

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Ronald Cormier called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.; also present were Selectman Jon Pike, Selectman David Morse, Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Fire Chief Jim Davis, Deputy Fire Chief Sean McCarty, Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti (2:10), Public Works Director Jim Fortin(3:25), Don Rogers, Richard Blaney, Steve Dalton, Tina Fleming, Gretta Olson-Wilder, Recreation Director Janet Breton, Harrison Haas with the Citizen and Kinney O'Rourke with the Daily Sun, all joined the meeting for the regular portion of the meeting.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Minutes**

Selectman Morse moved to accept the minutes of the August 31, 2009 meeting as written. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Morse moved to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2009 meeting as written. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Cormier abstained.

### **Budget Work Session**

Town Administrator Beaudin discussed with the Board that the non-union wages had been entered for budgetary purposes at 1 step of 2% for each employee and 1% COLA, for a 3% combined increase. Selectman Morse asked what the COLA adjustment is for union employees; Town Administrator Beaudin explained that through their most recent negotiations they receive 1.5% step increases with no COLA. She noted that the current COLA is a negative number. Selectman Morse suggested that given the current economic times that there be no COLA increase. Selectman Pike noted that traditionally the non-union employees receive what the union employees are receiving; Town Administrator Beaudin commented that the Board should treat the non-union and union separately. Selectman Cormier expressed that he feels in light of the times that there be no COLA increase.

Selectman Pike moved that non-union staff receive a 1 step increase of 2% with no COLA increase. Selectman Morse seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board noted that there are some employees that have been approved for an additional step due to training or education accomplishments; they will still receive the additional increase.

### **Fire Department**

Chief Davis was present to discuss his budget requests with the Board. He began by going through each line item and explaining any changes. The Chief noted that was a significant increase in the medical supply line due to having to restock the ambulance themselves versus previously being restocked by the hospital. There was discussion of paying for supplies out of Comstar funds however its purpose is for equipment. Chief Davis noted an increase to vehicle repair and maintenance due to a refurbish that is needed for engine #3. There was discussion of the high amount of overtime that is being used, Chief Davis pointed out that he has several employees that have longevity which gives them additional time off and with the union one for one policy he has to cover vacation, sick and personal time with like staff and with the amount of time off they have it is costly.

Chairman Cormier noted that the number of calls received between 7pm and 5am it doesn't make sense to have two people on staff. He believes it would be better that have more men on at other times. He suggested that perhaps outsourcing the EMS portion needs to be looked into. Deputy McCarty cautioned that the Town may not receive that same level of experience through that process. Selectman Morse added that there is an average of 1 call every 2.5 days between the hours of 10pm – 7am. Chairman Cormier stated that there must be 35-40% of department cost going to 15% of calls. He suggested that the RFI be sent out to determine if there are other options available for EMS services.

It was also discussed and suggested that LRGHealthcare be contacted to discuss a similar setup with the ambulance service as is in place with Laconia.

### **Police Department**

Chief Baiocchetti was present to discuss his budget requests with the Board. He noted that special duty is significantly decrease with no projects being expected in Belmont in the near future. He has however increased his overtime line to cover added hours at local events such as Old Home Day, funerals and Memorial Day. He added that although his department works very hard to limit overtime, arrests at the end of a shift, homicides, burglaries and such do require overtime hours.

He noted the increase in uniforms line is because the current uniforms are 6 years old there are some that need to be replaced. He added that ammunition is becoming increasingly difficult to buy and they have current gone to having a local person make reloads for training bullets. He noted a small increase of the motorcycle however it includes everything and really is a good deal.

### **Public Works, Water & Sewer**

Selectman Morse commented that he feels that Allen Daisy is doing a great job! Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that the request for 2 separate bargaining units has been approved, so the Public Works Department will be their own unit. Jin Fortin noted a decrease to the salt line item partly because of a decrease in price. Selectman Morse asked for an explanation of the Heavy Equipment line item, Jim explained that it is for repair and maintenance of the trucks, excavator, loader and other heavy equipment that may need repairs.

The Board and Jim discussed options for funding the new truck that is being requested that had been voted down at last year's town meeting. They agreed the best option is a five year lease. They agreed to add a line item to the operational budget for the lease payment.

There was discussion regarding splitting the Public Works Directors salary between Public Works, Water and Sewer and it was agreed that it should be 20/10/10. Selectman Morse stated that he is apprehensive reading the hiring of a fulltime employee for the Sewer department. Jim explained that there is a lot of work that needs to be done in that department, as well as big changes with the WRBP and when time allots he would like to discuss this further with the Board.

