Agreement

The present contract with Consolidated expires in January 2020. A figure is need for budgetary purposes. Laurie will provide the information when the new contract is available.

b) Generators

The new quote for the Meeting House generator came in at \$22,000 less. Bob said that it is a different type of generator and a different brand. This generator is a 30 kilowatt which uses propane instead of diesel which is different that all the other generators. There will be 3 propane tanks required that will be needed outside the building. This generator only serves what is needed for the sprinkler system and the heating of the tanks to make sure that the water doesn't freeze. Roberta said that this is the original idea for water and sprinkler system. The Meeting House will not be used as an emergency shelter. There was discussion about the placement of the generator. We received a good price on the propane installation and they will be giving us the tanks free of charge. The installation will be another \$1000. Jeff Dickler asked about the pipes in the meeting house and if they will be covered by the generator. This generator will run the furnace to keep the pipes from freezing. Due to the weather, the pads can't be poured for the other generators, but the Meeting House generator will go in the horse shed and could be installed. Roberta stated that Milton Cat needs a purchase order to send us invoices for the other three generators so that the monies can be encumbered for installation next year. Karl stated that he would rather see that we have 40K generators for all of the buildings. Roberta made a motion that Mike Cloutier proceed

with the generator installations and provide purchase orders for generators for the Meeting House, Rec Center, DPW and Town Office, seconded by Karl.

Karl stated that he would rather see that we have 40K generators for all of the buildings. Roberta asked Karl why we should spend an additional 22K on a generator that we don't need. Karl said that he feels that we may regret this in the future that we didn't have the larger generator.

Jeff Dickler stated that he worked for a company that had a portable generator that could be transported in an emergency. Roberta stated that it would not be possible for the Meeting House because of where the electrical panels are located on the building.

Craig Clark said that his concern was about the money and he thought that we were going to take some of the money from the electric light fund. There was \$145,000 appropriated from the electric light fund. The proposal was for three Cat generators and a smaller generator for the Meeting House. Three of the generators were \$42,000 and a \$15-20,000 generator for the meeting house. This figure did not include the installation or the electrical work. David Whitney wanted to know which funds are being taken from: Ward trust fund \$10,000; Rec Building Fund; \$20,000 and \$11,000 from Meeting House Maintenance fund.

Vote: 1-2-0 Roberta Yea, Bob and Karl, Nay

c) Acceptance of Unanticipated Revenue from the Ward Trust pursuant to RSA 31:95 (b)

Karl made a motion to accept the \$9,000.00 in unanticipated revenue pursuant to RSA 31:95 (b) from the Ward Trust fund for the Meeting House generators, seconded by Roberta. Vote: 3-0-0

3) New Business

a) Resignation of Burt and Janet Goodrich

Bob stated that we have just received a resignation from Janet Goodrich from the ZBA and Burt's resignation from Cemetery Trustees, Meeting House Oversight Committee and the Ward Trust. John Bonner will be assuming a position on the Meeting House Oversight Committee and possibly the Ward Trust. Bob thanked Janet and Burt for their dedication on behalf of the Board. Doug Hoyt's term as a Cemetery Trustee expires in 2020. Michele will put a 4 month term request on the website for Cemetery Trustees. Michele stated that George Carmichael has been made a regular member of the ZBA and was elected Chair at the last meeting. John Bonner is going to assume a position on the Meeting House Oversight Committee.

b) Petition Warrant Articles

The Board has accepted the petition warrant articles which are as follows:

- To see if the Town will vote to re-instate an Impact Fee Ordinance;
- To see if the Town will vote to discontinue acceptance of public highways;
- To see if the town will vote re-instate the Growth Management Ordinance;
- To see if the town will vote to increase the Optional Veteran's Tax Credit for service-connected total disability from \$2,000 to \$4,000 as allowed by NH RSA 72:35, I (a)

4) Budget Proposals

Bob invited the Budget Advisory Committee to join the Board to discuss the following budget proposals: Animal Control; Police Department; Recreation Department

Animal Control: no questions.

Police Dept: The increases in wages and benefits reflect a 53rd pay period. Ellen wanted to know if the department is fully staffed. Yes, as of October there are not any officers in the academy there is no one in training at this time. There are five part time officers.

Chief Anair stated that there is extra money in the part time budget because Jeff Seppala was going to work more hours and did not. Dan stated that he can manage the overtime with \$60,000. He stated that one of the part-time officers is full time with another agency so he has to work around their schedule.

