

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Present: Selectmen Ives, Bowles, and Krieger

Also present were Fire Chief Jeff Burr, Deputy Fire Chief Rich Edgecomb, Police Chief Bob Fiske, and Senator Andy Sanborn

Selectman Ives called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

- I. Selectman Bowles moved to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 1, 2011. It was noted that Selectman Ives was not at that meeting and Selectman Maxfield is no longer on the Board. As the only member of the current board in attendance at that meeting Selectman Bowles stated that he felt the minutes were in order. Selectman Ives and Selectman Krieger accepted the minutes as written.
- II. Selectman Bowles nominated Steve Ives for chairman of the Board. Selectman Krieger seconded the nomination. Selectman Ives accepted the nomination. Majority vote. Motion carried.
- III. Selectman Ives welcomed State Senator Andy Sanborn. The Senator said that he would like to visit every three months in order to update everyone on what is going on within the Senate and State government. He spoke about the proposed electronic vehicle registration that would allow dealers to do vehicle registrations onsite, saving the buyer a trip to their town office. Town Clerk Wendy Walsh joined the meeting. Senator Sanborn explained the process that would be followed for this new program, noting how most other states already allow dealers to handle registrations and twenty-seven states allow the electronic system. Several concerns were voiced by those present, particularly about proving residency and the extra work involved with correcting errors done at the dealer end of the registration. Senator Sanborn explained that the bill would be enabling a one year process and if it does not work the program would go away. He explained that there would be an oversight committee to determine the success of the program and make sure that the Town's funding is preserved. Discussion continued about what the dealership gets out of the program, the process on the Town's end, the concerns voiced earlier, and other related points.
Senator Sanborn gave an overview of the process followed by the State legislature, referring to a few specific bills that are being reviewed. He said that he will be holding regular meetings to keep in touch with his constituents and to keep the government more transparent.
- IV. The Board met with Chief Jeff Burr.
 - a. Chief Burr gave the Board information from Emergency Management asking about storm damage in the area. The Board will give the paperwork to Road Agent Dave Rice.

- b. Chief Burr informed the Board about a HIPPA training session that was held on Monday, March 14, 2011 and stated that members of the Chichester Fire Department participated as well.
 - c. Selectman Bowles spoke about an incident that was previously discussed with Chief Burr. He said that the Board is not going to let it go lightly and they have been in touch with Town Counsel, stressing the need to put an end to this kind of thing. Chief Burr said he got the message and has passed it on to the department members.
 - d. Chief Burr advised the Board that he would be attending the Emergency Operations Center training course on April 5 – 7 and would be utilizing two sick days and one paid day for this event.
 - e. Selectman Ives asked if the chief would be getting estimates for the repairs needed on Engine 2. Chief Burr said that he would be getting estimates. There was discussion about the budget process and that there should have been a plan in place should the warrant article be defeated.
- V. The Board met with Police Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Bob Fiske.
- a. Chairman Ives stated that four pistol permits were signed.
 - b. Chairman Ives stated that a meeting should be held soon to begin discussions on what will be required for track events. He said standards of safety for fire and police should be set, adjusting from there as necessary. Chief Fiske said that he felt he would have to hold to last July's schedule, noting that it would probably be the same for August and September's races as well. He said the Town has to take a hard stand. Selectman Bowles stated that Town Counsel is reviewing the permitting paperwork for the track.
- VI. The Board did not meet with Road Agent Dave Rice, as he was unable to attend.
- VII. The Board began their review of weekly correspondence.
- a. The Board received notice that the Road Agent will post the roads as of Wednesday, March 16, 2011. Public notice has been placed in the Concord Monitor and notices have been posted.
 - b. The Board received a list of committee appointments to expire March 31, 2011 for review. A letter of resignation as Trustee of the Trust Funds effective March 15, 2011 was received from Constance Ives. The Board accepted the resignation. Selectman Krieger moved to appoint George Saunderson as a Trustee of the Trust Funds as of March 15, 2011, term to expire March 13, 2012. Selectman Bowles seconded the motion. Selectman Bowles noted that Mr. Saunderson was on as a trustee last year. All in favor. Motion carried. Selectman Ives stated that the other appointments will be taken under consideration.
 - c. The Board received a thank you card from Connie Ives.
 - d. The Board received information that was sent to Town Counsel regarding the Maxfield Public Library roof rust issue. It was noted that they are asking about warranty on the work.
 - e. The Board received a copy of an e-mail from Judy Houston regarding Landfill Closure proposals. It was noted that this is a request for the town

to sign a proposal. The Board will take this under advisement, look at the budget, and review information from NOBIS Engineering.

