

## Minutes of the Selectmen's Minutes December 5, 2017

Members Present: Lynn Sweet, Chairman, Bryant Scott, and Scott Young

In attendance: JoAnn Brown, Charlie Burnham, Paige Holman, Jesse Copeland, Road Agent Greg Messenger, Tax Collector Judy Dupré

The Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:30PM.

The Selectmen reviewed and approved payroll and payment of bills. Minutes from the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting were read and approved. Correspondence was reviewed and signed. Two Intents to Cut Timber were signed.

The Selectmen reviewed a draft petition article for the 2018 Town Warrant to be submitted by the 3 cemetery associations requesting assistance with ongoing mowing and maintenance.

The Selectmen reviewed with Tax Collector Judy Dupré the status each property owner with a 2015 property tax lien. At one property owners' request, a short extension of a partial payment was granted until February 28, 2017. The more significant portion of that lien has been paid, and the property owner will enter into a payment agreement with the Town for the 2016 lien. The deadline for 2015 lien payments is December 20, 2017.

Representatives from Hill Library were in attendance to discuss the Library's 2018 proposed budget. Ms. Holman presented some information about the increased library use. Her budget proposes about a 2.5% increase. The library's hours will remain the same, despite requests for it to be open on Fridays.

Ms. Holman shared with the Board that she is reorganizing and weeding out. She is looking for ways to make the library more cost effective. Ms. Holman presented a few modest requests in addition to her budget and some ideas for drawing the community into the Library. She spoke highly of the competence of the Library attendants. A new copier was kindly donated to the library, and Ms. Holman noted that she has observed the generosity of Strafford citizens.

Some thoughts about the long term plan for the Library were briefly discussed. Parking remains problematic with the small parking lot; parking on the National Guard hill is not satisfactory in many cases. The Selectmen recommended that the trustees begin to work on a 10 year plan for the future of Hill Library. A balance of \$12,205.66 remains in Capital Reserve Fund established for improvements to the Library.

Greg Messenger was in attendance to discuss his regular maintenance budget as well as plans for capital improvements. He anticipates little change in the regular budget. He anticipates 2018 summer paving work/Capital Improvements on Ricky Nelson Road, Shieres Way, Province Road from Kooauke Island to Northwood Road (perhaps beyond), Jennifer Lane, and Kristie Lane. They all agreed it would be wise to continue adding to the Capital Reserve Fund for bridge repair in

anticipation of replacing the Barn Door Gap bridge and receiving State Bridge Aid. Greg and the Board discussed a few other situations that are on the horizon.

The Selectmen signed a pay rate sheet for Dan Howard who will temporarily assist Dave Copeland as Building Inspector this winter.

Recycling Center attendant Craig Hastings will be acting as supervisor in Ben Francum's temporary absence. Annual landfill maintenance costs for 2018 will be up from \$5200 to about \$7700. The building at the Recycling Center that houses the electrical equipment should be replaced in 2018; a proposal may be presented as a separate warrant article.

The anticipated increases in the Police Department budget were briefly discussed. Some compensation will be made for "on call" officers. Chief Mike Richards will discuss his budget with the Board on January 16, 2018.

The Selectmen voted to extend for another year the assessing contract with KRT. Liz Evans is exploring the possibility of working with Strafford Regional Planning Commission to do our tax mapping in 2018. They are able to digitize the maps and for an additional charge can put the information on Map Geo. Their services pull in the assessing information from Vision and will work well with our website. The ongoing mapping services they offer seem to be more in accord with Strafford's needs as well. The Board suggested presenting the proposal as a separate warrant article and at Town Meeting showing those in attendance the mapping features that would be gained via PowerPoint.

Misinformation was mistakenly passed along to many residents about the School District and Town both holding their meetings on March 17, 2018. It is unknown at this date if the meetings will be scheduled for the same date. The Town Meeting, however, will be, per State Statute, held on March 17, 2018 at the Strafford School Gym. The Budget Hearing for the Town Warrant will be held at 6:00 on February 6, 2018 in the Town Hall Conference Room. Every attempt will be made to insure that the correct information is available to the public.

There being no further business to transact, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:57PM.