

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2008, 3:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Cormier called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.; also present were Selectman Pike, Selectman Caldwell, Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti, Linda Frawley, Lisa Clutters, Fire Chief Jim Davis, Deputy Sean McCarty, David Morse, Tina Fleming, Sue Roberts, Brian Loanes, Glenda Hill, Greta Olson-Wilder(5:30) Parks & Recreation Director Janet Breton(5:40), and Kinney O'Rourke with the Laconia Daily Sun.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Pike moved to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2008 meeting as written. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Budget Workshop

Police Department Line Item

Chief Baiocchetti was present to discuss his request for an officer that would work part time for the Town as a juvenile prosecutor and part time for the High School as a School Resource Officer (SRO). His request for funding the position is \$25,000. Selectman Pike noted the position was \$25,000 for a part time officer and \$25,000 paid by the School for an SRO is actually a \$50,000 position. Chief Baiocchetti indicated that he had made cuts in other areas of his budget so he was able to add the position with minimal change to his budget request. There was discussion of the need for an SRO at the Elementary School and the possibility of splitting the two SRO positions that are in place now between the Middle and High Schools. Selectman Pike suggested holding off on adding the position this year and determining if there is a way to share the current positions between the Middle and High Schools, Chairman Cormier agreed. Tina Fleming spoke indicating that she felt to SRO at the Elementary School is good interaction with the kids and the community.

Chairman Cormier asked Town Administrator Beaudin to confirm the upcoming meeting with the School Board and he indicated that he would discuss the positions with the

school to determine if other options can be considered. Chief Baiocchetti reiterated that the Juvenile Prosecutor would be a big help to the Department.

Elections & Registrations

Town Administrator Beaudin noted the decrease to this budget due to there only being one election in 2009.

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept Elections & Registrations as presented for \$4,000. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Administration

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed the Treasurers request for an increase in the salary line of \$500 to \$7,000 and \$1500 for general expense which is the same as last year. The Board discussed that the salary was last increased two years ago and should remain the same as last year.

Selectman Caldwell moved to amend 4150-102 to \$6,500 and accept line item 4150-801 for \$1,500. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Patriotic Purposes

Town Administrator Beaudin noted a few changes to this budget to better track the Old Home Day expenses. The first being a new line item for bus expenses which is being reduced due to the OHD Committee thinking less busses could be utilized next year. There is a small increase for Fireworks to maintain the level of show that is received due to increased cost of fireworks. The Board and OHD Committee members in attendance agreed that the OHD festivities were a great success. The new street closings worked out well.

Selectman Pike moved to accept line items 4583-452 to 4583-999 for \$16,000. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery

Cemetery Trustee David Morse was present and advised the Board that overall the Cemetery budget request is down slightly from last year. He is estimating a 15% increase in grounds maintenance however; it hasn't gone out to bid yet. They aren't making a Capital request this year. There have been headstone repairs made and they hope to take down some pine trees in the Hurricane Road cemetery.

Selectman Pike moved to accept line item 4195-999 for \$8,900. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Emergency Management

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the request for this budget is down \$2,000. She noted that ANSI safety vest and cones will be purchased from this budget due to new Department of Labor rules requiring them.

Selectman Pike moved to accept line item 4290-999 for \$8,000. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Street Lighting

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that Street Lighting budget has been increased by \$300 due to PSNH rate increases.

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the Street Lighting budget for \$9,300. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Health Agencies

Town Administrator Beaudin informed the Board that a new request from CASA for \$500 has been received. The Board was in support of the funding request for CASA. The Board additionally discussed that because all departments had really cut back on their requests this year these agencies should be level funded from last years requests.

Chairman Cormier moved to fund the CASA request for \$500 and fund the balance of the agencies at last year's level. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Sewer Budget

The Board reviewed the Sewer budget noting that the request is down from last year. The Chairman noted that because the Sewer budget is funded by their own revenue they would not make changes to it.

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the Sewer budget as proposed. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Fire Department (Inspector Alternative)

The Board reviewed the Fire Department proposal for Fire Inspector. Glenda Hill commented that she thought the position had been approved last year. Chairman Cormier indicated that it had been but they never found anyone to fill the position. Glenda noted that the department had been provided with several names of interested people.

Selectman Pike moved to table the request for a Fire Inspector. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Parks & Recreation (Director's Salary)

The Board discussed that although Janet is doing a great job as the Parks & Recreation Director they were going to maintain the 3% increase that other employees will receive.

