

APPROVED

**Board of Selectmen
14 January 2013
Minutes**

5:30 pm – Chairman Rachel Hatch called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Hatch, Selectmen Ralph Lavin and Brett Currier and Recording Clerk Lois Dionne. Also in attendance was Road Agent Paul Perkins.

Plow Drivers – Paul had been asked to update the Selectmen on his search to find another subcontractor to plow town roads. Paul reported that he has been working on it, has spoken with a couple of people, but has no one definite. He reported that during this mild weather he has been working on the dirt roads and road maintenance.

Boot Allowance – Paul expressed concern that the line item for boot allowance had been cut from his budget. He said he was glad to see money had been put back in for streets. He was informed that nothing would be sure until the deliberative session on Saturday, February 2 at 10:00 am at the school.

Employee Raises - Concern had been expressed about the way the warrant article for merit employee raises had been written, and if there might be a liability because there is no criteria in place for merit raises.

There was discussion about whether warrant article could be rewritten or if the raises could be changed from a 2.8% merit raise, and be replaced with a lower percentage COLA raise, or the possibility of withdrawing the warrant article completely. The Selectmen are currently leaning toward supporting a COLA increase.

Lois will check with DRA to see if either of these changes can be made, and the need for another public hearing.

Selectmen's Meeting – There will be no Selectmen's meeting on Monday, January 21st due to a holiday, but the Selectmen will meet on Tuesday, January 22nd at 4:00. The Selectmen will finalize everything they need to finalize for the next public hearing and address any other issues that need to be addressed. Chairman Hatch asked the board to review the updated budget and warrant articles for discussion on Tuesday.

There was a brief discussion on the need to have the budget and warrant articles available to the public for review for the deliberative session. When we had a Town meeting, the

Town Reports were available for residents, but the information for Town Report can't be ready until after the deliberative session.

There was a brief discussion of the cost involved to have copies for the residents.

Super Saturday – School – Selectman Lavin stated that Super Saturday for the school is Saturday, and asked where the Selectmen stood as far as supporting their budget request. He said budget request this year is less than last years, but was told that even though the budget request is down, there would be an increase in the tax rate. He was told that was because the revenue from the state is less. Selectman Lavin will support the budget.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION – Selectman Lavin moved to approve the minutes of January 7, 2013 as written. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

MOTION – Selectman Lavin moved to accept the minutes of January 9, 2013 as amended. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Bingham Road – Selectman Lavin asked the Board to clarify the planning board's decision on Bingham Road. He said at the last meeting the gentleman who owned the land on Bingham Road wants to subdivide the property again, and had presented what he wanted done, creating conditions on whoever bought the property.

Selectman Currier said that is between him (property owner) and whoever buys the property; it has nothing to do with the Town. Selectman Lavin said Mr. Funk and Ms. Girard both want to put the conditions on the condition of approval from the Town. Selectman Lavin said he had questioned this. Selectman Currier said if the owner and the buyer want to put the conditions in, that is fine, but it shouldn't be a condition of the subdivision approval.

Chairs at Ballot - Selectman Lavin asked about having chairs at the ballots because between the Town and School ballots, it is going to take a long time to read them. After a brief discussion, it was decided there would be chairs available.

Handyman – Selectman Lavin said he had found three people who would be willing to work part time for the Town as a handyman. He asked if the Board wanted to set up interviews to meet with any of them. He was told he should have the individuals fill out an employment application before we interview them; they would also have to have a background check.

Expand Town Clerk's Office – Chairman Hatch said she would like to propose taking the wall down between the Town Clerk's office and the conference room to expand the Town Clerk's office. She said they are cramped for space, and the Town clerk had asked

about that possibility. Selectman Currier said if they decided to do that they would have to have someone look at it and determine the cost. He also felt if that happens, the Selectmen should meet downstairs rather than upstairs.

Chairman Hatch said even though it had been brought up with Tim some time ago, he had never brought it up to the board, and she just heard about it. Selectman Lavin said he heard about it last week. Selectman Currier asked if there is money in the non-capital reserve for maintenance on this building that would cover that. It was also suggested, if they decide they can expand Deb's office, that the wall not be taken down, but just move some of her things into the conference room, and close the room off to the public. Selectman Currier asked Deb to join the Selectmen's meeting to discuss it with her.

