

Minutes of the Selectmen's Work Session January 5, 2021

Members present: Scott Young, Chairman and Bryant Scott, Brian Monahan
Also in attendance: Tax Collector Judy Dupré

The Selectmen's Work Session was called to order at 5:30PM. Bills were reviewed and approved for payment. The Selectmen reviewed a request for temporary change of hours for the Town Clerk's Office. This proposal is an attempt to alleviate some of the lobby crowding on Tuesday evenings. Beginning March 1st and continuing through June 30th, the Town Clerk's hours will be:

Monday and Wednesday 8:30am – 2:00pm (no change from current hours)
Tuesday and Thursday 1:30pm – 7:00pm (a shift in the Thursday hours)

At the end of June, the benefits of the change will be evaluated and consideration will be given as to whether the extra evening hours should continue. There will be no change to the hours for any other office.

New Business

The Selectmen discussed upcoming appointments with department heads to review budgets. Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse will meet with the Board on January 12th. Road Agent Greg Messenger and Police Chief Mike Richard will meet with them on the 26th of January. Greg would like to discuss the upcoming Road Capital Improvement plans for 2021. Representatives from the Library may come on the 12th if they feel it is necessary.

Selectmen reviewed departmental budgets. The Selectmen noted very minimal increases in budgets as had been requested. The Fire Department budget is higher by about \$9,300, with most of that a result of increased dispatch and NH Retirement costs. They anticipate Chief Whitehouse will have some warrant articles to present; those will be discussed on the 12th.

The Recycling Center budget was up slightly, but mostly due to recycling costs and the annual 3% increase from Waste Management. A large expense was incurred with the recent repair of the backhoe; consideration will be given to increasing the appropriation in the Recycling Center Equipment Fund to \$10,000 this year. A discussion followed about how to address the increased cost of handling demolition, construction debris and household cleanout. It was unanimously agreed that some disposal fees should be established to help offset some of the cost incurred by the Town. Neighboring towns have established several different methods and fee structures for charging for this debris. The Selectmen will revisit this at an upcoming meeting to review and amend, if necessary our current fees.

It will be necessary to fund the State mandated 2021 Statistical Revaluation in next year's budget. It was agreed that, in the future, the CRF fund for the reval should be funded with \$10,000 each year.

There was a brief discussion about comparing the Town employees' health insurance coverage with that of the non-CBA employees of the School in an effort to offer the same coverage to all non-union employees of the School and Town. The Selectmen's Office will look into that.

Old Business

Tax Collector Judy was in attendance to discuss 2 properties. A resident had redeemed a property taken by the town for taxes, but hasn't recorded the deed. Reminders to do so have been sent via regular mail, certified mail and email for many months. The property legally still belongs to the Town. The Selectmen granted approval to move forward with a notification of impending eviction.

A second property was recently taken for back taxes due. The owner has given indication of wanting to redeem the property. The Selectmen directed Ms. Dupre to include costs +15% to the taxes due. At a future meeting, they will discuss and adopt a policy on costs associated with property redemption.

With the resignation of the Town Moderator, the Supervisors of the Checklist have the authority to appoint a new Moderator until the next election. They are considering several candidates.

Information has been coming from the Governor's Office about the possibility of postponing March's Town Meeting as well as suggestions for alternate ways to handle the meeting itself. The Board, by unanimous decision, plans to continue with the meeting as scheduled, but will closely monitor the situation.

KRT has revised our Statistical Revaluation contract to address a few concerns we had from the 2016 Revaluation. It will be sent to NHDRA for review and then back to the Selectmen for signature.

With no further business before the Selectmen it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:14PM.