

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting December 7, 2015

Members present: Jim Andersen, Chairman, Lynn Sweet and Bryant Scott

In attendance: Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse, Steve Leighton

The Selectmen's Meeting commenced at 5:45PM.

Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse had several matters to discuss with the Board. The Chief is working with grant writer to apply for a grant to obtain funds for the replacement of 18 of the department's 29 SCBAs. Scott gave the Board members an update on the status of Engine 3 which had been sent to Portland, ME for repair. There was discussion of the possible cause of the problem given the engine's low mileage and hours of use; also discussed were some inherent problems with the design of the vehicle as noted by other owners as well. The Selectmen urged Chief Whitehouse to have photos taken documenting the worn engine parts as well as the repair. Chief Whitehouse is exploring all options for payment of the repair and will keep the Board members informed as he learns new information.

The Selectmen's Office will contact Metrocast and arrange for a Metrocast representative to attend a public meeting in January. The public will be invited to ask questions and voice any concerns they might have.

The Selectmen reviewed the DRA equalization study and will sign the study after reviewing the sales upon which the study was compiled.

Several issues pertaining only to full time employees were discussed, including health insurance benefits and contract language. These changes would go into effect with contract renewals after Town Meeting.

The Board members reviewed and signed correspondence. A letter to the Browns Pasture Association denying a request to grant Fire Road 29 an emergency road status was signed.

The Selectmen briefly discussed a request to unmerge 2 lots which had been previously involuntarily merged. A question about the frontage was raised by the owner. The Board will seek further legal advice as to how best to proceed.

Craig Hastings will be acting supervisor at the Recycling Center in Ben Francum's absence.

The Scenic Road designation as it pertains to Evans Mountain Road was discussed. Ongoing maintenance and parking for the Conservation piece are to be considered. Future classification of a portion of the road as a Class A Trail may be the best way to proceed.

The Board members have requested the opportunity to review the contracts for the payment plans of property owners with overdue taxes as well as a monthly update on the progress of those payment arrangements.

The Board continued their discussion about the Town's assessing contract for the revaluation and general maintenance. They would like to obtain additional proposals before a final decision is made, as well as speak once again with the Town's DRA appraiser.

The Board reviewed an estimate/recommendation for IT upgrades for the Town Hall. This will likely be considered as an expenditure spanning a 2 year period.

The Selectmen reviewed the budgets for Planning Board and Building Inspection Department. Little change is expected in the final total for those budgets. The Election and Registration budget will show an increase with 4 elections being held in 2016.

The Selectmen reviewed and signed Steve Leighton's application to access a lot of record from a Class VI road.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board a motion was made, seconded, and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.