

Minutes of the Selectmen's Work Session January 25, 2017

Selectmen in attendance: Lynn Sweet, Chairman, Bryant Scott and Scott Young

The Selectmen's Work Session commenced at 5:02PM.

Board members reviewed bills and approved payment.

The Selectmen want to acknowledge the service of the Town's First Responders, especially this past year. They have responded to 4 mv fatalities and 1 drowning. They have done a very good job in very difficult circumstances. The Selectmen want them to know the Board recognizes they have experienced trauma. PTSD can be difficult to recognize and they should reach out to the Selectmen or their department head if they feel they need help. Primex does offer counseling.

Budget discussions continued from previous meetings. The Road Agent's salary was established 4 or 5 years ago, and there was general agreement that it should be increased. \$10,000 was suggested. The Emergency Management budget has increased to cover the cost of generator maintenance for the 4 generators. A 3% increase in hauling charges from Waste Management is reflected in the Recycling Center budget. Salary adjustments for various departments were discussed.

The Police Department budget was discussed. Officer Young is receiving the other ½ of the raise he was granted last year. Some adjustments were necessary due to health insurance changes, FICA and Medi and NHRS. Chief Richard is hoping for a modest increase in his budget.

Capital Reserve Funds were discussed. With the Town Hall approaching 10 years old, it would be prudent to be setting aside funds for larger maintenance expenses that will inevitably occur, such as a new roof. Better outdoor lighting was suggested. A new CRF would need to be established for that. It was also suggested it would be wise to add \$5000 to the CFR for Building Equipment. Chief Whitehouse would like \$15,000 added to the CRF for dry hydrant repair and \$50,000 to the CRF for the Crown Point Station. The Selectmen will propose adding \$25,000 again this year to the CRF for bridge repair, in particular the Barn Door Gap bridge. The Board asked for the activity in the capital reserve funds to be clearly noted in the Town Report with balances as of January 31, 2017.

The Selectmen reviewed aerial maps provided for a particular proposed timber cut and discussed several problems the operation. Access crosses 2 bodies of water, and it uses a somewhat ambiguous easement across Town land where all boundaries are not clearly marked. Hopefully, NHDES and our road agent will become involved. The Selectmen will closely monitor the situation.

The Selectmen discussed the various contributions the Warrant authorizes on behalf of the Town. CASA (Court appointed Special Advocates) has sent letter asking \$500. They are court advocates representing abused children. They Selectmen agreed this organization served the needs of some Strafford families.

The Selectmen briefly discussed Kayla Whitcher's Senior Project to display flags along Water Street. The Selectmen's Office has been in touch with Fairpoint. The Town of Barrington which also display flags on telephone poles mentioned some things for Kayla to think about. She will attend the Selectmen's Meeting on the 31st to further discuss her plans.

Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse will do a PowerPoint presentation for Town Meeting.

There will be a regularly scheduled Selectmen's Meeting on the 31st and most likely a work session prior to the Budget Hearing.

There being no further business to bring before the Board a motion was made, seconded, and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:37PM.