

## Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting January 31, 2017

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

In attendance: Barbara Romano, Dana Vitch, Mike Harrington, Kayla Witcher, Mike Witcher, Michelle Bengier

The Selectmen's Meeting commenced at 5:05PM.

Bills and payroll were reviewed and approved. Correspondence was reviewed.

The Selectmen reviewed some items in the General Operations portion of the budget. Plowing rates have not been addressed for many years and lag behind the State's current rates; \$15,000 will be added to the Road Agent's budget for that purpose. An increase in the Road Agent's salary is being proposed. The Recycling Center budget shows an increase of about 6.7%, in part, due to a 3% increase in Waste Management fees.

The Warrant will propose addition of monies to Capital Reserve Funds for future bridge construction, future building repairs/maintenance, future updates of office equipment, replacement of the Crown Point Fire Station, and dry hydrant repair and replacement.

Michelle Bengier presented a petition article requesting \$4000 for the purchase of "Body Armor Vests" for the EMTs and First Responders. She may not be at the Budget Hearing, but will be at the Town meeting to address the article.

The Selectmen are planning a brief work session at 5:00 before Tuesday's Budget Hearing. They will invite John and Tom Dupere to the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the progress of the cleanup of the property on Parker Mountain Road.

Newly elected State representative, Mike Harrington was in attendance to report on what measures the legislature was addressing in this session and to get feedback from the Board members. Right to Work and Constitutional Carry will be coming up for a vote. As always, the State is searching for ways to fund road maintenance. Another issue is the standardization of utility taxes from town to town. Mike assured the Selectmen that he will be vigilant in monitoring the State's attempts to balance their own budget by passing on expenses to the Towns. He will have nonpartisan legislative updates in the Community Calendar. On a local note, he noticed recently the poor cell phone coverage at the dam and wondered about the lifeguard's ability to call for help if necessary. The Selectmen assured him there is a land line available when the beach is open.

Kayla Witcher was in attendance to speak with the Selectmen about her Coe Brown senior project. She would like to place about 25 American flags on telephone poles along Water Street, around the Grange corner and a short way up Province Road. She had previously spoken with both Eversource and Fairpoint and had been in contact with the Selectmen's Office and the Fire Chief. Since the flags will only be flown from Memorial Day to mid-autumn, she has arranged for the Fire Department to be the custodian of the flags. She is hopeful that future Coe Brown seniors will continue the project, replacing worn flags or even expanding the project. The Selectmen's Office is assisting her in checking with the Town insurance. The Board members and she discussed funding her project. Kayla will seek contributions from local residents, especially in the area where the flags will be displayed..

Barbara Romano was in attendance to speak with the Selectmen about the status of her request made at the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Before any discussion began, Scott Young recused himself from entering into the discussion and any subsequent decision. The Board informed Ms. Romano they had received counsel from the Town attorney and would like to go into non-public session to discuss it.

At this time a motion was made by Lynn Sweet and seconded by Bryant Scott 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

The Board entered non-public session at 6:44PM.

A motion was made by Bryant Scott to leave non-public session and seconded by Lynn Sweet to return to public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

Lynn Sweet – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye

Public session reconvened at 6:56PM.

No votes were taken during the non-public session.

A motion was made by Bryant Scott 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

Ms Romano returned to the meeting and Ms. Sweet told her the Board appreciated her bringing her concerns to them. They have some legal counsel to review and Ms Sweet made a motion that the Board would respond with a decision by February 14<sup>th</sup>. It was seconded and voted in the affirmative by both Selectmen. All that said, the Board acknowledged that some of Ms. Romano's Right to Know requests did not receive a timely response. Though not required by law, but as a gesture of good will the Town will return the \$57.10 of expense she incurred for postage.

There was some discussion about an Intent to Cut and how to work with the logger while protecting the Town owned property that will be crossed to access the piece .

The Selectmen voted to contribute \$500 to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). It will be added as a separate warrant article

There being no further business to bring before the Board a motion was made, seconded, and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:26