

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting December 4, 2018

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

In attendance: Judy Dupré, Bob McLellan, Lissa McClellan, Sue Higgins, Martha English, Gabrielle Holland, Jeff Tilton

The Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:30PM.

The Selectmen reviewed and approved payment of payroll and bills. Two notices of pay rate were reviewed and signed. Minutes from November 20th meeting were read and approved.

Tax Collector Judy Dupré had several matters to discuss with the Board. Members declined a taxpayer's request to extend the deadline on a 2016 lien payment. The Selectmen gave Ms. Dupré permission to extend the postmark date on Second Issue tax bills to December 6th due to the closing of the Post Office on the 5th in observance of the death former President Bush. Ms. Dupré reported that a resident on newly named Thorne Way would prefer a different name for the road. The name was chosen in honor of Gerald Thorne who had owned the property and was a notable figure in Strafford, and it will remain so named.

Bob and Lissa McLellan were in attendance to appeal an earlier Board decision concerning an interest payment due on their taxes. Their appeal was based on their excellent history of payment and the fact that they had never received the first issue bill. The second bill however delivered. Discussion with Tax Collector Judy Dupre concerning protocol for bills returned by the Post Office revealed that the Town had followed protocol correctly. Upon further discussion it was determined that an unusually large number of first issue bills were returned to the Town by the Post Office, theirs among the group. The Selectmen reconsidered their earlier decision and forgave the interest paid by the McLellans. They reminded all in attendance that the onus is on the taxpayer to know when taxes payments are to be made.

Gabrielle Holland and Jeff Tilton, Red Oak Lane, attended the meeting to discuss concerns they have about drainage onto Mr. Tilton's property which they believe stems from foundation drainage coming from some new construction on Red Oak Lane. They also expressed concern about deterioration of the road as a result of the project. The builder has been made aware of the problem and has promised to address the situation; they fear that once the new home is sold, the repairs will not be made. The Selectmen recognized that this autumn has been particularly wet and now the ground is frozen. Some suggestions were made, in particular that they make sure a good road maintenance agreement is in place and that Ms. Holland and Mr. Tilton get something in writing from the builder outlining how he plans to remediate the problem. They reminded Mr. Tilton and Ms. Holland that this is a civil matter and the Board really has no authority in the matter.

The Selectmen will discuss the renewal of the assessing contract with KRT at the next meeting.

Sue Higgins and Martha English, representing the Bow Lake Community Club, discussed with the Selectmen having a food truck event in Strafford as a fund raiser to replace the pulled pork dinner. The selection of food offered will not complete with local food establishments. Parking arrangements were discussed. The group has already spoken to the Police Department and it was suggested they also meet with Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse. All vendors will carry the appropriate certifications and liability insurance. All in all, it was deemed to be a "great idea".

Ed Merrill from Atlantic Broadband reports that the project to bring internet service to the Parsons Hill/Willey Pond/Evans Mt Road area is moving along. It was noted that Comcast will be providing service to Rochester. The current contract with Atlantic Broadband expires in 2019.

As a follow-up to a court ordered property cleanup, it was noted that a few items have not been removed as ordered. Mr. Young will review the checklist of what is to be removed from the property before signing off on the cleanup.

Board members briefly reviewed the Hill Library and Police Department budgets.

Jared Nelson who has been a lifeguard for the Town for the past 2 years has expressed interest in working for the Town as the Beach Manager next summer. The Selectmen thought he would be a good fit for the position. They will request that he be involved in building the "team" for next summer.

Town Clerk Chris Bane had submitted some requests from her office. She would like to sell registration holders in commemoration of the Town's Bicentennial. Several questions were raised in the discussion. The Selectmen wondered if special Strafford license plates might not be more profitable. It is permissible to for them to replace the front vehicle license plate for a period of time surrounding the Bicentennial year.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Scott to adjourn the meeting. By unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.