

## Minutes of the Selectmen's Minutes January 9, 2018

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

In attendance: Charlie Burnham, Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse, Deputy Chief Davis Hartranft, Alan Williams

The Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:00PM.

The Selectmen reviewed and approved payment of bills. Minutes from the December 19<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> meetings were read and approved.

Charlie Burnham, Trustee of the Trust Funds, discussed with the Selectmen the origin and use of the monies in the trust fund which maintains the funds for perpetual care of many of the cemeteries in Town. The monies were given for the perpetual care of particular gravesites and/or cemeteries. Mr. Burnham explained that a great deal of the maintenance of smaller cemeteries is being done by neighbors or charitable residents. Very little interest is earned and very little from the funds is expended. More research is necessary to fully understand the RSAs which govern the establishment and use of the funds.

The Selectmen discussed and approved a late payment of taxes.

Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse and Deputy Chief David Hartranft discussed with the Board the Fire Department's revised budget requests and proposed warrant articles. They discussed per diem wages for EMS personnel in neighboring towns and how they would like to handle wages in Strafford. The presented an amended plan for 24/7 involving only 1 person on duty for 14 hours of night time coverage, with the expectation of assistance from the Fire Department officer on duty. A stipend for that officer who is called out might be appropriate. They believe they have interested personnel and will be able to fill the positions. The Selectmen's Office consulted NHDRA about offsetting some expense of the increased per diem staff with funds from the Ambulance/Rescue Vehicle Account; Strafford's DRA advisor did not recommend that as a viable plan.

The Selectmen asked the men about emergency calls during the recent very cold weather. State Emergency Management Office had directed state residents to call their fire stations with any cold weather related problems. They responded to a few calls concerning carbon monoxide beyond the normal call volume.

Chief Whitehouse expressed some concern about communication between the Fire Department, Building Department and Planning and Zoning Boards.

Board members discussed several aspects of the dispatch line in the fire/rescue budget, including the overall cost and services provided for the expenditure. Further discussion on the subject might be appropriate.

A Numbering Ordinance was adopted in 2002, requiring the visible display of address on mailboxes and/or a post at the end of the driveway. The Chief Whitehouse and Deputy Chief Hartranft expressed concern that the guidelines were not being followed, resulting in difficulty for emergency personnel to locate homes where services are needed. Reminders will be placed in the Community Calendar and on the Town website. The Selectmen's Office will provide the department with a summary of the ordinance to give to homeowners.

The Selectmen reviewed the Police Department budget and will discuss it further with Police Chief Mike Richard when he attends the next Selectmen's meeting.

Alan Williams was in attendance to speak with the Selectmen about 3 lots on Dillion Drive he has purchased and would like to develop. He has encountered neighborhood opposition reclaiming the paper road, but has been advised by his attorney that the neighbors have no right to stop him from maintaining the road. He has not yet sought building permits; his focus right now is the road itself. He understands that the lots, though small, are grandfathered and may be buildable lots with approved septic plans. The homes he intends to build will accommodate the small footprint of the land and meet zoning setbacks. The Selectmen suggested that he meet with neighbors one on one and share his plans, in effort to gain their support. Board members reviewed some information published by NH Municipal Association which addresses the subject of paper roads.

At this time a motion was made by Bryant Scott 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 7:01PM.

A motion was made by Scott young 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 7:15PM.

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

Ted White has offered to teach swimming lessons once again this summer. He will forward the dates for Session 1 and 2 to the Selectmen's Office.

Future meeting dates were discussed for the for the purpose of working on the 2018 budget. Police Chief Mike Richard will attend the next regular meeting, January 16<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the Police Department budget. The Selectmen will hold a work session on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at 5:30PM. The Budget Hearing for the Town budget will be on February 6, at 6:00PM in the Town Hall Conference Room.

The Board discussed presenting a warrant article an upgrade to the current Town maps. It has been considered for several years, but to date has been cost prohibitive. Strafford Regional Planning offers a service that would provide GIS mapping of our Town maps for a much more reasonable rate. Liz Evans will confirm the price for the Selectmen's Office.

The Selectmen would like to establish a CRF for maintenance and improvements of the Town Hall. The building will be 10 years old in 2018, and some maintenance beyond the scope of the normal building maintenance budget will be likely in the years to come.

Several budgeting matters pertaining to the Recycling Center were discussed, including the price of the replacement of the building that houses the electrical equipment. That will be presented as a separate warrant article. An increase in the equipment line to account for ongoing backhoe repair and/or the establishment of a CRF for the future purchase of a new backhoe were discussed along with attendants' salaries.

There being no further business to transact, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:52PM.