

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2007, 6:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Watterson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., also present were, Selectman Ronald Cormier, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Deputy Fire Chief James David, Fire Chief Richard Siegel, Fire Department Secretary Renee Jesseman, Fire Fighter Greg Bavis, Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti, Budget Committee Member David Morse, Budget Committee Member Albert Akerstrom, Budget Committee Member Ron Mitchell, Budget Committee Member Ken Ellis, Cheryl Ellis, Budget Committee Member Ken Knowlton, Budget Committee Member Rich Fournier, Budget Committee Member Gary Flack, General Assistance Director Donna Cilley, John Altman And Steve Reid with Public Safety Research Group, Anne Cioffi and 2 other representatives for Sanbornton, Gayle Ober with the Laconia Citizen and Ray Carbone with the Daily Sun.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Cormier moved to accept the minutes of the January 8, 2007 meeting as written, Chairman Watterson seconded the motion.

At this time to clarify the Board of Selectmen's decision, Chairman Watterson announced that Board of Selectmen have decided to move forward with proposing the lease/purchase of the ladder/pumper truck for the Fire department.

With no further discussion the Board unanimously approved the minutes as written.

Public hearing for Taser donation

Chairman Watterson opened the Public Hearing to accept the donation of 12 Taser's in accordance with RSA 31:95-e at 6:10 p.m. Selectman Cormier moved to accept the anonymous donation of Taser's, Chairman Watterson seconded. Ray Carbone asked what a taser is and what the value of the donated taser's is. Police Chief Baiocchetti explained that the taser's are a form of less lethal force and their valued at less than \$10,000. He went on the explain that the taser provides an electrical stimulation that temporarily shuts down the nervous system to

assist in apprehension of a suspect. David Morse inquired if there will be written policy for use and training. Chief Baiocchetti expressed absolutely.

With no further discussion the Chairman Watterson and Selectman Cormier voted unanimously to accept the donation of 12 taser's for the Police Department. Chairman Watterson closed the public hearing at 6:15 p.m.

Old Business

Pleasant Valley Project

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that in relation to the previously discussed Pleasant Valley Project there are several documents that the Board needs to proceed with in order to meet required deadlines.

Chairman Watterson moved to adopt the Housing and Community Development Plan, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Watterson moved to adopt the Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Watterson moved to go forward with the submittal of the CDBG application and to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the documents, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Sewer Commission Appointment, Hueber Drive, Winter Maintenance Plan

Chairman Watterson explained that at this time the Board has decided to defer the following items until a future meeting when all members are in attendance: Sewer Commission Appointment, renaming of Hueber Drive, and the Public Works Winter Maintenance Plan.

Conservation Commission Resignation & Appointment

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that Mark Lewandoski has submitted his resignation from the Conservation Commission as a full time member and would like to be considered for the alternate member position. Scott Rolfe has requested the position of full time member; he is currently an alternate member.

Selectman Cormier moved to accept the resignation of Mark Lewandoski as a full time Conservation Commission member, Chairman Watterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Cormier moved to appoint Scott Rolfe as a full time Conservation Commission member, Chairman Watterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Cormier moved to appoint Mark Lewandoski as an alternate Conservation Commission member, Chairman Watterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrators Report

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that the next round of delinquent Water/Sewer notices are being prepared and will be mailed shortly with a shut off date of February 8th. She

noted that the previous cycle had worked well, however several of the individuals that had made payment arrangements had fallen off and this reminder will be good for all.

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the gathering of reports for the Town Report has begun and a proof of the cover will be available for the Board to review soon.

Bean Dam purchase request from Conservation Commission

Conservation Commission Chairman Ken Knowlton explained that the Commission has been negotiating with Mr. Locke on the purchase of this property. He noted that there is a historic dam on the property that needs to be breached and is part of the purchase agreement. He added that this is a vital parcel of land along the Tioga River and the Town owns the abutting parcel. It is one of the largest unfragmented parcels of land in Town. The commission has the funds to make the purchase and are requesting the Board of Selectmen's approval to move forward with the purchase. Town Administrator Beaudin added that Land Use Technician Rick Ball has been working on the purchase and sales agreement which is currently being reviewed by Attorney Charles Chandler; there is an outstanding letter of deficiency from the State of NH regarding the Dam which will be satisfied as part of the sale. She noted the Conservation Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing on the purchase for February 7, 2007. The current purchase price is \$125,000.

