

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2005, 5:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Brian Watterson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., also present were Selectman Reginald Caldwell, Selectman Ronald Cormier, Jr., Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Public Works Director Robert Bennett, David Morse.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Cormier moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on November 14, 2005 as written. Selectman Caldwell seconded the motion. Chairman Watterson mentioned that Linda Frawley had noted several organizations that offer grants for Municipal buildings at the previous meeting and wanted to know if Town Administrator Beaudin had looked into them. She indicated that she contacted US Rural Development and Belmont does not qualify for a grant through them because Belmont's median income level is too high by approximately two thousand dollars, however Belmont would qualify for a low interest loan through them. She also noted that Greg McPherson had dropped a packet of information on a program that will help with the architectural design. David Morse commented that the Library may qualify for assistance and Town Administrator Beaudin said she would provide a copy of the packet to David. With no further discussion, Chairman Watterson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Budget Work Session

Excavator

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that as they requested Public Works Director Bob Bennett had requested rental/purchase quotes from two excavator manufacturers and is present to review them with the Board. Bob explained that the

rental on the John Deere models as the 80C track excavator \$2850 per month and the 180C wheeled excavator \$6150 per month. Nortrax offers the unit for six months with 80% of the rental rate going toward the purchase of a unit and a municipal discount of 6-8%. Milton CAT offers an M316 wheeled excavator at \$5900 per month with \$15000 going toward the purchase of the unit. Selectman Cormier provided the calculation for the cost to purchase either unit at the end of six months and the cost was relatively close with the John Deere purchase cost at \$134610 and the CAT purchase cost at \$134367.

Bob commented that the backhoe his department currently operates is thirteen years old and is requiring a lot of repair lately and should be replaced soon, however if he is to move forward with the excavator he will not be pursuing the replacement of the backhoe, the excavator will be able to do everything the backhoe is used for. Selectman Caldwell recommended that if the resale value of the backhoe isn't a good amount that the backhoe could be kept as a back up unit.

Selectman Cormier commented that this rental with option to purchase is a good way to utilize the equipment and determine if the Town should purchase it.

Selectman Caldwell moved to amend line item 4312-874 to \$43400, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Waterline Relocation/Expansion

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that the waterline relocation project is still waiting on the State, the engineers have been corresponding, and the businesses had been noticed and several responded positively to a meeting to discuss options.

New Public Works Truck

There was discussion regarding the new truck for the Public Works Department, Selectman Caldwell asked for clarification of how the department ended up with one Mack and the rest International. Bob explained that several years back the Fire Department was purchasing a new Mack and his department was offered a real good price and a truck that he went ahead and purchased but his intention is to have all Internationals.

BRATT Capital Request

Town Administrator Beaudin explained to the Board that the request from the BRATT committee for \$20000 for Phase II of the project had inadvertently been left off of the Capital Reserve budget worksheet. She noted that the supporting documents are in the budget book but the request does not show up on the worksheet. There was discussion regarding the status of the trail and the guidelines set for use of the funds, it was noted that the funds are due to be dispersed in October of 2006.

Selectman Cormier moved to put \$20,000 into a Capital Reserve account for Phase II of the BRATT trail, Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

New Healthcare Option

Town Administrator Beaudin informed the Board that a meeting has been set for Thursday, at 3:00 p.m. for Primex and Harvard Pilgrim Health to review the health plan option they are proposing for the Town. She is still waiting for a response from the Union regarding the change and believes they are waiting until after this meeting to make sure everyone's questions are answered before giving their decision to the Town.

Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that she had spoken with several communities at the recent Local Government Centers annual conference that have the Harvard program and are very happy with it.

Park & Ride Electric Analysis

Town Administrator Beaudin explained to the Board that she and Brenda Paquette had recently done an analysis of the lighting cost for the Park & Ride facility and determined that an average of \$266 per month is being used to light the facility and explained that cost saving changes needed to be discussed to avoid over running the street lighting budget. She also noted that the street lighting budget for 2006 may need to be adjusted to accommodate this added expense. She indicated she would discuss the issue with Bob Bennett and advise the Board of possible solutions. Selectman Cormier commented that for safety concerns the lighting is important.

