

Minutes of the Selectmen's Minutes October 10, 2017

Members Present: Lynn Sweet, Chairman, Bryant Scott and Scott Whitehouse
In attendance: Michael and Matthew LaBrecque, Bill Booth

The Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:35PM.

The Selectmen reviewed and approved payroll and payment of bills. Minutes from the September 26th meeting were read and approved. The Board received notification that Hampstead Water Company is in the process of purchasing Bow Lake Estates Water Works, pending PUC approval. Chairman Sweet signed correspondence acknowledging this transaction is in process.

Michael and Matthew Labrecque stopped in to introduce themselves to the Board of Selectmen. Michael is in the process of becoming BSA Troop 23's new scoutmaster and is interested in ways the scouts can be involved and more visible in the community. Matthew, his son, will be taking over the responsibility of collecting used flags for retirement. Contact information was exchanged.

The Selectmen received correspondence from Bill Lord notifying the Board of his resignation as Town Moderator and Zoning Board of Adjustment member, effective December 31, 2017. The Selectmen will very regretfully accept his resignation. Mr. Lord has served in those 2 capacities for many years and will be greatly missed. Some discussion briefly followed about who might fill his position as moderator until an election is held in March.

The Planning Board is in need of some alternate members; several names were suggested.

The Selectmen reviewed the draft of the financial report from the Town's auditors, Grzelak and Company. Chairman Sweet will sign the final report when it is completed. It will be submitted to NHDRA as a step in establishing the Town's tax rate for 2017.

The State (DRED) has had several personnel changes, including the Forest Ranger who serves District 32 which includes Strafford. At this point Ranger Bryan Nowell is serving as the ranger for District 32.

Some suggestions for the 2018 budget were discussed, including adjustments based on 2017 spending, requests that have already been presented, and anticipated expenses in 2018. The Board members reviewed correspondence from John Hall outlining a request for funds to assist with the maintenance/mowing of Center, Crown Point and Caverly cemeteries. Ultimate oversight of each cemetery will remain with the trustees of the individual cemeteries. Budgeting discussions will begin in earnest when preliminary department budgets are presented in early November.

The Selectmen discussed the scope of the work to be included in the request for bids from private contractors for the summer mowing of certain Town properties for spring/summer 2018, as well 2 cleanups of the beach areas at the dam. The request for bids will be placed in the November's Community Calendar.

At this time a motion was made by Lynn Sweet and seconded by Scott Young to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Roll call was taken as follows:

Lynn Sweet – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye, Scott Young - Aye

The Board entered non-public session at 6:29PM.

A motion was made by Lynn Sweet to leave non-public session and seconded by Bryant Scott to return to public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

Lynn Sweet – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye, Scott Young – Aye

Public session reconvened at 6:46PM.

No votes were taken during the non-public session.

A motion was made by Scott Young and seconded by Lynn Sweet to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

Lynn Sweet – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye, Scott Young - Aye

Building Inspector, Bill Booth updated the Selectmen about a few situations that he has been addressing over the last year.

There being no further business to transact, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:55PM.