

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DECEMBER 30, 2008

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting

Present: John Chiarella, Don Hill, and Neal Huntoon.
Tim Julian was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of December 9, 2008 were unanimously approved as written.

Old Business:

Highway: Neal reported two highway trucks broke down during the last snowstorm. Brad called Neal to help with plowing while the trucks were being fixed. Neal plowed with his truck due to the urgency of the situation. He would prefer not to use his own equipment. He would be willing to drive a Town truck if one of the employees needed relief. The Board discussed having Brad contact a few people he who might be interested in being on a list for plowing in the event of a similar emergency. The Board also discussed implementing a policy for snow removal and when to call these people in.

Bids for Fire Equipment:

The Selectmen reviewed a sealed bid for the plastic tank. Neal moved to accept the bid of \$250.00, seconded by John and unanimously approved.

The Selectmen reviewed a sealed bid for the fire truck. Neal moved to refuse the bid of \$457.00, seconded by John and unanimously approved.

John reported the Cemetery Committee met to complete a 2009 operating budget.

Neal reported the Abbondanza property on Sanborn Hill Road had been sold. He has been contacted by a realtor listing the property, inquiring as to whether any area towns would be interested on purchasing the property. He has asked Brad to look at the property with the realtor.

The Selectmen discussed the proposal for the warrant article relative to Senate Bill 381. They will wait to hear back from counsel before making a final decision.

Budget Proposals:

The Selectmen reviewed the costs for printing the Annual Report. The Selectmen felt the estimate from RC Brayshaw printing was favorable, but would like to see a sample of their binding process first.

Engineering fees associated with the safety building complex were received from Ross. He is putting together a proposal of future costs associated with improvements to the site.

Recreation: John stated in the past he had a discussion with Leslie at the Eastman Recreation Facility regarding the possibility of Springfield youth taking part in Eastman's summer recreation program. He would like to see some money proposed in the 2009 budget for this possibility. He will speak to Leslie again about costs associated with this.

Correspondence:

The Board reviewed a Preliminary Data Assessment Report completed by Emergency Management Director, Keith Cutting, regarding assessment of the ice storm damage to area businesses.

The Selectmen reviewed GASB 45 information from the Local Government Center regarding retiree benefit compliance. The Town does not have retiree benefits. This will be reviewed with the auditors.

Information regarding a proposal by Senator-elect Shaheen for economic stimulus package to address infrastructure needs. The Selectmen would like to work on putting together a list for the town.

Reviewed a copy of an e-mail communication forwarded from Librarian, Steve Klein regarding the benefits of the emergency generator at the library in Warner during the ice storm. The Selectmen would like to get a recommendation as to whether the emergency generator at the fire station could handle additional capacity at the Town office/library.

The Selectmen reviewed a report from the Department of Environmental Services regarding additional information needed to clarify and complete the Shore land Permit for the Miller property.

A preliminary report of the equalization survey prepared by George Hildum was reviewed.

The Selectmen reviewed Dan Smith's communication regarding the status of Lineberry Tennis. The Board agreed to wait for the payment.

Fire Department:

Erik Rollins and Dallas Patten met with the Board. The Selectmen discussed the bid received for the fire truck. The Selectmen refused the bid. Other marketing alternatives were discussed

A front-loader washing machine for turn-out gear was discussed. Neal suggested buying a high end household washer versus the commercial washer the department has looked at due to the cost of the commercial washer. Neal suggested the department contact Randy's Appliance to see what type of washer he recommends.

The purchase of additional fire hose was proposed. After review, the Selectmen approved the purchase of seven 100' lengths of hose from the 2008 operating budget for a cost of \$3535. Three additional lengths will be considered in 2009. Don moved to encumber the 2008 funds from the fire department budget to purchase the hose, seconded by John and unanimously approved.

Signatures:

Appointment forms for Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer were signed.

Contract to continue participation with the Local Government Center Health Trust was approved and signed.

Approval was granted for use of the Fire Station Meeting room on February 7th for a birthday party.

Highway purchase orders approved (2)

Workmen's Compensation Law compliance form was approved and signed.

The Selectmen reviewed 2009 proposed expenditures. Wages were discussed. The Board agreed not to propose wage increases for 2009 due to economic circumstances. The Board discussed their commitment to continued employment and benefits for employees and continued service to the taxpayers.

Data processing for the Police Department was discussed. The Board approved networking the computers to enable the data to be entered during times when Pixie is not busy, if the Tim and Mike are agreeable.

New budget requests were received from CASA and the Newport Area Food Pantry. The Selectmen denied the requests due to budget constraints.

The Selectmen agreed they need to put together a more complete estimate for grounds and building maintenance.

Amounts for the transfer station, the audit, and long-term principal and interest payments for the fire truck need to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant

Happy New Year to All!