

APPROVED

**Board of Selectmen
21 May 2012
Minutes**

6:02 pm – Chairman Rachel Hatch called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Hatch, Selectmen Ralph Lavin and Brett Currier, Town Administrator Tim Warren and Clerk Lois Dionne. Also in attendance was Police Chief Bill Robarge.

After attendance everyone stood for the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

Police Dept. Update – Chief Robarge was in to update the Selectmen on what has been going on in the police department during the almost two months he has been the interim chief.

Chief Robarge met with the staff, individually and as a group, when he first accepted the position as interim chief. He said that a couple of weeks ago, after about a month of being on the job, he had individual and staff meetings again. He explained to them that things that happened in the past were in the past, and, for the most part, not to be returned to; things are to move forward with a positive image of the department and their attitude in a motivated and positive manner. He said they were all very receptive.

Chief Robarge said he said he had spent the majority of the meeting explaining that the Board of Selectmen had asked the sheriff to fix image and operational problems in the department; he felt they had made significant progress. He said he explained that there was enough information and evidence from the townspeople, the Selectmen and every angle of the community that there was a black cloud over the department; it is easier for someone from the outside to see things clearer. Chief Robarge said he has had residents coming up to him telling him how bad things are.

Chief Robarge said he had offered the officers different programs and responsibilities that would change their mindset. Some changes needed were new public relations strategy and a new relationship with residents. Things such as not talking on the cell phones all the time they are driving around in their cruisers, not hanging out at the stores for extended periods of time. They should stop by the store, but not stay longer than about ten minutes.

Chief Robarge said starting this weekend the officers would be wearing their regular uniforms, not detail uniforms, on a daily basis. He felt this is a matter of pride; the detail

uniforms are to be worn on detail duty or miscellaneous duties, such as an outdoor crime scene where their uniforms would get dirty.

Chief Robarge said he had also stressed the need for public service, the need to establish a better relationship with residents and interact with business owners, other town employees and the school, and the need to plan their shift to be able to provide the best service to the town; they need to patrol with a purpose.

A pilot neighborhood watch program is being established on Allens Mill Road. Officer Fiske has been meeting with Susan Woodbury, and Chief Robarge will be conducting a meeting on Wednesday night with the residents to explain what is involved in a neighborhood watch. The police department will govern the program; Officer Fiske will be the liaison officer.

The speed trailer is being fixed, and Chief Robarge showed the Selectmen two signs he had purchased warning of officers with radar ahead. The speed trailer and the signs will be used in different areas of the town.

Chief Robarge had cards made up for officers to leave if they have to do property checks, etc. The cards would have the officer's name, date, time and reason they were there.

The officers have been given collateral duty assignments, things other than normal daily assignments. Officer Fiske is to be the crime-prevention officer; she will also continue with the DARE program, Officer Krochmal is to be the underage drinking program officer.

Update was tabled until after public input.

7:00 pm – Public Input

Recycling Facility Grounds – Israel Willard stated that we are not good neighbors to the owners of the property on the right of the facility when exiting the facility. He said there is garbage all around and there are bags in the trees; this never used to be the case, it was always picked up.

Number of Recycling Facility Employees – Mr. Willard said on Wednesday there were four people working at the facility. He said, being on the recycling committee, he knew Wednesday was the slowest day at the facility; why are we hiring a part-timer to work on Wednesday? He said Wednesday he had observed for half an hour what was going on. Two of the people there did nothing but have a conversation for half an hour, talking about their own private lives.

Mr. Willard also questioned, if a holiday falls on a Saturday and the facility is closed, why isn't it open all day Sunday? He said Fourth of July falls on a Wednesday this year so the facility would be closed; why can't the facility be opened on Thursday?

Chairman Hatch said the Selectmen had discussed the garbage on the grounds at the facility with the recycling manager, and had asked that the garbage be cleaned up. They will speak with Justin about why there were four persons working on Wednesday and about holiday scheduling.

Police Dept Update- Cont'd.

Chief Robarge explained more about the collateral duty assignments. Officer Currier has been assigned as fleet maintenance officer in charge of vehicles and equipment.

Other issues that have been reviewed are the protocol for pursuit policy and taking people into protective custody.

Issues that still have to be, and are in the process of being addressed are crime scene processing and traffic accident training. The staff will have CPR training tomorrow. Chief Robarge felt there is some emergency equipment and supplies, such as bandages and a defibrillator that should be in a bag that could be transferred from one shift to the next in the event they are the first to arrive at an accident or incident before the ambulance or paramedics. Chief Robarge also wants to put 911 addresses and mapping, as well as bus routes and names of students on the buses into the laptops in the cruisers.

There were three police vehicles that went to White Farm for auction. When the new cruiser comes in, which isn't expected until probably August, the department will have six vehicles; one for the chief, one for the sergeant, three for patrolmen and one spare.

