

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Present: Chairman Ives, Selectman Bowles and Selectman Krieger.

Also present: Fire Chief Rick Wright and Deputy Fire Chief Bill Lake.

- I. Selectman Bowles moved to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 13, 2015 as written. Seconded by Selectman Krieger. All in favor. Motion carried.

- II. The Board met with Chief Rick Wright.
 - a. Chief Wright discussed the paramedic intercept fee. He explained that the town adopted RSA 41:9-a which allow the Selectmen to set or adjust fees. Chief Wright said he would like to move forward with that and recommends \$525.00 because that is what other towns charge. Chairman Ives said that they would have to hold a public hearing, to allow for proper notification they scheduled that public hearing for Tuesday, February 3, 2015.
 - b. Chief Wright said they pumped the dry hydrant at the dam on S. Village Road on January 9 and again yesterday; it was frozen both times. He said they were able to remove the ice with water from the truck and were able to free it up. Chief Wright said it takes too long if there is a real fire. He said somehow they need to get more cover on the pond side where the pipe is to get it protected more. Discussion ensued about how and when it should be worked on. Selectman Bowles asked him to get a plan together and as soon as the river drops enough they will get either the highway department or a contractor there to get it fixed.
 - c. Chief Wright said Harry O. fixed the two bollard lights at the War Memorial and they got the circuit back on. He explained that the light they bought the new bulb for that looks up at the POW MIA flag worked for a couple of days and went out. They changed the bulb, still didn't work, noticed ice in it, Harry O. is going to take a look at it.
 - d. Chief Wright said that Deputy Lake met with Mike from the Highway Department to go over the proper operation of the one-ton and plowing hydrants after a storm.
 - e. Chief Wright said he received one quote for bodywork for the one-ton, he'd like to get at least one more. Chief Wright said he'd also like to get a couple prices for the mechanic side of things.

- III. Chairman Ives explained that they will be opening sealed bids for a mobile home that they took for nonpayment of taxes. Chairman Ives said there are two bids to open. He opened the first bid from Patience Chatfield for \$603.00. Enclosed with the bid is a deposit check for \$100.00. Chairman Ives opened the second bid from Rosann Gregory for \$950.00 with a deposit check in the amount of \$100.00. Ms. Gregory said her application for park approval is pending. Selectman Krieger made a motion to accept the bid from Rosann Gregory for Map 68, Lot 002 in the amount of \$950.00 pending approval from park. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried. Chairman Ives thanked Patience Chatfield for her bid, her deposit check will be returned.

- IV. The Board began their review of weekly correspondence.
- a. The Board received a Memo and information from assessor Chris Murdough regarding RSA 79-F.
 - b. The Board received an example of a Conservation Easement Deed from Julie Robinson and an email from NHMA regarding the procedure for accepting the easement.
 - c. The Board received an email from Chief Wright regarding Paramedic intercepts fees. The suggested fee will be \$525.00. The Board will hold a public hearing on February 3, 2015 to discuss the fee.
 - d. The Board received an email from FCBA Lighthouse Homeschool Co-op regarding swim lessons. The Board will ask a representative to attend a selectmen's meeting to discuss the request.
 - e. The Board received the Conservation Commission minutes for January 5, 2015.
 - f. The Board received the NH Highway Safety notice FY 2016 Financial Assistance. This information will be forwarded to the police department.
 - g. The Board received a Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale.
- VI. Chairman Ives recognized Shawn Jones from the American Legion. Mr. Jones explained that the Legion Post has had some declining revenues so they are looking for assistance in the cost of putting on the Memorial Day parade. He said last year it cost them \$630.00, \$500.00 of that was for the MVSD band, they rent porta-potties, give the three pastors \$25.00 each, and there is a rental fee for the sound system. He asked if the town can help with the parade expenses by paying for the band. Chairman Ives said they do have a patriotic line in the budget; maybe they can increase that line by \$500.00 and decrease another line by that same amount. The Board will take it under advisement and contact Mr. Jones once a decision has been made.

PUBLIC HEARING

- I. Chairman Ives opened the Budget Hearing for the proposed 2015-2016 budget. Chairman Ives stated they would first go over the 2015-2016 Budget – Rev #3.
- Chairman Ives pointed out that there is no increase to the Selectmen's salaries. He pointed out the increase in the Selectmen's office part-time line and explained that they made a full-time position in the office part-time so the part-time line has increased and the full-time line has decreased. Chairman Ives read through the lines of the remainder of the Selectmen's budget pointing out that where they had to increase a line they found a place to decrease so the Selectmen's budget has a zero percent increase.
 - Landfill – level funded.
 - Historical/Conservation – level funded.
 - Town Clerk – salary for the assistant clerk is up due to the 1.5% cola. The Town Clerks salary is up more than that because when she started she was not making what the previous clerk was making and now with her experience they want to compensate her. Her budget for dues and seminars was dropped because she hasn't been using the funds. The Town Clerk's budget overall has increased 1.44%.

