

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2009, 5:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Ronald Cormier called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.; also present were Selectman Jon Pike, Selectman David Morse, Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Steve Dalton, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Cynthia DeRoy, Fire Chief Jim Davis, Tom Murphy, Harrison Haas with the Citizen, Kinney O'Rourke with the Daily Sun and a reporter with the Winnisquam Echo. Joining the meeting at 5:30 p.m. was Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Morse moved to accept the minutes of the July 6, 2009 meeting as written. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

28-A Payment Under Protest Letter

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that funding contributed for retirement system litigation is still being held and will be used for current litigation. The Town has been asked to submit with all retirement payments a letter that indicates that the payments are being made under protest. She provided the Board a copy of a draft letter that if they agreed they could sign and it would be mailed with all future payments. She noted that a record would be kept of all additional costs related to the changes and special duty pay would be maintained separately. Chairman Cormier commented that the State's budget is less than good taste and believes things will end up worse than they currently are. Selectman Pike added that there is no chance to change it and felt the letter should be issued. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that although displeasure is being expressed to the retirement system it is the legislators that created the situation.

The Board signed the letter of protest.

Fire Department Vacancy

Chief Davis advised the Board that firefighter Greg Nichols had given his notice of resignation. He explained that the fire department had conducted a hiring screening in March

to create a list of prospective hire's, he noted this is common practice among fire departments in an effort to reduce the time it takes to fill an open position. He is recommending the hiring of Ryan Brown whom finished first in this testing process. He has been contacted and is still interested in employment with the Town of Belmont.

Selectman Pike moved to hire Ryan Brown as a full time Firefighter/EMT-I at a grade 13 step 1 \$34,129.68 effective August 3, 2009. The Chief will report to the Board half way through the probation period and then again before he completes his 6 months. Selectman Morse seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Fire Department Special Duty Rate

In light of the recent changes in the NHRS the Fire Department special duty rate was reviewed to determine if it needed adjusting. It was determined that the current \$30/hour rate does not include any administrative fees or cover Medicare. It is proposed that an additional \$15 increase would cover those costs. Chief Davis noted that if a vehicle is needed it would be charged at \$10/hour in addition to the newly proposed \$45. Selectman Pike felt that would not cover the cost of have a vehicle on standby at a special duty operation. After a brief discussion it was decided that although it is rare that a fire department vehicle is needed for special duty the Chief should look into what other communities charge for a vehicle for special duty and provide a new proposed vehicle rate to the Board.

Selectman Morse moved to accept the increase to \$45/hour for Fire Department special duty. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Fire Department Standards & Operation Policy Change

Fire Chief Davis presented a proposal for a Standards & Operation Policy change that would set a residency requirement for future hires to the department. Chief Davis noted that a mileage or time response criteria be set but ultimately it was decided to set specific communities as required residency. Selectman Morse thought it may limit the number of applicants and he didn't see the benefit. Chief Davis indicated that in this process it would prevent an employee from moving out of range in the future because it is a condition of their employment. It was noted that there are two waive options if necessary.

Selectman Pike moved to accept the change in the SOP as presented. Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Lakes Region Public Access Request

Lakes Region Public Access sent a letter requesting a representative from the Town of Belmont to serve on their Board of Directors. Chairman Cormier expressed that he would like to be appointed to that role.

Junkyard Ordinance Review

The Board received the final version of the Junkyard Regulations. They are only up for discussion this evening as a public hearing will need to be held to accept them. Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Official Steve Dalton was present and explained that the primary change to the document was to change the verification process from verbal to written confirmation. He noted that for the most part the regulations are parallel to the guidelines provided in the "NH Green Yards" junkyard guidelines book put out by the State of NH.

Selectman Morse asked if Steve had gone through the process with a junkyard, Steve indicated that they are all familiar with the guidelines. Steve noted that there are a couple of the yards that are doing really well and the others are working towards better compliance and the new guidelines will make it clear what the Town will be enforcing with written documentation.

There was a brief discussion regarding an updated fee schedule to go with the ordinance, Steve indicated that it was separate from the ordinance at this time. The Board agreed that it should remain separate but wanted new recommended fees presented. It was decided that a public hearing for acceptance will be scheduled for September.

CIP & Budget Submissions

Town Administrator Beaudin stated that CIP worksheets and Budget worksheet will be distributed tomorrow and are due back August 14th and August 28th respectively.

Winnepesaukee River Basin Meeting

Town Administrator Beaudin advised that she had recently attended a meeting of the Winnepesaukee River Basin and learned there will be significant changes that will affect the Sewer Department budget. She will be scheduling a meeting with Rich Fournier to discuss the changes. She was also notified that Frank Clairmont will be retiring effective the end August. Selectman Morse asked what the capital needs were going to be, Town Administrator Beaudin noted approximately \$80 million over the next several years, with approximately \$11 million over the next couple of years, of which Belmont's portion is 5% at this time but they will be conducting flow tests to determine if that rate of contribution needs to be adjusted.

Pleasant Valley Project Update

Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that construction has begun on the Pleasant Valley Project. Public Works Director Jim Fortin is encouraged with the meeting of the project manager and the work that is under way at the time.

She also advised the Board that the wetlands permit has been received for Horne Road and that project will be able to be completed.

Selectman Pike noted that he has received a request to know why Rogers Road has never been paved when other roads in the area have been paved or overlaid a couple of times.

Tax Deeding/Deferral Decision

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Cynthia DeRoy updated that Board that only one property due for deeding had paid in full with two others making partial payments. Selectman Morse expressed that he thought other options were being looked into, Cynthia expressed that those options can't be pursued until the Board signs the waived that says they aren't going to accept the deed. Chairman Cormier indicated that what he has seen is that they usually come up with the money once the deed letters are sent. Cynthia expressed that being aggressive with the collection process and deeding process has helped. Chairman Cormier expressed that he would like to see deed notices sent to everyone from the list except the one that was paid in full, the other Board members agreed.

Happy Tails Dog Park Request/LGC Representative Attendance

Town Administrator Beaudin indicated she had received a request from Lisa Clutters with Happy Tails Dog Park that the Town have a representative from LGC present at the August 17th meeting when they will be talking to the Board regarding their proposed off leash park. Selectman Morse stated that he didn't feel that was necessary at this time; there are many more things that need to be taken care of before liability becomes an issue. Chairman Cormier suggested a 20 minute time limit for their PowerPoint presentation and discussion. He expressed that the Board had given them direction at the previous meeting which he hasn't seen being researched. All Board members agreed that an LGC representative was not needed.

Non-Public Session

Chairman Cormier called the non-public session to order at 6:12 p.m. Those present and voting were Ronald Cormier, Jon Pike and David Morse. Also present were Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin and Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti.

Selectman Pike moved to authorize the rehire of Joseph Marcello as a full time police office at grade 15 step 4 \$38,747.27 effective July 21, 2009 with a 6 month probation period. Selectman Morse seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Also discussed during non-public session was an employee reimbursement issue.

Chairman Cormier closed the non-public session at 6:25 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board of Selectmen's meeting will be Monday, August 3, 2009 at 5:00 p.m., at the Corner Meeting House.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Ronald Cormier, Chairman

Jon Pike, Vice Chairman

David Morse