

Minutes of the Selectmen's Work Session December 15, 2016

Selectmen in attendance: Lynn Sweet, Chairman and Scott Young
In attendance: Judy Dupré, Tax Collector and Greg Messenger, Road Agent

The Selectmen's Meeting commenced at 9:15PM.

The Selectmen reviewed and signed a Yield Tax Warrant and approved an abatement. They reviewed several items of correspondence, passing a letter concerning the reopening of the Bow Lake Inn along to the Planning Board. Some documentation involving a potential legal matter was reviewed.

At the request of 2 neighbors, the Fire Chief performed a fire inspection at 71 Parsons Hill Road. The Selectmen reviewed the written report which noted no violations. The letter and request for follow-up with the neighbors will be forwarded to the Building Inspector, Bill Booth.

The Board members discussed possible plans for the Town website design and its ongoing hosting and maintenance. Diane Waldron, who is currently maintaining it, has offered to continue and is in contact with an individual who would be willing to redesign the site at no cost to the Town, merely as a portfolio builder for himself. The Selectmen asked to see a sample of his work.

The Selectmen's Office will contact KRT, the assessing firm who conducted the Statistical Revaluation, to extend our general assessing contract an additional year.

The Selectmen reviewed the Fire and Rescue Department budget which shows a slight increase. Additionally there are several warrant article requests, including funds to be added to established Capital Reserve Funds and for the replacement of equipment.

The Selectmen's Meeting on December 20th will begin at 5:00 to get an early start on bills, checks and some budgeting discussion before appointments begin. Tax Collector, Judy Dupré is scheduled to meet with the Selectmen. John and Tom Dupere and Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse will be invited to attend to discuss progress on fire code violations.

The Selectmen reviewed a survey of Town government salaries in our area, noting some specific areas where Strafford falls below average. That will be addressed in upcoming budget discussions.

The Conservation Commission budget will be increased due to some additional expenses including invasive species control, plowing and road maintenance, dues, and conference registration.

The Selectmen briefly discussed with Road Agent, Greg Messenger a few areas of concern he has and made some suggestions concerning his proposed budget as well as a small increase in the Capital Improvement budget. The Selectmen agreed with Greg's suggestion for a warrant article to place \$25,000 into the CRF for future bridge replacement

There being no further business to bring before the Board a motion was made, seconded, and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:40PM.