- Election – down 17.02%. Chairman Ives said the decrease is due to the number of elections this year; there are only town elections.
- Trust Funds – level funded.
- Audit – level funded.
- Assessment/Maps –increased 7.35% primarily because of utility assessments.
- Tax Collector – down 2.77%
- Treasurer – Chairman Ives stated that our treasurer has been doing a great job and hasn't gotten a raise in quite a few years so they gave her one. Overall her budget is up 3.85 %.
- Legal Services- down 12.5%. Chairman Ives said there is still a large case pending, they are in arbitration hopefully it can be settled out of court. It's with NHMS regarding tax valuation.
- Employee Benefits – up 1.93%.
- Planning Board – down 2.72%, primarily from the consultant fee line.
- Zoning Board – up 3.05%. This is mostly for a raise in the stipend that the Zoning Board members receive. Selectman Bowles stated that Planning Board members also got a raise.
- General Government Building – up 4.73%. Chairman Ives said a lot of that increase is for natural gas; planning for heating a new town office and heating the building the office is in now.
- Cemeteries – increased 30.77%. Chairman Ives said the town will be taking over the cemetery behind the Congregational Church so they increased the line for maintenance.
- Employee Benefits – down 1.63%. Chairman Ives said they shop for health insurance and get creative when setting up the plans so that line is down this year.
- Property Taxes – level funded.
- Police – up 2.2%.
- Special Events – level funded.
- Health – up 2.15%.
- Visiting Nurse – level funded.
- Ambulance – up 1.71%
- Fire – up 2.85%. Chairman Ives stated that they are very pleased with the job Chief Wright is doing and decided to give him the cola plus 1.5%.
- Compliance – up 2.07%
- Emergency Management – level funded.
- Forest Fire – level funded.
- Highway – up 3.07%
- Block Grant – level funded
- Solid Waste/Landfill – up 0.85%
- Animal Control – down 33.33%.
- Community Action Program – down 0.03%.
- Welfare – level funded.
- Recreation – down 15.23%. Chairman Ives explained the decrease is primarily because after discussion with town counsel they decided they are not going to hire a lifeguard. They hired one last summer and had to let him go because he wasn't doing

his job. He said they found out that there is less liability for the town to put up signs and not hire a lifeguard. The beach will still be open there just won't be a lifeguard.

- Library – up 0.9%
- Patriotic – level funded. Chairman Ives said after the earlier discussion tonight they may increase that line to help with the parade.
- Economic development – level funded.
- TAN Interest – level funded.
- Contingency fund – level funded.
- General Fund – Total Budget – increased 0.60%. Chairman Ives said he doesn't think there is any wasted money; they have presented a pretty lean budget.

Chairman Ives asked if there were any questions. There were none.

VII. Chairman Ives stated they will go over the Revenues next.

- Selectman Bowles explained that the revenues are anticipated so they look back in the history and guess what might happen in the future.
- Land Use Change Tax – level funded.
- Yield Tax – level funded.
- Gravel tax – level funded.
- Cobra – level funded.
- Commercial Hauler Fees – level funded.
- Building Permits – up 14.29%.
- Motor Vehicle Permits – level funded.
- Dog Licenses – level funded.
- Business Lic., Permits & Fees – level funded.
- Rooms & Meals Taxes – up 8.64%.
- Highway Block Grant – up 1.58%.
- Forest Land – level funded.
- Road Toll – level funded.
- Restitution – down 6.62%.
- Landfill – Septage – down 9.87%.
- Sale of Town Property – level funded.
- Interest on Dep.-Treasurer – level funded.
- Parking fines – level funded.
- Town Ordinance Violation – level funded.
- Insurance Reimb. – level funded.
- Welfare Reimb – level funded.
- Other Rev – local sources – level funded.
- Other Rev. – Sate Govt. – level funded.
- Sale-Voter Checklist/Postage – level funded.
- General Fund – Revenues – up 1.02%.

VIII. Selectman Krieger read the following:

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,500 for the purchase of a mower and trailer. Funds to be raised by taxes. Selectman Krieger said the highway department really needs this mower. He said they need a bigger one especially for the ball fields and a trailer since they have never had one.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$242,000 for the purpose of grinding and paving 4,665 feet of Lovejoy Road. \$100,000 to be withdrawn from the Roadway Improvement Capital Reserve Fund and \$142,000 to be raised by taxes. Selectman Krieger explained that instead of just putting pavement down on these roads they have been taking care of drainage and everything so these roads will last and won't have to be redone every couple of years.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$325,000 for the purchase of a used Aerial Ladder Truck and Equipment with said funds to be withdrawn from the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund. Selectman Krieger explained that this won't affect the tax rate because they have already saved the money in the Capital Reserve Fund. He explained that a lot of people think that the town needs a ladder truck for the race track but he explained that the aerial truck is good for things like chimney fires; especially for homes with metal roofs, barns, the town has a couple of apartment buildings, and it can be used for ice rescue.

