

## Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting 25 November 2014

Members present: Steve Leighton, Chairman, Jim Andersen and Lynn Sweet

In attendance: Katherine Proulx, Rick Proulx, Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse

The meeting was called to order at 6:10PM.

Minutes from the November 10, 2014 meeting were read and approved as written. The Selectmen reviewed and approved payroll and the payment of bills. Correspondence was read.

Rick Proulx spoke to the Selectmen on behalf of his mother, Katherine, who was also present at the meeting. He explained that they were speaking to the Board in hopes of postponing the tax deeding process on Katherine's former husband's property. Per the divorce decree, Katherine has first refusal on the lake properties. There is a foreclosure issue on the property in question and now the tax deeding situation. They were asking for advice on how to best proceed so that they may acquire the property. Rick asked if his mother paid the taxes could she get the property. The Selectmen explained that there is no benefit to her in paying the taxes as her husband owns the property. They asked if Mr. Proulx had made payment arrangements with the Town. Rick thought not. The Selectmen explained further the whole process of the Town taking possession of a tax deeded property which is according to State statute. Once the Town takes the property, the previous owner has an opportunity to buy it back but all taxes and penalties and additional charges must be paid.

Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse attended the Selectmen's meeting to discuss several matters with the Board. Scott and the Board discussed staffing matters, particularly daytime coverage hours and personnel; the department presently has about 36 members including the chief and deputy chief. He presented the Selectmen with his preliminary budget which they briefly reviewed and discussed; Scott will continue to work on that. Within the budgeting discussion, the Selectmen explained that in designing the Fire Chief position, it was planned that the Chief's salary would include some daytime coverage; that should be a goal for him. With the Chief as the second person on duty it would enable the department to extend the staffing budget. They asked him about completing his certifications and if he was planning to do some daytime coverage once he completes his First Responder certification. Scott is preparing for upcoming classes and tests. He is hoping to take the First Responder test in December and has an upcoming EMT class scheduled for January. He is looking for ways to get energy costs at all the stations. Scott and the Board talked about some of the suggestions made by the Department of Labor for safety compliance. He will work with the departments in Town to help secure necessary equipment.

The Hill Library Trustees have chosen a new librarian from the pool of applicants for the position; Lynn sat in on 2 of the interviews for the position.

The Board discussed the recent safety inspection by the Department of Labor. The Town will receive a written statement of their findings and will respond to their suggestions. The Safety Committee is working on an update of the Safety Summary.

Good progress was reported on the First Crown Point bridge which is due to open soon. The Town is not moving forward on the dry hydrant portion of the project at this point.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board a motion was made, seconded, and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.