### **Executive, Property Assessment & General Government**

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed the Executive budget, the Property Taxation budget and General Government Buildings. She noted that the computer service contract is contained in this budget and each department is now budgeting for their own computer equipment. She also noted that telephone and paper supplies are now being listed under general government to simplify the tracking of these items.

In the property taxation budget there is an increase in the appeals line for those individuals that are now going directly to Superior Court with their appeals and avoiding the BTLA step causing the Town to have to hire an attorney for the appeal.

There are some repairs that are necessary such as a replacement window for the General Assistance office as well as some pest control issues that will be done out of building repair & maintenance so there is a small increase there. Additionally the bathroom floor in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the mill is scheduled to be replaced with a product that will eliminate the flooding of the Doctors office when there is an overflow of the toilet so there is a small increase in the line item as well.

### **Public Hearing – Regulations for Control of Junk Yards**

Chairman Cormier opened the Public Hearing at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing proposed changes to the Regulations for Control of Junk Yards. Code Enforcement Officer Steve Dalton explained that the most significant changes are in Appendix A and the changes are reflective of the standards set forth in the State of NH Green Yards book. He noted that two junk yard owners were present for the meeting. Chairman Cormier asked how many junk yards there are and how many are certified, Steve stated that there are 5 junk yards and 2 are currently certified. Mr. Blaney added that he basically certified but due to a back log at the State he hasn't actually received his certification yet, but should shortly. With no further input Chairman Cormier closed the public hearing at 5:04.

Selectman Pike moved to accept the Junk Yard Regulations as presented. Selectman Morse seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Following a brief discussion regarding the Junk Yard permit fees, Selectman Pike moved to increase the fee to \$100 to be waived if the Junk Yard is green certified. Selectman Morse seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Acknowledgement – Cary Lagace (USPAP Course)**

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that Cary Lagace had recently completed the USPAP 15 hour course as another step toward assessing certification.

## **Solid Waste Proposals**

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that there was a representative from Waste Management at the meeting relative to the recent bids for curbside solid waste removal. It was noted that Waste Management was the low bidder following the bid process. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that she had contacted the City of Laconia as a reference for Waste Management and they are very happy with the service provided. Selectman Pike thought perhaps the bids should be rejected and re-bid with a recycling option. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that there was a recycling component to the bid that could be considered by the Town and may be an important piece with an estimated cost of \$65.14 per ton anticipated at the Co-op to dispose of the trash. Chairman Cormier added that it is a difficult decision as Bestway Disposal has done a great job for the Town of Belmont for several years and have even set up their business here in town. He commented that the bids were close with the 5 year offer.

Selectman Morse moved to accept the Waste Management proposal for curbside pickup for 5 years. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Sargent Park Gate**

Chairman Cormier stated that at the prior Board meeting discussion regarding the recent accident resulted in the Board ordering a fence to be installed between the Police Department fence and the Corner Meeting House to eliminate pedestrian and bike traffic from cutting through. Additionally they wanted to further discuss the gate to the Basketball court being closed in some fashion to eliminate the bike traffic through that area. Chairman Cormier stated that he would like the gate locked until a decision is made as to a resolution. Janet Breton stated that she has contacted BII fence and they have come up with an option of using the existing gate in a staggered fashion to create a zigzag that only pedestrian traffic will be able to get through. The cost will be approximately \$400 and she believes he would be able to do it relatively soon. Chairman Cormier noted that if it can't be completed within two weeks time he wants the gates locked until the work is done. Chief Baiocchetti stated that he would like the bike traffic through the parking lot to stop.

Tina Fleming suggested that the Board of Selectman, the Recreation committee and the Police set up a meeting to create a dialog between them all. She feels that with Park Night coming up the children should get more exposure to the police and fire personnel. Chief Baiocchetti noted that his police officers are in the park on a daily basis and that his department has a community function of safety, prevention and enforcement. Chairman Cormier commented that the safety issue for the Police Department and Corner Meeting House parking lot is what's being addressed here. Selectman Pike stated that vehicles are not allowed in the park however, there is a group that regularly brings their vehicles into the park. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that she will send a letter to the group advising against that in the future.

**Non-Public Session**

Chairman Cormier called the non-public session to order at 5:35 p.m. in accordance with 91-A:3 II (c). Those present and voting were Ronald Cormier, Jon Pike and David Morse. Also present were Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin and Steve Dalton.

Chairman Cormier closed the non-public session at 6:20 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

The Board will meet for Budget Deliberations on Wednesday September 30, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House.

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

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

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Ronald Cormier, Chairman

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Jon Pike, Vice Chairman

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David Morse