

**Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 27, 2012**

Present: Chairman Bowles, Selectman Krieger and Selectman Ives.  
Also present was Road Agent Dave Rice.

Chairman Bowles called the Meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Selectman Krieger moved to accept the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 20, 2012 as written; seconded by Selectman Ives. All were in favor. Motion carries.

- I. Chairman Bowles stated for the record that he signed two pistol permits.
- II. The Board met with Road Agent Dave Rice.
  - a. Mr. Rice said the crew is working on ditching Bumfagon Road.
  - b. Mr. Rice said the new grader is working out good.
  - c. Mr. Rice said he is looking at options for repairing the guard rail on the Chichester Road Bridge. One end has been hit and two of the posts are broken. Selectman Ives said that Mr. Rice needs to also look at the posts on the Wales Bridge Road Bridge.
  - d. Mr. Rice said they got the truck back from Liberty, electrical issues were fixed.
  - e. Chairman Bowles said that the garage door at the transfer station needs to be adjusted. Mr. Rice will contact the garage door company to get that taken care of.
- III. The Board began their review of correspondence.
  - a. The Board received copies of the current expenditure report.
  - b. The Board received a copy of the 2012 Draft Equalization Ratio report for their review and comment. The Board will review them and get their comments back to the office.
  - c. The Board received two past due ambulance bills for review. Selectman Krieger made a motion to send the following ambulance bills to collection: account #50487 in the amount of \$124.59 and account #42112 in the amount of \$663.20 seconded by Selectman Ives. All in favor. Motion carried.
  - d. Miscellaneous correspondence.
- IV. The Board discussed pending items.
  - a. Chairman Bowles stated that the Board will meet with Assessor Dave Wiley and Mike Harris on Thursday, December 13 at 4:00 pm.
  - b. The Board is waiting for a letter from the Conservation Commission regarding the LaPadula property before setting public hearing dates.
  - c. Chairman Bowles will call Mr. Farwell regarding issues on Foster Road.
  - d. The Board will meet with Jean and Brenda to begin the budget review process on Tuesday, December 4 at 4:00 pm.

- V. The Board recognized the following people from Salisbury; Ken Ross-Raymond, Board of Selectmen Chairman, Karen Sheldon, Selectwomen and David Merwin, Chairman of the Education Committee.
- a. Selectman Ives gave Mr. Ross-Raymond a copy of the pay information for the employees of the Merrimack Valley School District.
  - b. Mr. Ross-Raymond explained that the question is how to get the school district to present a level funded budget.
  - c. Ms. Sheldon asked how much the rate for the school portion of the tax rate increased for Loudon. Chairman Bowles stated around 67 cents per thousand. Ms. Sheldon stated that it went up significantly in Salisbury. Ms. Sheldon said they have less than 200 students in the school district and now pay over 2 million per year. Chairman Bowles stated that Loudon pays over one million per month.
  - d. Selectman Ives said that he doesn't think the school district has the incentive to cut costs like the Selectmen do because they don't have to face the taxpayers.
  - e. Mr. Ross-Raymond asked what the options are. Selectman Ives stated that it's a stacked deck every time they go to a meeting. All the teachers and their spouses that live in the district are there and they have a voting block. Mr. Ross-Raymond said we need to do a better job getting people there to vote and that is what they are committed to doing.
  - f. Mr. Ross-Raymond asked the Board if they received the invitation to the December 6, 2012 meeting at 7 pm in Salisbury. The Board did receive that invitation.
  - g. Chairman Bowles said that when he first became a Selectman every fall the School Board would invite the Selectmen to a meeting; they don't do that anymore.
  - h. Mr. Ross-Raymond said that they have asked the School Board to look at their budget. They've asked them to get bids on the transportation; their responses are things like we want to be loyal to our employees or once we lose control we'll never get it back.
  - i. Ms. Sheldon said we've got to get numbers, get people out to vote.
  - j. Mr. Ross-Raymond stated that last year the vote for the budget was 184 people from 5 towns.
  - k. Ms. Sheldon asked how much longer this can go on; their town is down to bare budgets. She stated that their employees are not getting raises but all the school employees are getting raises.
  - l. Mr. Ross-Raymond stated that they don't want to see teachers lose jobs they want the district to work with the budget they have instead of increasing it.
  - m. Chairman Bowles said that when the tax bills go out and people complain to him he tells them to look at the breakdown on their tax bill to see where the money is going. They would see that the town is pretty much the same, the county and school is where the increases are. They can do something about the school by getting out and voting.
  - n. Mr. Ross-Raymond said that they are going to ask for a warrant article this year to change the process of electing School Board members. Each town would vote their own representatives in. He said there is also discussion about term limits. Chairman Bowles said that the School Board representatives should be on the same ballot as the one for Selectmen, Planning Board members etc. Mr. Ross-Raymond stated that a lot of people don't realize that School Board members can be voted on by absentee ballot.

- o. Selectman Ives stated that he wants the tax rate for this year and last year with the breakdowns published in the Loudon Ledger and suggested that if Salisbury has a local paper they do the same.
- p. Mr. Ross-Raymond said that the student population hasn't increased in ten years, if anything it has decreased.
- q. Chairman Bowles said that he will have the office get a letter to the School Board asking the School Board to invite the Selectmen from the towns in the district to a meeting.

VI. The Board recognized Barbara Cameron from the John O. Cate Memorial Van Association. Ms. Cameron explained that they are going through a bit of a hard time. There is an electrical problem with the van that they can't find. She explained that since they got it there has been a problem with the electrical. Ms. Cameron said they take good care of the van; it is 7 years old, mileage is low, no rust, it has been kept in the heated garage. She'd hate to get rid of the van and would fight to keep it. They are going to continue to try and find the problem but she doesn't want to lose clientele and she doesn't want to lose even one volunteer. Chairman Bowles said they are an asset to the Town and they appreciate everything they do. Selectman Ives asked if the problem is with the van or with a component that was added to the van. Ms. Cameron explained that it draws down as it sits, they go to pick someone up, drop the lift, get them into the van and go to start it and it won't start. Ms. Cameron said that the van will be laid up for awhile so they can get it fixed. She said that some of her volunteers are taking people in their cars; they are telling the people that they are riding as guests not as part of the John O. Cate Van. Selectman Krieger asked how many are doing this with their own cars. Ms. Cameron said herself and two others. Ms. Cameron said there is talk about taking the van to the Ford garage. Ms. Cameron said they have a good group of people. Due to her health she would be stepping down soon, she will still be involved in the background. She thanked the Board for their support.

Selectman Ives moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. Seconded by Selectman Krieger. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Dustin J. Bowles, Chairman

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Robert P. Krieger, Selectman

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Steven R. Ives, Selectman