

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting September 24, 2019

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

In Attendance: Judy Dupré, Eric Rowe, JoAnn Brown, Liz Evans, Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse, and Police Chief Mike Richard,

Appointments Scheduled: 5:50 Tax Collector Judy Dupré
6:00 JoAnn Brown
6:30 Police Chief Mike Richard
7:00 Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse

The General Operations portion of the Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:30PM.

Ms. Sweet opened the September 24, 2019 business portion of the Selectmen's Meeting at 5:50PM, introducing the members of the Select Board, the Town Administrator, and recorder.

Appointments

5:50 – Judy Dupré discussed with Board members some details concerning the tax deeding of a property that has recently come out of bankruptcy. The lot is unbuildable due to lack of frontage and is only accessible by a “right to pass and repass”, so the Selectmen plan to offer the property to abutting properties when the Town takes possession.

December 24, 2019 is the last day to pay on the 2017 lien. Property owners with a 2017 lien have been properly notified.

As 911 coordinator, Ms. Dupré presented a 911 request for road sign for Old Canaan Road off Province Road. The only house on Old Canaan Road is accessed through Barrington; the road is not passable from Province Road. The Selectmen reasoned that a sign on Province Road would lead to confusion and increase the likelihood of vehicles getting stuck trying to get through. The Board recommended putting a sign on Old Canaan Road where it changes from Old Settlers Road in Barrington to Old Canaan road in Strafford.

6:00 – JoAnn Brown and Liz Evans, representing the Historical Society and Bicentennial planning group were in attendance to discuss plans and funding for the 2020 Bicentennial celebration. The Selectmen requested input from the Fire and Police Chief as the discussion proceeded. The Parade, to be held on the 15th of August, was first discussed. The plans are for the parade to proceed along Parker Mountain Road from the NHDOT garage to the elementary school, with an opening ceremony held at the school. As it is a State highway, they will need to work with the cooperation of NHDOT Division 6. Chief Richard will contact Division 6 and will handle traffic on parade day. The Historical Society will handle the necessary insurance. A barbeque at the Kitz farm is planned for the 22nd of August; that date will be confirmed. Some particulars of that event were discussed including a barn dance and display of quilts in the barn. Details of parking and ticket sales will be addressed. The Fire Department will handle the actual

barbeque; there will be absolutely no alcohol at this event. Other events are tentatively scheduled throughout the week with additional events being sponsored by local groups. Ms. Brown requested a police presence at all events.

The Historical Society requested an appropriation from the Town of \$2000 to help defray expenses; this will accompany their own fundraising efforts. Ms. Brown requested that the appropriation be presented as a separate warrant article at the 2020 Town Meeting. The Selectmen would like to meet with the planning committee before Town Meeting and to be kept informed as plans unfold.

At the 2020 Town Meeting the Selectmen will declare August 15 – 22, 2020 to be Bicentennial Week.

6:30 – Police Chief Mike Richards was in attendance to discuss some of his thoughts for his 2020 budget. He shared about the very competitive atmosphere in our area for police officers. Towns are paying their officers significantly more than Strafford, even “stealing” them from other towns. Chief Richard believes he has a cohesive, well trained group of officers, and he doesn’t want to lose them, so he will be focusing on wage increases in his budget. The Selectmen asked if there were benefits that could be offered in lieu of some increase and/suggested a multi-year plan for increasing wages. He will be requesting the purchase of a new cruiser.

Chief Richard also shared his reluctance to publicize a police log due to the generally inaccurate information about police activity already posted on Facebook. He has a concern and respect for the privacy of residents and fears a police log would increase the activity on Facebook.

7:00 – Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse and the Selectmen discussed his current budget and some thoughts about the 2020 budget. The department is now almost sufficiently staffed to provided 24/7 coverage in Town. He is not likely to use all the money in his budget’s wage line. He does have some pump repair work to do on Engine 2. The Floor on the Crown Point Fire Station is soon to be poured, and Scott will request funds for Phase 2 in 2020. He will also an appropriation for a new ambulance, using monies from the Ambulance Fund. He plans to move this current ambulance to the Crown Point Station rather than trading it in.

The Selectmen asked both chiefs if they could have some finite numbers for budgeting by mid-November. Also, with both chiefs present, the Selectmen discussed their goal for the upcoming year of working on the Town Ordinances, hoping to attach some penalties for violation and steps toward enforcement. They will be looking for input from both the Police and Fire Chiefs.

Continuing Business

Eric Rowe was in attendance to get input from the Board on the final step in his Planning Board approval. This step involves the repair of a culvert near Ken and Charlotte Berry’s property. Mr. Rowe is wants to be sensitive to maintaining the character of the road as well is providing a culvert sufficient to meet the needs. The new culvert, as it is designed will be made of plastic and a bit larger in diameter, but will have the same outward appearance it currently does. Mr. Rowe added that granite would be used and that Radford Messenger Inc. would be doing the

work. Ms. Evans reported that the Notice of Decision for final approval on his plan is just waiting for the Chairman's signature. Mr. Rowe also spoke about a hemlock tree with a Bear Paw tag that is dangerously over the road. He would like to remove that tree.

The Selectmen briefly discussed several matters for which they will seek procedural advice when they speak with the Town attorney at the upcoming work session on October 1st. They reviewed reports submitted by NHDES, Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse, and Building Inspector David Copeland. The Selectmen's Office will email photos taken at a recent site visit on Second Crown Point Road, pursuant to a right to know request.

The resident who removed the boundary marking stone wall from his property has been asked to attend the October 8th Selectmen's meeting and to cease working on the project. Board members discussed some possible options for replacing the boundary line.

New Business

The Selectmen reviewed and approved payment of bills and payroll. Board members read and approved minutes from the September 10, 2019 Selectmen's Meeting. A pole license and 4 timber intents were signed, along with a notice of pay rate for a new Fire and Rescue Department member.

Two Recycling Center matters were discussed. Upon review of the charges to the Town by NRRRA for the disposal of tires, the Selectmen voted to increase that charge for tires taken at the Recycling Center from \$2 to \$3 for tires up to 19 inches; rims will continue to be an additional \$1. Tires larger than 19 inches will be charged based on the fee assessed to the Town by NRRRA. The new fee schedule will begin on October 15th. The Selectmen also reviewed correspondence from Kristann Moody suggesting that the recycling center may be inadequate to handle the recycling needs of our community, citing a couple instances when the recycling compactors were not able to accept any more material.

There being no further business to conduct, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.