

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting January 6, 2015

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

In attendance: George Preston, Kristin Woodman, Irene Abels, Indra Edmonds, David Hartranft, Scott Whitehouse, Greg Messenger, Mark Messenger, Scott Young

The meeting was called to order at 6:03PM.

Representatives from the Library were in attendance to discuss the library's budget proposal, including trustees Indra Edmonds and Irene Abels. George Preston, who is the new librarian, effective December 4, 2014, was introduced to the members of the Board who had not previously met him. Kristin Woodman, the new library trustee alternate, was also introduced. Irene Abels, Sloper Road, addressed the library's 5 year plan which had been previously presented to the Selectmen, stating that it is still a work in progress; they would like to see it become more specific and exciting. George presented the trustees' budget to the Board. It reflected a substantial increase over last year's appropriation. Salary increases, extended hours of operation (from 30 to 36 per week), and additional planned programs accounted for the most significant portion of the increase. They pointed out that they are looking for alternate sources of revenue including grants, donations and fund raising. George is interested in improving the technology available at the library, possibly through federal and state grants. Other items discussed were the library's Capital Reserve Fund, insurance and building maintenance.

The Selectmen next reviewed the Fire department's budget with Chief Scott Whitehouse and Deputy Chief David Hartranft. They are working to adjust pay rates based on levels of certification. They requested a 4% raise for the call wages and per diem personnel as they have had no COLA increases for many years. Some solutions to securing the fuel tank were discussed as well as new tires for the ambulance. The department has 2 warrant articles to present to the Town.

Greg Messenger reviewed his department's budget with the Board. He would like to encumber some maintenance funds from 2014 for snow plowing. The Barn Door Gap bridge project was mentioned, but no details are available at this time. Greg would like to include some money to spray knotweed that has been problematic in several areas of Town. The Board agreed and asked him to perhaps address poison ivy at the dam as well. Greg would like Mark Messenger to have an administrative salary of \$2500. He discussed with the Board the roads he that he hopes to include in his summer maintenance work this year. Parsons Hill Road, a scenic road, being one of them, they considered if there were any procedural considerations. Lynn will speak the Planning Board about it. He hopes to do work on Leightons Corner Road, Spencer Lane, and Province Road. They also discussed the condition of the top section of Lakeview Drive and Water Street. Greg would like to see the State work on their section of Province Road; it is in very poor condition making winter maintenance challenging.

The Board reviewed the police department's budget requests with Police Chief Scott Young. He has included a COLA salary increase of 1.7% and acknowledged some increase in insurance expenditures due to a change in coverage. He has an increase in the part time line item as his new

officer has to attend the academy. The Police department did road details for the Road Agent, Greg Messenger this year and that will continue this year for an estimated 95 ½ hours.

They discussed some amendments to the proposed budget and will continue to review those considerations. Scott would like to submit 2 warrant articles, one for \$10,000 into a capital reserve fund for a new cruiser and the other for repaving of the Police Station's parking lot including handicap access. For the past several years, Scott has been using O2 fund from special details for cruiser purchase, but most of that has been earmarked for a significant upgrade in the PD technology. Lieutenant Richard has written a grant that will offer matching funds for replacing computers. The PD needs a business modem at the station. It was suggested this might be obtained free of charge. The Selectmen's Office will look into that. Scott would like a digital chip reader for dogs and wondered about the Animal Control Fund.

No decisions on the budget requests presented were made. The Selectmen will hold a work session on Thursday, January 8 at 10:00. At that time they will review any increase in the total valuation of the Town, the anticipated revenues and the departmental requests.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board a motion was made, seconded, and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:35PM