

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2007, 6:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Selectman Ronald Cormier called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., also present were, Chairman Brian Watterson, Selectman Reginald Caldwell, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Fire Chief Richard Siegel, Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti, Budget Committee Chairman Ron Mitchell.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Minutes**

Chairman Watterson moved to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2007 meeting as written, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Brouillard Request to Rename Hueber Drive**

The Board of Selectmen expressed concerns relative to the outstanding taxes and utility fees owed by Mr. Brouillard on other property he owns in Belmont; however Town Administrator Beaudin pointed out they are separate entities. With opposition, Selectman Cormier agreed to support the change.

Chairman Watterson moved to change the name of Hueber Drive to Sun Lake Drive. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Works Winter Maintenance**

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that Town Counsel is still reviewing the Public Works Winter Maintenance policy and hasn't provided any comment at this time. The Board agreed to defer this topic until their next meeting.

**New Business**  
**BRATT Request**

Ron Mitchell was present to explain to the Board that through the preliminary engineering phase of the BRATT trail project the estimates are higher than expected. He indicated that the State is now requiring that a 5' chain link fence be installed between the trail and the Railroad tracks for safety reasons. The cost of the fence is estimated at \$139,000 which puts the total approximately \$70,000 above the appropriated amount of \$353,400. He noted that of the additional \$70,000 needed the State will reimburse \$56,000 and the Town's portion of \$14,000 will be provided in the form of gravel with no direct impact on taxes. Mr. Mitchell added that if the money isn't appropriated this year the project will not get under way until 2008.

Selectman Caldwell moved to include in the proposed budget a line item for \$70,000 needed for BRATT Phase I. Chairman Watterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At this time Mr. Mitchell provided copies of cost comparisons for construction cost for the new Police Station provide to Mr. Mitchell by Rich Fournier. The Board briefly discussed the documents pointing out that there are many factors in the cost estimates and it would have to be determined if Mr. Fournier's figures include the same factors as the proposal from Breadloaf. Selectman Cormier noted that the Board of Selectmen are committed to moving forward with the proposed Police Department and will put it forth to the voters at Town Meeting. He added that if it fails then the entire situation would have to be looked at again. It was noted that if the Budget Committee votes not to support the project the proposed budget will exceed the 10% Rule.

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that it appears that the figures do not include land and added that the land owner willing to gift the parcel of land to the Town is still willing to work with the Town.

**Police Standards & Training Grant Acceptance**

Chief Baiocchetti was present to advise the Board that the Police Department has received a grant in the amount of \$2761.34 which is 2/3 of the expense of sending Officer Sean Sullivan to Motorcycle Trainer School. This training will allow for Officer Sullivan to train additional Police Department staff to patrol on the Department motorcycle.

Chairman Watterson moved to accept the grant of \$2,761.34 from Police standards and Training. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. Police Department Donation Acceptance**

Chief Baiocchetti explained that Wal-Mart contacted him to say that the local store has a manager that lives in Belmont and submitted the Department's name to receive a donation. The grant in the amount of \$955.00 will be used for the community policing program.

Chairman Watterson moved to accept the donation of \$955.00 from Wal-Mart. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Laconia Elks Club Police Department Donation Acceptance**

Chief Baiocchetti explained that the Laconia Elks Lodge has offered a donation in the amount of \$200.00 to Belmont for the DARE Program. The donation will also go into the community policing program.

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the donation from the Laconia Elks Lodge of \$200.00. Chairman Watterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Pay & Classification Proposal**

Town Administrator Beaudin explained to the Board that the union contract is in its final year and as previously agreed to with the union the pay and classification study would be done. The Local Government Center has quoted \$200.00 per position within the Town. There are 30 full time positions; the part-time positions would be included at no cost. She noted that it will include rewriting of job descriptions and a complete presentation to the Board. She added that she was surprised by the cost quoted.

The Board agreed that it is important to go into the coming negotiations with this information. Selectman Cormier pointed out that because it will likely exceed the \$5,000 bid requirement that bids should be solicited from other firms too.

## **Town Administrators Report**

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that she has requested additional information from Breadloaf regarding electric and plumbing and is awaiting their response, but otherwise it appears they are prepared for the formal presentation to the Board of Selectmen on February 12<sup>th</sup>, including a scale model. Selectman Cormier commented that if the figures provided by Mr. Fournier are accurate there is cause for concern. Town Administrator Beaudin expressed that it is important to verify the accuracy of those figures and will follow up with the Town Administrator's in those other communities. She added that the Board could go forward with the \$2.2 million bond, but don't have to do phase two with the current firm if it is determined there is another more appropriate process. Any portion of the \$2.2 million that is not used could be discontinued the following year.

Chairman Watterson expressed to Selectman Cormier that he will have to explain the 10% Rule to the Budget Committee so if they choose the vote against supporting the project they are clear as to the affect it will have if it passes at Town Meeting.

There was a brief discussion regarding the metal versus wood and block construction and it was noted that the figures being presented by Mr. Fournier are for wood and block and Breadloaf's figures are based on steel structure. It was noted that the Bond Hearing will be February 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. and the Board of Selectmen are committed to moving forward with this project.

Town Administrator Beaudin explained to the Board that due to a mistake at the newspaper the Public Hearing notice for the Pleasant Valley Project did not meet the requirements for filing the application for the project in January and application will now have to be made in July. She noted that the application whether it be filed in January or July requires a positive vote at Town Meeting.

Town Administrator Beaudin asked the Board if one of them was willing to serve as a Sargent Fund representative. Selectman Caldwell indicated that if he was in Town when the process was scheduled he would do it and Selectman Cormier expressed that if Selectman Caldwell was unavailable he would sit in as the Board of Selectmen representative.

At this time Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed the retirement letter from Fire Chief Siegel citing family commitments which initiated his retirement and indicating that his final day of service to the Town of Belmont will be February 28, 2007. The Board stated their deep regret in accepting his resignation and thanked him for his many years of service, positive involvement in his department and wished him the best in his retirement.

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the retirement of Fire Chief Siegel effective February 28, 2007. Chairman Watterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Non-Public Session**

Chairman Watterson moved to open the non-public session at 7:20 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II c. Roll call was taken and those present and voting were Ron Cormier, Brian Watterson, and Reginald Caldwell. Also present were Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin and Fire Chief Richard Siegel.

Chairman Watterson closed the non-public 8:15 p.m. No decisions were made.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting will be Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Brian Watterson, Chairman

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Ronald Cormier

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Reginald Caldwell