

Minutes of the Selectmen's Minutes November 7, 2017

Members Present: Lynn Sweet, Chairman and Scott Young

In attendance: Scott Whitehouse, Fire Chief, Brian Monahan, Tax Collector Judy Dupré

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

The Selectmen reviewed and approved payroll and payment of bills. Minutes from the October 24th meeting were read and approved. Correspondence was reviewed and signed.

Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse who also serves as the Town Health Officer was in attendance to discuss a significant health issue which was brought to his attention. He shared some photos and his thoughts on the situation. Following discussion with the Board, a plan for a short term remedy, with some assistance from the Town, was agreed upon. Further corrective measures will be the responsibility of the owner. Chief Whitehouse will initiate the short term corrective measures and follow-up on the situation.

The Board discussed with the Tax Collector Judy Dupré properties with 2015 tax liens. The date for tax deeding of those properties is drawing close.

The Public Hearing on the 2018 Town Budget will be on February 6, 2018. The School District Budget Hearing date has not yet been set; that information should be available soon. The Town Office is making every attempt to inform voters of these important 2018 meeting dates. Information is posted on the Town website, in the Community Calendar beginning in December, and through notices included in tax bill receipts.

Elizabeth Evans is working on tax map updating through Strafford Regional Planning Commission.

School Board Chairman, Brian Monahan, was in attendance to discuss with the Selectmen the possibility of having both the School District Meeting and Town Meeting on the same day. He had done an informal survey of residents' thoughts on the idea and had gotten almost 100% positive feedback; the School Board is also supportive of the combined meeting date. By State Statute the 2018 Town Meeting date will be March 17th. The Selectmen were firm that the Town Meeting would be the first meeting of the day; it was agreed that it would start at 8:00AM. Other details were discussed, including the wording in the posting of the commencement of the School District Meeting. The Selectmen's Office will confirm the legality of holding both meetings on the same day. Other matters pertaining to School and Town Budgets were discussed, including the possibility of having a reporter present at one of the meetings.

With the resignation of Bill Lord from the Board of Adjustment, Jean Ewen Chartrand, who currently is an alternate, will be appointed as a regular member. The Selectmen will select one or more alternate members. Several names have been suggested.

The Board briefly discussed Eversource's response to the recent Town wide power outage. Both Fire and Police Chiefs felt that given the severity of the storm and the Statewide power outages, that the response in Strafford was actually good. The Selectmen's Office has received only one complaint. A different resident raised a question about assistance with trees blown over due to the high winds and soaking rain. Initially, the State and Town road crews along with fire and police helped to clear away trees to open roads, but neither the State nor the Town is assisting with further cleanup, which is the responsibility of the property owners.

There being no further business to transact, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:50PM.