Selectman Cormier asked what the affect downstream of the breaching will be, Ken noted that the flood plain below the dam is flat and there has never been a problem with the dam, the breaching is a requirement of the State. Donna Cilley commented that the breaching should be completed before the purchase so as to avoid any problems with follow through after the fact. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that there is a clause in the contract that makes it null and void if both the seller and buyer are not satisfied and that the breaching has to be done to the satisfaction of the State. Donna Cilley added that she feels the Conservation Commission is making a good decision. Town Administrator added that Attorney Charles Chandler will be handling the transaction. Ray Carbone asked what the size of the parcel is and the full name of the seller. It was noted the parcel is 61 acres and the owner is James Locke.

Chairman Watterson moved to authorize the Conservation Commission to proceed with the purchasing of the Bean Dam property, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Fire Department Study

Chairman Watterson thanked everyone for coming and acknowledged the significant amount of work that has been put into the study by the Fire Department and Public Safety Research Group. He thanked the Fire Department staff for their efforts. He noted that this information is coming in late in the budget process and most of the information will not be able to be utilized this year but it is document that can be used in planning for the department for years to come. He then introduced John Altman and Steve Reid of Public Safety Research Group to present the Fire Department Study.

John Altman began by explaining that he has been in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for many years and has worked as a consultant for the past 20 years. He explained Steve's background is in the Fire Service. He explained that this is their third visit to Belmont, the others were for collecting data to focus on the Fire and EMS services.

John then began a PowerPoint presentation to highlight their findings. He first highlighted that Belmont has a good strong service, is ahead of some large cities as far as mutual aid agreements and the department staff is very enthusiastic about their work.

Steve then highlighted the Fire Operations, some highlights were a solid service model, the department is laid out very well, there is a need for a "quint" truck which is the same as the Ladder/pumper being proposed, and there is a need for additional staffing. They feel there is a need to enhance the auto aid (Lakes Region Fire Mutual Aid), and the overall response time is 6.07 seconds, an average of 6.52 for structure fires.

John highlighted the EMS Operations, he noted that the American Heart Association guidelines for cardiac care are used when analyzing data, he noted that ambulance calls continue to rise, the revenue collections are good but suggested that discounts are not necessary, he also noted that 282 calls for Mutual Aid had Belmont serving outside the community while only 28 Mutual Aid calls had other communities serving in Belmont.

Steve talked about service level planning and some factors to consider were staffing, call volume, station location, equipment and mutual aid load. He noted they feel there is currently more apparatus than is necessary with some trucks being at the end of their life span, the consideration of several 40 hour positions and long term planning with neighboring communities is important as well as bringing training programs into the region.

They concluded by explaining that personnel is an important area to look at with staffing in their opinion on the low side. They indicated that if two calls come in back to back that key administrative positions are manning apparatus to get to the second call which isn't always a good idea. They noted several options for adding personnel such as sponsoring a paramedic through training. They presented 4 staffing model options ranging from the ultimate scenario to a more modest approach which still showed a doubling of staff.

John and Steve thanked the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Belmont.

Chairman Watterson gave the opportunity for those in attendance to ask questions. Ron Mitchell began by saying that with the study indicating that there should be more involvement with other communities and all the discussion lately regarding regionalization he feels the Board of Selectmen should set up a forum with other community leaders to discuss those possibilities. Chairman Watterson expressed that once there has been time for a full review and the Board of Selectmen have has the opportunity to discuss the study that type of event could be a possibility. He does not see staff at the station doubling but does see working with other communities in the future as an option.

Ken Knowlton expressed the need for grants and a grant writer and perhaps the Town should consider hiring one such as they do with attorneys. Chairman Watterson agreed that it is something that should be considered as he doesn't believe Town Hall staff has the time to do that. Rich Fournier asked if there had been a cost per population comparison done. John explained that they aren't comfortable with that analysis as other communities may not have the same standards and wages. Rich expressed that if there is the consideration of regionalization the expenses must be similar. Chairman Watterson added that each community specializes in some kind of special rescue operation so comparisons would be more difficult.

There was discussion regarding the statistical data available and the need to have more sophisticated programs to better break out and analyze the data. Donna Cilley asked if statistics

had been done by the time of day to assist in staffing, it was explained that the software doesn't have those capabilities and the Fire Department would have to do that type of analysis manually. It was noted that daytime hours has the most incidents.

With no further discussion Chairman Watterson thanked everyone for coming and Public Safety Research Group for their presentation.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting will be Monday, February 5, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Brian Watterson, Chairman

Ronald Cormier

Reginald Caldwell