ARTICLE 6: Petition possibly being submitted by Carole Soule. Selectman Krieger explained that they will be discussing this later in the meeting.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will approve the following resolution *“Resolved that the State of New Hampshire provide a comprehensive meaningful system of funding for State Education needs. To see if the Town will vote to ask our governor and our state legislators to reform state funding for education with that reform to be directed to significant reduction of property taxes. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Select Board to the governor and state legislators informing them of the instructions from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.”*

Selectman Krieger explained that this basically a way to tell the people in Concord that we are unhappy with the current \$600,000+ that we send to the school every month. He said this article will probably be seen in a lot of other town meetings it was mass mailed.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$491,500 to be placed in previously established Capital Reserve Funds:

Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund \$100,000

Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund \$50,000

Bridge Capital Reserve Fund \$30,000

Recreational Facility Maintenance Trust Capital Reserve Fund \$2,000

Library Collection Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund \$7,000
Roadway Improvements Capital Reserve Fund \$100,000
J. O. Cate Memorial Van Capital Reserve Fund \$2,500
Ambulance/Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve Fund \$40,000
Conservation Commission Land Capital Reserve Fund \$30,000
Town Office Building Capital Reserve Fund \$100,000
Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) \$30,000
(Majority vote required).

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 to be placed in the previously established Expendable Trust Funds:
Transfer Station Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund \$20,000
Septage Lagoon Expendable Trust Fund \$10,000
Highway Equipment Expendable Trust Fund \$30,000
(Majority vote required).

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,167,034 to defray Town charges for the ensuing year and make appropriations to the same. This article does not include any of the previous warrant articles.

ARTICLE 11: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Selectman Krieger said he would like to push hard for the fire apparatus; it is a life safety item and it is not just for the race track. Carole Soule asked what size the ladder is on the truck. Chief Wright said about 100' with a platform at the end. Ms. Soule asked what the maximum height is for a residential structure in Loudon. Chairman Ives explained for example that even if a house is only 35' the truck doesn't go right up against the house, it sits back and it goes up at an angle to get at a chimney. Selectman Bowles said he believes the maximum height is 35' without a special exception. Chairman Ives said a church would be exempt from that and there are quite a few in town. Ms. Soule asked if the ladder truck being replaced is the one the race track paid for and why won't they pay for another one. Selectman Krieger said because this isn't specifically for the race track it's for everyone in town. Chairman Ives said that Chief Wright did a lot of research and is extending the life expectancy of the fire trucks from 20 years to 24 years and by doing that they are able to afford this truck out of the capital reserve fund.

Chairman Ives closed the budget hearing.

- IX. Chairman Ives recognized Carole Soule, Secretary of the Agriculture Commission and Cindy Shea, President of the Agriculture Commission from the audience to discuss RSA 79-F. Ms. Shea explained that the Commission would like the Selectmen to add RSA 79-F

as a warrant article. She explained that 79-F:3 defines farm structures more clearly and 79-F:4 gives farms discounts for the land underneath the structures on current use land. Chairman Ives stated that he would prefer that they get the required signatures and submit a petition to include it as a warrant article. Selectmen Krieger and Bowles agreed with Chairman Ives. Ms. Soule asked the Board if they will support the article. Selectman Krieger said he would have to read it before he decides that, Chairman Ives and Bowles agreed that they would also have to read and research it more before deciding whether to support it. Ms. Soule explained that if this RSA is accepted there is an application that a person would need to fill out. Discussion ensued on how the petition should be written. Selectman Bowles reminded them that the petition submission deadline is February 3.

Ms. Shea asked if the Board would give the Agricultural Commission \$500.00. She explained that they have \$1250.00, \$1000.00 of that is going to a farm map that is to be printed. They have the ability to apply for a matching funds grant. They would like to take the \$250.00 they have and \$500.00 from the town and apply for a \$1500.00 grant. Ms Shea explained that they want to provide outreach to the community for farming related programs. Selectman Bowles asked what the money would be used for. Ms. Shea said they would use it for advertising, to pay for speakers and for supplies. Ms. Soule said this is a onetime thing. Selectman Bowles recommended that the agricultural commission connect with the historical society, the conservation commission and the young at heart to promote their organization. He also said he would like to take this under advisement and think about it. Selectman Krieger asked how many people are in the agricultural commission. Ms. Soule said there are six board members. Ms. Shea said twenty farms chose to be on their farm map. Ms. Soule said the grant is due February 19. Chairman Ives said they'll look into this and get an answer for them next week.

- X. Selectman Krieger said that Senator Kelly Ayotte was in the Community Building last Friday for a town hall meeting. He thanks her for taking the time out of her busy schedule to come to Loudon and speak with the residents. He said that State Reps Howard Moffett and George Saunderson were also at the event.
- XI. Selectman Bowles moved to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Krieger. All in favor. Motion carried.

LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Steven R. Ives, Chairman

Dustin J. Bowles, Selectman

Robert P. Krieger, Selectman