

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting July 17, 2018

Members Present: Lynn Sweet, Chairman, Bryant Scott, Scott Young
In attendance: Dan Howard, Mike Finnell

The Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:24PM.

Bills and payroll were reviewed and approved. Timber Warrants and an Intent to Excavate were signed. The Selectmen received notice from the NH PUC that Hampstead Areas Water Company, Inc. acquired Bow Lake Estates Water Works on June 26, 2018.

The Selectmen opened a reviewed a bid for the purchase of the "retired" police cruiser. Scott Young made a motion to accept the bid placed by Northeast Security for \$3575. The motion was seconded by Bryant Scott and a vote was taken:

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

The Board members reviewed the list of properties with overdue taxes and will continue to monitor the progress of payments. Tax Collector Judy Dupré will attend the August 7th meeting at 5:45.

Strafford Garden Club submitted a request to plant a tree on the Town Hall property in memory of Marilyn Walker. The Selectmen approved the request, but will learn what kind of tree is planned before an appropriate location is chosen. The Selectmen's Office will contact the Garden Club.

The Selectmen reviewed correspondence from several residents on Second Crown Point Road requesting specific action on the part of Board members with regard to the cleaning up of the property at 825 Second Crown Point Road. The Selectmen's Office will contact the owner of the property presenting 2 options for resolution of the problem. A written response will be requested before their August 7th meeting.

With Parsons Hill resident Mike Finnell in attendance, the Selectmen discussed Atlantic Broadband's proposal to bring service to the Parsons Hill/Evans Mountain area via French Road. Atlantic Broadband has plans in place to begin the project. The Selectmen explained that they are eager to get the project underway, but want to be sure that everyone in that area is served, because in gaining the service via French Road they will be entering in to a new 10 year contract with Atlantic Broadband. In reviewing the map of area to be served by this project, several questions were raised. Board members have requested that Ed Merrill, General Manager for Atlantic Broadband, attend the next meeting which will be August 7th. It is important to understand clearly what benefits the Town will receive in renewing this contract, and to gain assurance of Atlantic Broadband's follow through. The question was raised as to whether there are other areas of Town without service; this will be a subject for discussion with Mr. Merrill.

The other option is to bring in service via Parsons Hill Road. Town counsel believes this to be a viable possibility because the road is considered a public way. This would not require a new agreement; the current contract expires in 2019. The down-side of the Parsons Hill route is that, because of density requirements, it would not bring service to everyone and might result in legal fees. Also, it would require some amount of time to draw up the plans.

The next scheduled Selectmen's meeting is to be July 31st; that meeting will be postponed until August 7th. Meetings on the 14th and 28th of August will follow.

The Selectmen would like the Fire and Police Department heads to begin working not only on the budget for 2019, but projected budgets for the next 5 years.

Board members will review the quote on the shed for the Recycling Center and Mr. Young will place the order as soon as it is approved. Some discussion followed about its specifications and the logistics of synchronizing the site work, delivery of the building, and transfer of the electrical equipment, along with uninterrupted operations of the Recycling Center. The new building will be situated alongside the concrete building, so it will not be necessary to tear down the concrete building before the new building is in place and electrical transfer made.

The Selectmen thanked Dan Howard for stepping in as temporary Building Inspector for these past several months. According to the guidelines of the Town's Personnel Policy, it is necessary for the Board to advertise for the position of Assistant Building Inspector and to select a person to serve in a more permanent capacity. Mr. Howard is welcome to apply for the position. The announcement of the available position will be posted and available also in the August Town Calendar and on the Town website. Resumes are due August 28th.

The Selectmen briefly reviewed background regarding a Status Conference concerning a legal matter being handled by the Town attorney. They discussed what they hoped the conference would achieve. The Status Conference will be held on Thursday, July 19th; Selectmen Young will attend on behalf of the Board.

There being no further business it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02PM.