There are two vests needed in 2020 - one for a part-time who was working for Bennington and he recently resigned. They offered to purchase the vest from Bennington and they declined. Mark Griffin needs a vest and his expires in two weeks.

Operating Budget: Dan Whitney asked why there is an increase in the gasoline from 11,000 to \$14,000. Chief Anair stated that there are now two officers on duty instead of just one patrolling.

Roberta asked if Dan will be expending on uniforms. There is a winter coat needed and two pairs of boots as well as the vests. Ellen asked if the \$11,000 budget line item included the two vests which is part of the 50/50 grant. There were two vests purchased this year so it was \$1600 total, \$800 per vest. Roberta asked if they could only get 2 vests per year. In order for the vests to be eligible for the 50/50 they would have to be purchased in 2020. David Graham asked if there was still \$3000 in contract services. This is what was budgeted for water and there were no copier failures this year. The water contract was changed from Monadnock Vending to WB Mason at a considerable savings. The sharps containers were not budgeted for this year so that is why there is an increase in the contracted services.

Roberta asked about why the ammo line item was higher even though it was not expended. The request for \$6797.00 included the tasers, sharps etc. and so Dan should reduce the line item for weapons and ammo as these are being purchased this year. This would bring the line item down to \$3,000. Bob wanted to make sure that all the police had live ammunition.

The Comfort Canine: Dan stated that this would be a new line item they had to come up with a budget. This includes all the things that will be needed to have the dog available such as: a heat alarm for the cruisers, collars, leashes, food, water bowls, vests, ID patches for the vests, grooming, a portable crate, vet care and a cage for the cruiser. This would come to \$4067.00. Walmart and Tractor Supply would be interested in donating things like dog food. These requests have to go through the corporate offices so he doesn't know if this will be covered. Dan stated that he hopes that most of this will be covered through grants, but it is not guaranteed. This would be a new program so the first initial year we would take the hit and we wouldn't need the big ticket items that are needed the first year.

Bob asked about who would provide housing, veterinary care, who would do the training. Max Rocheleau currently has an adult lab that could be used or Peggi Brogan has offered to donate a puppy as well as the training associated with the dog. The dog would be housed at the Rocheleau household. Either way the dog and training are free.

Insurance would be through the Alliance for Therapy Dogs which would cover the dog while it is in use. Primex was also checked and they have policies and procedures that basically cover the same thing. This is a limited liability on this dog because it isn't a tracking dog or a drug or bite dog. Dan has reached out to other communities that have had dogs donated by Peggi and there has been an overwhelming support for this. Dan stated that the dog helps people make statements that are difficult or embarrassing. There is also a stress reduction on the officers. There was discussion about when the dog would be on duty and whether the training be done on town time.

Roberta asked what the annual fee would be after the start up. Roberta said that she is not sure that it is feasible with the budget constraints.

Kelen Geiger said that she has had two therapy dogs and they are a wonderful asset to people that need the help. She doesn't think that \$5000 for the first year is too much money for a program that would be a great addition to the community. She stated that it is not like spending \$5,000 in one day blowing up fireworks, this is something that will be an on-going program.

Holly stated that Crime Watch had a visit from the Hancock PD comfort dog named Rookie. Ellen asked if there was any money available through Crime Watch. Ron Osimo said that he thinks that it is a wonderful program and he believes that there will be monies donated for the program. Jim Qualey asked Chief Anair what portion of the \$5000 could possibly be covered by donations? Chief Anair said roughly about half of the cost.

Recreation Dept:

Dan Whitney stated that contracted services have gone down but wondered if that would last through 2020. The vehicle operations comes out of the revolving fund. There is an increase in the conference line item. There is a jump in the health insurance due to an employee moving to a family plan. The increase in wages and benefits is 10% of the budget otherwise more or less level funded. Some of the increases are coming out of the revolving fund. Bob stated that Dan has done a great job in balancing the amount of money charged for programs so the cost will not overburden the parents.

Committee Updates/Information/Communications

Roberta stated that there were additional funds for the welfare budget that can be expended which are from the 1920's and 1960's. The funds were set up for the poor. Mary wanted to increase the budget but we do have additional funds of approximately \$20,000 in one fund and the second has \$5200. The principal can be expended if necessary. This would be a back-up for the welfare budget if needed.

The CIP will be attending the meeting next Wednesday with recommendations. School District Budget Advisory Committee meets on Monday, December 9th and the all day session is next Saturday December 14th.

Karl made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Bob. Vote 3-0-0

Adjournment 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Christian

Executive Secretary