New Business

Parks & Recreation Director

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that she had a meeting with the new Parks & Recreation Director; Janet Breton has agreed to accept the position. She commented that Janet is very enthusiastic and excited to start the job. The position will start on December 19th, at \$13.90 per hour with six months probation and \$14.46 per hour after that, no benefits as it is part-time. There will be criminal and background checks done prior to her starting. Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that she will introduce her to the rest of the staff at the December 19th staff meeting.

Selectman Caldwell moved to hire Janet Breton as the part-time Parks & Recreation Director, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Belknap County Economic Development Commission

A letter from Belknap County Economic Development committee was received requesting a nomination to their Board to represent Belmont. It was noted that Don McLelland, Sr. sat on the Board previously. The request was for a Board of Selectman member or a resident of Belmont. Selectman Caldwell moved to nominate Chairman Watterson as the new representative for Belmont to the Belknap County Economic

Development Committee, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Concord Regional Solid Waste

Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that an appointment was needed for a representative to the joint board for Concord Regional Solid Waste. She noted that she would like to be nominated as the representative and requested Brenda Paquette be nominated as the alternate due to her strong involvement with Household Hazardous Waste Day. Selectman Caldwell moved to nominate Town Administrator Beaudin as the Concord Regional Solid Waste representative and Brenda Paquette as the alternate member, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Winnisquam Fire Department

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that in light of recent articles in the Daily Sun which contained some misinformation, she has prepared for the Board to sign, letters to the two communities regarding the Board's decision to appropriate funds for the WFD budget and advised what their level of funding will be.

Selectman Cormier indicated that at the previous Budget Committee meeting members wanted an explanation of why the Board of Selectman chose the method of funding and why for only one year. There was discussion regarding not knowing what the other two communities were going to do and the responsibility being placed solely on the Belmont Taxpayers. The chosen option will give continued coverage for that area and give the Town of Belmont time to determine how it will function. Chairman Watterson commented that walking away wasn't an option so the lowest level of funding was chosen for the first year.

David Morse felt that there wasn't enough information on number of calls and types of calls for WFD provided; Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that in the budget books under the WFD tab there was provided a list with the breakdown he is looking for. David also wanted to know why items of the Fire Department budget that had previously been paid for by the Comstar fund are now being added to the operating budget, affecting the taxpayer, he was advised that the use of the Comstar fund is being redirected toward the purchase of large equipment as the fund had originally been intended.

Website Re-design

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that a letter had been received indicating that DK-Net Design has offered to hold the quoted price for hosting and re-design of the Belmont website until the middle of December and needs to know how the Board wants to move forward with the proposal. Selectman Cormier expressed that he is very interested in pursuing the website re-design. Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace explained that the re-design will give a new look but the content will remain the same with easy access for changes by each department.

Selectman Cormier made a motion to contract with DK-Net Design for the hosting and re-design of the Town's website, Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Route 3 Relocation

There was additional discussion regarding the Route 3 water relocation project, David Morse expressed that he felt the funds should come from the Water Department revenue and not all taxpayers. It was explained that the Water Department budget would have to be over run and the project is being required by the State. The Board feels that the responsibility to cover the expense of the project is on the Town as a whole. It is not the fault of anyone and the expense should be shared as the State is requiring the relocation.

Municipal Building Committee

Chairman Watterson proposed creating a Municipal Building Committee to assist with the process of presenting a Town Hall/Police Station facility to the voters. Selectman Cormier expressed that 4-5 members would be a more productive level of participants. Chairman Watterson commented that the nature of the facility may require more people. Selectman Cormier felt 7-8 members would not accomplish as much. The Board agreed to put it on their next agenda for further discussion and action.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for December 5, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House (downstairs).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Brian Watterson, Chairman

Reginald Caldwell

Ronald Cormier, Jr.