- f. The Board received a copy of an e-mail from Debbie Lewis of NHLGC regarding revised property values for town property.
- g. The Board received copies of Legislative Bulletins #10 and #11.
- h. The Board received copies of NHLGC's Alert Follow-Up report and Newslink.
- i. The Board received a copy of ESMI's monthly compliance report for December 2010 for review.
- j. The Board received updated information regarding the Northern Pass Project.
- k. The Board received a copy of an e-mail from Representative Greg Hill regarding DES Stream Crossing Rules.
- l. The Board received information from Tammie Croft of NHLGC regarding membership benefits. Ms. Croft is planning to meet with the Selectmen at their next meeting.
- m. The Board received copies of Regional Impact notices for Concord and Dunbarton.
- n. The Board received copies of training certificates for John Reese and Jeff Burr.
- o. The Board reviewed miscellaneous correspondence. Selectman Ives noted that Chief Burr presented the Board with a confidential letter from a resident with regard to care received from the town. He stated that this would be reviewed and a response prepared.

- VIII. James McNeil was recognized from the audience. Mr. McNeil stated that he was taught by his parents to stand up for what he believes. He said that is what he is doing by presenting a petition with seventy-six signatures for the removal of Jeff Burr. He read the petition as follows:
- "I am presenting this petition for the removal of Jeffrey Burr Sr. as Fire Chief of the Town of Loudon to the Selectmen today. The people on this petition would like the Selectmen to take this seriously. Over the past 6 years the Fire Department has had a declining reputation with the Town.
- The Fire Department has lost the vision of the Town and its people with regard to full-time positions and volunteer positions.
 - Since Mr. Burr has been Chief he has lost 3 other valuable volunteer townspeople that held the rank of Deputy Chief.
 - Over the last couple of years the Town has lost approximately 10 volunteers, including myself, with over 10 years of experience each and some with more than 20 years of experience.
 - The ratio of volunteers leaving far exceeds the number of volunteers joining.
 - Clearly at Saturday's town meeting with the Fire Truck warrant article there seems to be a communication breakdown between the Fire Chief and the Selectmen.

- The Amendment to the Fire Chief Salary in the budget was not the first time this was attempted. As you may recall in the 2006 minutes of the Town meeting this was also attempted to be removed totally.
- In 2007, there were personnel issues and obviously they are continuing to this day.
- All of the above that I have stated are examples of the lack of Management in a Department Head's position. These examples and more have gone on too long and we are deeply concerned with the future of our Town's Fire Department. We urge you to do what is necessary for the betterment of the Town."

Selectman Ives said that the Board would take this under advisement.

- IX. The Board reviewed the bills and weekly manifest. Selectman Ives noted that the Town sends \$681,236 per month to MVSD.
- X. Craig Benner asked if the staff that was on the call referred to in the confidential letter would be notified. Selectman Ives said that the letter was not relative to the care received but about the resident being billed.
- XI. Fire Chief Burr asked the Board about the confidential letter that he submitted. Selectman Bowles moved to enter into executive session at 7:27 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Krieger. Roll call vote: Krieger, yes; Bowles, yes; Ives, yes. Selectman Bowles moved to come out of executive session at 7:46 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Krieger. Chairman Ives stated the purpose of the executive session was to discuss a resident's complaint on the billing for ambulance service and the time it took to transport. He said that correspondence will be sent to the resident.

Selectman Bowles moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Krieger. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

THE LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Steven R. Ives, Chairman

Dustin J. Bowles, Selectman

Robert P. Krieger, Selectman