

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2007, 6:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Selectman Cormier called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., also present were, Selectman Reginald Caldwell, Selectman Jon Pike, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Brian Watterson, Sean McCarty and Donna Cilley.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the minutes of the March 5, 2007 meeting as written, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed. Selectman Pike abstained.

Welcome New Selectman

Selectman Cormier welcomed new selectman Jon Pike to the Board and wished him luck during his term as Selectman. He also thanked Brian Watterson for his service to the Town and Board of Selectmen.

Board and Committee Assignments

Following a brief discussion the board and committee assignments were as follows:

Selectman Caldwell moved to appoint Selectman Cormier as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike moved to appoint Selectman Caldwell as Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Cormier moved to re-appoint Selectman Caldwell as the representative to the Planning Board, Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Caldwell moved to appoint Selectman Pike as the representative to the Conservation Commission, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Caldwell moved to re-appoint Chairman Cormier as the representative to the Budget Committee and Heritage Commission, Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Fire Chief Recruitment Ad

Chairman Cormier explained that following Chief Siegel's announcement to retire the Board of Selectmen decided to post the position for outside applicants. Town Administrator Beaudin explained the LGC had provided a cost of \$2,000 for recruitment services with the Town paying publication fees. All information will go to LGC and they will assist in narrowing down the selections, however the Board of Selectmen have the final decision regarding any applicants.

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the contract for Fire Chief Recruitment services. Selectman Pike seconded.

Donna Cilley asked how broad the search area for the position would be, Town Administrator Beaudin explained that LGC will advertise in local and larger NH newspapers as well as on websites related to municipalities and fire service.

With no further discussion Chairman Cormier called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Retirement Benefit Calculations

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed a memo received from Sergeant O'Connor requesting that his retirement benefit be prorated for the 18 years of services. The current retirement benefit is \$1750 for 15 years and \$2500 for 20 years and he feels it should be prorated for years in between. Chairman Cormier stated that it would be a dangerous precedent to set as employees with more than 20 years of service would be asking for more too. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that additionally he has asked that he be allowed to receive the COLA raise for his accrued hours that he will be paid upon retirement which is an additional \$293.00. There was a brief discussion that other employees are not paid retroactively to January for their COLA raises and Selectman Pike added that it too would not be a good precedent to set. Selectman Caldwell commented that it would not be fair to the other employees. They additionally discussed the possibility of changing the pay raises to a January to December period.

Selectman Caldwell moved to verify that the retirement amounts are set amounts at \$1750 for the 15 to 20 year period and \$2500 for 20 years or more. Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike moved to not grant the retroactive wage increase for accrued time payment. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed a memo from Bill McGee at the Belmont Track requesting that the Board of Selectmen send a letter to the State Reps in non-support of HB923 as it relates to the discontinuation of live dog racing. Chairman Cormier expressed that he had attended the session regarding the bill and there was a large amount of support for both sides of this issue, with one of the representatives offering an amendment that would allow the tracks to keep simulcast broadcasting without live racing. Currently tracks must hold 50 live races per year in order to carry simulcast broadcasts. The Board agreed that it is important to support the Track when possible because of the revenue and community jobs that it provides. The Board agreed to send the letter per the request of Bill McGee.

Town Administrator Beaudin reminded the Board of the presentation by Primex to be given at their April 16, 2007 to overview the products offered by Primex to the Town and how the Town is doing in general relative to Workmen's Compensation. She also reminded them that NH DRED wishes to come before that Board with a presentation, it was suggested at a prior meeting the Eliza Ledbeater be asked to attend as well however she has recently retired. Selectman Pike suggested that the Planning Board be invited. Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that she would check with the Planning Board to determine if they would be available to join the meeting on April 16, 2007.

Town Administrator Beaudin asked the Board if they would authorize the closing of Town Hall for staff to attend the funeral services of Jeff Marden. The Board agreed to close Town Hall for a period of two hours to allow staff to attend the funeral.

Chairman Cormier explained that his prior commitments that required a later meeting time had changed and asked the other Board members if they were agreeable to changing the meeting time back to 5:00. All Board members agreed to change the meeting time to 5:00 pm beginning with the April 2, 2007 meeting.

Town Administrator Beaudin briefly discussed that the Fire Department is currently down two lieutenants and due to Union clauses the positions can't be filled with firefighters, so the Chief has begun the process of qualifying candidates to fill what will be temporary positions until the current Lieutenants return. The Board wanted it to be clear with everyone the positions will be temporary and whoever fills those positions will return to their previous status upon the return of the current Lieutenants. Town Administrator Beaudin also noted that the Union must agree to this and provide documentation in writing.

Non-Public Session

Selectman Caldwell moved to open the non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 6:55 p.m. in accordance with RSA . Roll call was taken and those present and voting in the affirmative to enter non-public session were Ron Cormier, Reginald Caldwell, and Jon Pike. Also present were Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace.

Selectman Caldwell moved to approve the hardship abatement as proposed by Town Administrator Beaudin based on the income and expense information provided by the applicant. Selectman Pike seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cormier closed the non-public 7:10 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting will be Monday, April 2, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Ronald Cormier, Chairman

Reginald Caldwell

Jon Pike