Village District – Town Clerk Deb Cornett informed the Selectmen that she had just received notice that if the village district dissolves the precinct, any extra money they have should be returned to the town and be returned to the taxpayers in the district. She said Steve Latici had contacted DRA, and the response he had received was that any assets left should be credited to those who live in the district. Once the sale of the lights is complete, the district should send a check to the Town, who would then disburse the credit on the tax bill to those who currently reside within the district boundaries. Deb said you don't give back money; that comes in the form of an abatement that the assessing clerk would have to calculate.

Selectman Currier said he had been to a precinct meeting, and the deal was made to remove the lights, the sale of the lights would go into the precinct funds, which was to go to an electricity fund. The precinct was not going to tax anyone any more, but they weren't giving money back. The money was to be paid toward the cost of the lights until the money ran out, then the cost of the lights would be the Town's responsibility.

There was discussion whether the money could be sent to the Co-op and receive a credit toward the bills, and be used until the money ran out at which point, the Town would take over responsibility for the payments.

Lois was asked to find out from DRA if this would be acceptable.

Deb said they couldn't do anything until they have a meeting and officially dissolve the precinct. There will have to be a meeting with a vote taken and minutes that reflect that.

Expanded Space for Town Clerk – The Selectmen informed Deb that they had just been made aware of her request to expand her office, and the meeting moved downstairs to the space that formerly housed the historic museum to see if they felt the space could be renovated and used to hold Selectmen and other committee meetings.

The consensus was that we would have to contact someone to see if it would be able to be a viable space, and determine the cost. Another consideration was where the break room for the employees would be, as they currently eat their lunch in the conference room.

7:00 pm – Public Input

Recycling – Tom Scribner passed out copies of a letter he had given residents at the meeting last Saturday regarding mandatory recycling. He said he had been trying to figure out how we could get some volunteers at the transfer station, and had talked with the facility Manager, who told him he thought volunteers had to be certified. Tom said he called the state, and said he ended up with a compliance person who told him Justin was correct. If you are doing anything at the transfer station other than working in the free room, you need certification, which is a day seminar and costs \$50. He said he asked if the state was working to change that because they weren't looking to take anyone's job, just assisting the public when they come into the facility. Tom said other communities were having problems, so the state would look into it. He said he hoped that if something like that happens, the Selectmen would support it.

Selectman Currier said his concern is that the transfer station is not a safe environment where the recyclables are situated, and was concerned about the liability of having people who are not employees of the town working there in among the cars.

Tom agreed that the setup isn't good, but volunteers do have some protection as volunteers, and felt if something comes from the state, the town should be open to adjustments.

Marty Martindale asked if any study was being done on changing the layout of the facility. Selectman Lavin said there was a warrant article last year that another entrance way be put in, but the article didn't pass.

Selectman Currier felt if we go to mandatory recycling, the best thing to do would be to relocate the facility; there is no good flow there, and it doesn't work. He felt we missed a good opportunity to purchase the property adjacent to the facility. The property was sold and is going to be logged. Tom asked if the property might be available after the owners log it. Selectman Currier felt that if the town goes to mandatory recycling now, with the way the facility is laid out, the Town wouldn't save any money. He said it would cost more money to make sure no one got hurt. With a different facility, we would probably save money over the long term. Tom felt any land that becomes available adjacent to the landfill should be purchased by the Town.

Selectmen's Office – Selectman Currier said he would like to open the Selectmen's office to the public five-days a week, and not close to the public on Tuesdays. We have good employees, and they can handle it; surrounding towns don't shut down. He said we used to be open five-days a week, and it had been a budgetary discretionary decision to

close on Tuesdays. Selectman Currier said our employees are here and we heat the building, so it doesn't save the Town anything.

There was a brief discussion, and Lois was asked to let the employees know Brett's opinion, and get back to the Selectmen next week with reasons for or against opening to the public on Tuesdays.

Public Hearing – Selectman Currier wanted to be sure that the budget committee has the necessary information available for the public at the next public hearing, which is tentatively scheduled for January 28th.

Light –Parking Lot – Selectman Lavin asked who is in charge of the light in the parking lot. Lois will try to find out who is responsible for which lights, the town or the church.

7:30 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II(a) - Dismissal, promotion or setting compensation for public employees or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected has a right to a meeting or requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

The Selectmen discussed a personnel issue.

7:50 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Dionne
Recording Clerk