Selectman Pike moved to support the Parks & Recreation Directors salary at a 3% increase. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Capital

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed the list of Capital requests with the Board, she noted that Environmental Contingency has been reduced due to less monitoring needs. State surplus has been reduced and Information Technology has remained the same. Selectman Pike commented that he felt there needs to be a better explanation of the Technology budget

because the community doesn't seem to understand the need. Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that a large piece of the budget is for maintenance agreements and recently experiencing a server crash and having the ability to contact and work with people over the weekend was invaluable. Selectman Pike suggested that through the deliberative session showing what it covers is important.

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the Inventory Layout is down \$10,000 and the Heritage Commission has requested the same as last year \$4,500.

Selectman Pike moved to accept Capital Reserve items Environmental Contingency, Accrued Benefit Liability, Municipal Facilities, State Surplus, Information Technology, Inventory Layout, and Heritage Resources as proposed. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cormier indicated that he is not in support of the request for replacement of Engine 4, the Department just purchased a Ladder truck and the purchase of a new engine truck from the Comstar fund would leave the fund with a very minimal balance. The other Board members agreed.

Selectman Pike moved to zero the Engine 4 Capital Reserve request. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board additionally discussed the Safety Compliance, Document Restoration, Library, 2 Police Vehicles, and Water System Maintenance Capital Reserve requests, which all remained at the same level as last year.

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the above mentioned Capital Reserve accounts as requested. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the consensus of the staff is that the Board wishes not to pursue the Concord Street sidewalk project any further and is offering an alternative. They are suggesting a continuation of the side walk up Church Hill and additionally out on Route 140 to tie into and complete the project the State is working on. She advised that they are still working on the cost of this project proposal. The Board agreed that they don't want to continue with the Concord Street Sidewalk project. Linda Frawley advised that there are Safe Routes to School grants available and the Town & School may want to apply for them.

Selectman Caldwell moved to end the process of pursuing a sidewalk for Concord Street. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business **Woodland Drive**

The Board reviewed a memo from the Land Use Office highlighting the outstanding issues with Woodland Drive and recommends that the Board do not hold public hearings for its acceptance by the Town until these issues are addressed by the owner.

The Board of Selectmen will issue a letter to Mr. Brouillard regarding the outstanding issues that need to be resolved before the Town can move forward with the acceptance of Woodland Drive as a Town Road.

Old Business
Dog Park Discussion

Lisa Clutters of Happy Tails Dog Park was present to review a request from her organization to acquire a lot on Dutile Road for the purpose of establishing a dog park there. She indicated that they have fencing and are ready to move forward. Chairman Cormier indicated that he has reservations regarding giving the organization Town land. He stated that he has heard concern from some citizens that the Town should not be giving land to citizen groups because it would set a precedent and then other groups would be looking for the same. He offered that the group should contact private sources to see if they can find a private owner that may be willing to work with them. He suggested the 4H Fairground/UNH Cooperative or the Lodge at Belmont who all own large tracts of land and may be willing to work with the group.

Lisa indicated that she understands that perhaps the Town couldn't give them the land but there are communities that allow such a program to run under Parks & Recreation. The Board agreed that there would be a liability issue there and didn't want to consider that at this time. The Chairman suggested that the group exhaust the private options and if they have no luck to come back to the Board for further discussion. Sue Roberts noted that the UNH Extension office was having a meeting on Tuesday to discuss uses for the land and it may be a good time for the Dog Park people to approach the subject with them.

Janet Breton noted that through her Recreation connections she is aware that Concord actually owns a parcel of land that was an abandoned park that they have allowed a dog group to use. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that she can check into the insurance for such a use. Chairman Cormier reiterated that if they exhaust their private options they can come back to the Board for further discussion.

Non-Public Session

Chairman Cormier opened the non-public session at 6:45 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c) - Roll call was taken those present and voting were Ronald Cormier, Reginald Caldwell and Jon Pike. Also present were Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin and Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace.

Selectman Jon Pike moved to place Cary Lagace at a Grade 10 Step 10 on the 2009 scale; citing her recent attainment of certification as a Assessing Assistant from the Department of Revenue, it was noted that to receive this next level, she had to complete numerous hours in the field conducting measuring and listing as well as completion of Course 101. Selectman Reginald Caldwell seconded the motion. Chairman Cormier pointed out that as Town Administrator, Jeanne should put together a plan of continued education with Cary relative to her willingness to continue in the assessing field as well as delegation of some of the duties Jeanne has continued to do as the Town's Assessor. Jeanne noted that there are still functions that Cary cannot do under her current certification level. It was noted that it would take approximately 3 years for Cary to attain the next level of certification. Chairman Cormier called for a vote on the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Next Meeting

The next regular Board of Selectmen's meeting will be Monday, October 6, 2008 at 5:00 p.m., at the Corner Meeting House.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Ronald Cormier, Chairman

Reginald Caldwell

Jon Pike