

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting

November 10, 2015

Members present: Jim Andersen, Chairman, Lynn Sweet and Bryant Scott
In attendance: Phil Auger, David Bickford, Seth Blewitt, JoAnn Brown, Charlie Burnham, Martha English, Keith Gagnon, Andrew Hussey, Steve Leighton, Rich Mechaber, Greg Messenger, George Preston, Tim Taylor, Scott Young

The Selectmen's Meeting commenced at 6:00PM.

The Selectmen reviewed and approved payroll and bills and addressed correspondence as necessary. Minutes from the October 27th Selectmen's Meeting were read and approved.

Joann Brown, Province Road, representing the Historical Society and Bicentennial Committee asked the Board to consider budgeting funds for Strafford's Bicentennial Celebration in 2020.

Charlie Burnham, Back Canaan Road, gave an update on the status of the Strafford Library Association's relationship with Hill Library. The SLA provides support to the library by way of special programs. They would like to unofficially change their name to The Friends of Hill Library. Based on his experience working with the library over the years, Mr. Burnham made some budgeting and financial recommendations. He also indicated that the SLA would be proactive in searching for people to run for the position of library trustee.

Mr. Preston, Director of Hill Library, gave the Selectmen his proposed 2016 budget for the library which the Board members will review along with other departmental budgets in the upcoming weeks. While being financially prudent, Mr. Preston and the trustees have some improvements they would like to make to enhance what the library is able to offer to the Town. Mr. Scott asked the trustees to be prepared to present these requests at Town meeting.

Tim Taylor, Fire Road 29, President of the Brown's Pasture Association, presented the association's request that the Town consider "deeming Fire Road 29" an emergency lane along with accompanying letters of support from the police and fire chiefs. They proposed that Fire Road 29 remain a private road, but are asking the Town to perform winter maintenance for the purpose of emergency response. He and other Brown's Pasture Association members in attendance discussed with the Selectmen the reasons for their request and the associated problems that might arise should the request be granted. No decision was made; the Selectmen will take their request into consideration.

Keith Gagnon, Strafford's DRA Appraiser, reviewed with the Selectmen the assessing contracts, by price and services offered, for the 2016 Revaluation and General Assessing Maintenance; these were received in response to the Town's request for proposals. It was agreed that an additional proposal would help them better formalize a decision; Mr. Gagnon made a recommendation concerning that. They also briefly discussed Mr. Gagnon's position with respect to the Town's ongoing assessing and he stressed his availability to them to address questions and concerns.

There was a brief discussion with Road Agent, Greg Messenger, about the rights and restrictions of the Scenic Road Ordinance.

The members of the Police Search Committee held their second meeting and requested that the deadline for applications for the Police Chief be extended to December 15, 2015 and that ads be placed in the Manchester Union Leader, Concord Monitor and on the NH Municipal Association website.

The Selectmen discussed the nature of some safety repairs needed on the backhoe at the Recycling Center. The repairs were approved.

A representative from Senator Kelly Ayotte's office will be at the Town Hall to meet with residents on Wednesday, November 18th from 9:00am until 10:00am.

At this time a motion was made by Mr. Andersen and seconded by Mr. Scott to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (b). Roll call was taken as follows:

Jim Andersen – Aye, Lynn Sweet – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye

The Board entered non-public session at 8:13PM.

A motion was made by Ms. Sweet to leave non-public session and seconded by Mr. Andersen to return to public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

Jim Andersen – Aye, Lynn Sweet – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye

A motion was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Ms. Sweet to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

Jim Andersen – Aye, Lynn Sweet – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye

Public session reconvened at 8:17PM.

No votes were taken during the non-public session.

Arrangements are being made for the Selectmen to meet with a representative from Healthtrust to discuss options for the health insurance for its full time employees.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board a motion was made, seconded, and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:29PM.

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