There was a brief discussion of the budget, mainly the salary line because of overtime due to being short two officers. Tim said there is a non-capital reserve account for overtime. Chief Robarge said there would be some non-discretionary lines in the red due to the large cut in their budget at town meeting.

Chief Robarge said his goal is to keep the department moving forward in a positive manner until a new chief is appointed.

Suncook Valley Association – James Barnard, Barnstead Selectman, stated he had come to invite Gilmanton to join the Suncook Valley Association. The association is made up of seven towns including Barnstead, Pittsfield, Chichester, Northwood, Strafford, Epsom and Pembroke. It is free, and they meet once a month. There is no obligation to go along with what the association does; if it is something you want to do, you can do it, if not, you don't.

Mr. Barnard said LGC is getting their insurance renewal rates ready; the “magic number” for LGC is 100, and none of the towns has one hundred employees, but if the towns got together, they could have a consortium with LGC and reduce their insurance rates; Barnstead’s could be reduced by \$35,000 a year. The only drawback is if a town has a lot of claims, it could affect everybody. Brett asked if some towns had a lot of claims and it negatively impacted the rates if we could pull out. He was told we could, but Mr. Barnard was unsure of the time element that would be involved.

There was considerable discussion of possible reduction in insurance rates and also group buying of supplies and maybe even electrical and assessing services. Mr. Willard stated that towns are allowed to purchase through the state, and asked if the association had been able to beat the state price for cruisers or fire trucks. Mr. Barnard said they hadn’t had the opportunity to find that out. The aim of the association is to save taxpayers money.

Tim will contact LGC to get more information about how becoming a member of a consortium would affect our insurance.

8:05 – Break**8:09 – Back in Session**

Personnel Policy – The Selectmen discussed whether employees have the right to possess firearms on town property. Ralph felt that according to RSA 159:26, the State has control over that.

There was considerable discussion of the matter, but before any decision is made as to how it would be addressed in the personnel policy, Tim is going to check with LGC.

Approval of Minutes – MOTION – Selectman Lavin moved to accept the minutes of May 14, 2012 as written. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Cable Consortium Meeting to discuss the new cable contract is to be held in Gilford on Thursday, May 24th; Tim cannot make the meeting, and asked if one of the Selectmen would attend. Selectman Lavin will attend the meeting.

Law Enforcement Memorial Day was last Friday. Rachel stated that all of the officers were not at the station on Friday, but will be tomorrow for CPR training; she asked and received approval from the board to buy pizzas to take to them.

8:30 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.

The Selectmen discussed a personnel issue.

8:42 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Selectman Lavin was excused from the meeting.

Contractor Yard – Tim informed the board that the planning board had voted to revoke Ryan Benson's approval for a contractor's yard, and want the Selectmen's permission to proceed legally with a cease and desist; he did not show up for this or prior scheduled meetings with them.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the planning board should proceed legally.

Sign Fee Waiver – Tim had a request from Mr. Freese of the Gilmanton Land Trust, a non-profit organization, to waive the sign permit fees for the signs for the conservation easement they are in the process of getting on the Twigg property. The request was approved.

Red Cross sent a thank you for the donation of the money appropriated them at Town Meeting.

Right-to-Know Law Seminar will be held on June 9th.

NH Elec Co-Op will be installing an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) that will allow the Co-op to read meters remotely. The installation project will take approximately 18 months to end in late 2012.

Representatives from Utility Partners of America (UPA) will be visiting homes and business in parts of the municipality in the next several weeks to perform the meter upgrade. Letters will be sent to homes and businesses containing this information. All UPA professionals will be wearing an appropriate uniform, carrying a UPA badge of certification and driving a clearly marked vehicle. If meters are accessible, you do not need to be present for the installation, but power will be interrupted momentarily during the conversion.

If NHEC has identified a home as having someone on the premises with a medical condition that requires notification of power interruptions, they will be contacted by UPA prior to upgrade of the meter.

05-21-12 BOS

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Roads Committee – The newly formed Roads committee will hold their first meeting at 6:00 pm on June 6th. All members will be notified.

Ad – Police Chief – The Board reviewed and approved the ad that will go in the papers for a police chief.

Tax Break – Tim had a letter from Marshall Bishop, who had come before the board previously seeking a tax break. Mr. Bishop asked to meet with the Selectmen again regarding a tax break, as he has a plan he would like to discuss with the board.

Change Orders - Tim reported that he had the change orders for the construction of the safety building. There were fourteen change orders; none of them pertain to the catch basins. Brett said they need to find out who took the catch basins out, and why. Rachel will contact Betty Ann Abbott to see if she remembers anything about it.

SB 2 – Brett said he had been talking with Mickey Daigle about the SB 2 time lines. Mickey's wife works with a woman who is very knowledgeable about SB 2, and he felt the woman would probably be willing to help us out with it, if we ask. Tim will try to contact the woman to see if she would be willing to help us.

9:05 pm – MOTION – Selectman Currier moved to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Hatch seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Dionne
Recording Clerk

