

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2007, 3:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Ronald Cormier called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Also present were Selectman Reginald Caldwell, Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin, Bookkeeper Assistant Denise Rollins, Acting Public Works Director James Fortin, Water Department Manager David McLelland, Parks & Recreation Director Janet Breton, Fire Chief James Davis, Deputy Fire Chief Sean McCarty, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Carol Lacasse, Police Chief Vincent Baiocchetti and David Morse. Reporters from the local newspapers and several town residents joined the meeting at 5:00 pm.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Budget Work Session

Highway Administration

J. Fortin presented this budget. Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the Highway Administration budget, line items 01-4311-210 through 01-4311-505 in the amount of \$19,000. Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Highways & Street

J. Fortin explained that he added a new line 01-4312-201 for repairs to the existing building and upkeep and general maintenance of the facility. He is also increasing the Part Time Hire budget line. He would like to hire two 18 year olds next summer to feed the brush chipper. This would save on the highway personnel time. He would also like to hire a part time person to help with the mowing. There is also an increase in the Tires budget line since the grader will need new tires next fall. He has decreased the Street Sweeping and the Street Painting budget lines. Street sweeping can be done every other year. The Street painting will be completed this year. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the Seal Coating money will be encumbered for next year since it is too late to get it done this year. J. Fortin told the Board that there is a decrease in the budget overall. Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the Highway & Streets budget, lines 01-4312-140 through 01-4312-999 with the exception of 01-4312-141 in the amount of \$431,200. Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Beaudin told the Board that she has received an estimate of \$12,500 to repair Plummer Hill Road from Oak Drive down to where the pavement splits. It's about 800 feet. J. Fortin agreed that is the most dangerous part of the road and has been a problem for many years. Town Administrator Beaudin suggested utilizing the asphalt line in the Highway Department budget, however Jim noted that this has been earmarked for another project. Funding for the Plummer Hill work is authorized to come out of Highway Block Grant Funds. Selectman Caldwell made a motion to repair the 800 feet of Plummer Hill for \$12,500 noting that while this project was not slated for work in 2008 it is posing a safety concern. Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Water Department

D. McLelland presented the Water Department budget. He is reducing line item 02-4311-226 Rent to Laconia to \$12,000. He also reduced 02-4331-310 Tank & Well Maintenance line to \$7,000. Town Administrator Beaudin said that she will be recommending to the Board that they remove the Water Manager's salary line from the Highway Department budget and put it all in the Water Department budget.

Chairman Cormier said that adding in this salary item the water budget will increase about \$30,000 which the water billing will not cover. The Board discussed increasing the water rates but it was decided to borrow some of the money. It was also decided to zero out budget line 02-4311-888 New Well Development.

Selectman Caldwell moved the Water Department budget, \$156,563. Chairman Cormier seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Assistance

Town Administrator Beaudin presented the Board members with a spreadsheet showing the costs of doing the tax bills since 2002. If the printing of these were contracted out it would be a savings of \$3,000 in postage and would also save the cost of buying a new printer. The Postage line budget 01-4150-230 is reduced to \$5,000. There is an increase in the Title Search line 01-4150-276 since they are now doing them outside. Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the Financial Administration budget lines 01-4150-102 through 01-4150-999 in the amount of \$40,437. Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Parks & Recreation

J. Breton would like to reduce salary line 01-4520-110 Park Salary and add a new line for a new position. It would be an Activities or Projects Coordinator which would be a part time position of 20 hours a week at \$12.00 an hour. She is planning on having the summer camp program increased to 8 weeks and having 50 children a week instead of 40. She said the budget line for electricity is going up. She has looked into using 400 watt lights at the park but would like to go to a park that has them first to compare. Chairman Cormier made a motion to decrease budget line 01-4520-110 Park Salary to \$1,400 and add a new line 01-4520-103 with an amount of \$12,480. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed. Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the Parks & Recreation budget, lines 01-4520-110

through 01-4520-719 in the amount of \$80,372. Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Beach

Chairman Cormier moved to accept the Beach budget lines 01-4521-101 through 01-4521-505 in the amount of \$17,853. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Library

David Morse said that he will be increasing the Librarian Salary line to reflect her increase in hours. He said he figured the employee benefits line by using a 12% increase in health insurance. Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the Library budget, lines 01-4550-101 through 01-4550-999 in the amount of \$106,826. Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery

David Morse told the Board members that the cemetery work is out for bid at this time. He said that landscaping is 80% of the budget. He will get the figures to them as soon as he can.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Davis said that the Protective Equipment line 01-4220-303 may go up to \$15,000 since the gear has to be UL inspected. He noted that this budget doesn't include his request for 2 additional full time firefighters and 1 part time inspector. The part time inspector would work 25 hours a week and would be dedicated to just doing inspections and enforce the fire code. He said an alternative could be to hire a fulltime firefighter/inspector. Chairman Cormier agreed that the fire department does need the staff but they need to cap the budget. They need to have the best response times but need to keep the budget down. Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the Fire Department budget lines 01-4220-105 through 01-4220-107. Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the Fire Department budget lines 01-4220-120 through 01-4220-999 except 01-4220-140. Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The total budget amount of these lines is \$423,960.

Sewer Department

The Board reviewed the Sewer Department budget. Town Administrator noted that the changes are due to the Winnisquam Basin fees and a line for land or easement acquisition has been included. Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the Sewer Department budget lines 03-4321-101 through 03-4321-888 for an amount of \$291,501. Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2007 meeting as written. Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the minutes of the September 17, 2007 meeting as written. Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Police Department Appointment

Police Chief Baiocchetti recommended hiring Joel Pickowicz as a full-time police officer. Chairman Caldwell moved to accept his recommendation. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CDBG Public Hearings – Feasibility Grant Pleasant Valley

The Community Development Block Grant public hearings will be held on October 15, 2007 beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Public Hearing on Permissible Fireworks Ordinance

Chairman Cormier opened the Public Hearing regarding the adoption of a Permissible Fireworks Ordinance at 5:00 p.m. He does not agree with it since it is primarily in response to some residents with concerns about noise. He feels a noise ordinance should be enacted. He doesn't see people getting the permits and the police and fire departments will expend a lot of man hours enforcing the ordinance. Chief Baiocchetti indicated that a noise ordinance is being reviewed by Town Council at this time. The hours would be between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. weekdays and between 10 p.m. and 10 a.m. on the weekends. Fire Chief Davis feels that it is a safety concern. They can start fires and people can be injured. The ordinance will give them a way of monitoring the fireworks. The ordinance would require people who want to set off the class c fireworks to obtain a permit. Several residents were present to voice their concerns. They feel the noise is the main problem. Ron Mitchell said that it's gotten to the point that's it's been happening more and more until the early mornings. Town Administrator Beaudin said that there needs to be a second hearing which is scheduled for October 15.

Wage & Salary Study – Acceptance

Town Administrator Beaudin has received the draft document of the wage and salary study from the Local Government Center. LGC is using a factor rating system for grading job descriptions. They have included a summary of recommendations. 18 of the positions are relatively competitive, 12 positions are equal to or exceed the average minimum and 6 positions appear to be below average. Most of these are the part time positions. Some of the communities they compared Belmont to are Bow, Gilford, Hollis, Tilton and Plaistow. The scale shows a 5% increase between grades and a 2% increase between steps. She would like to Board to approve in concept the grading and survey data that the LGC has put together. Then they can move forward with the placement on the scale. Chairman Cormier would like Selectman Pike to be in attendance when they do this. Town Administrator Beaudin said she will schedule the acceptance for the next meeting.

Slot Machines

Chairman Cormier said that he has been contemplating whether the Board should find out what the community thinks about the legalization of slot machines at the dog track. He said they should consider putting it on a ballot at the March town meeting.

Non-Public Session

Chairman Cormier moved to enter non-public session at 5:45 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a) & (c). Roll call was taken and those present and voting were Ronald Cormier and Reginald Caldwell. Also present were Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin and Fire Chief Jim Davis.

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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Ronald Cormier, Chairman

Reginald Caldwell

Jon Pike

