

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

NOVEMBER 25, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of November 10, 2008 were unanimously approved as written.

Budget Proposals:

Highway: Brad Butcher, Road Agent, met with the Board to discuss 2009 budget proposals. Brad indicated he has no plans for reclamation/paving projects for 2009. He wants to do more shoulder work and shimming. He has several roads he would like to add gravel to. His proposed budget estimate is approximately 3% less than last year.

The Board discussed replacement of the black truck, (H3). Brad has obtained prices for new trucks. The Board asked Brad to estimate what costs may be involved to keep the truck on the road for another year. H3 was purchased for short-term use until the white International was due to be replaced.

Library: Steve Klein, Librarian, met with the Selectmen. The Trustees are proposing the same budget request as last year. The library infrastructure is in pretty good shape. The computers are up to date. The Board discussed budget cutbacks. Steve agreed the library budget could accommodate a roll back. Library expenses were reduced by approximately 3%.

Steve discussed new flooring in the downstairs meeting room. The carpeting is in very poor shape, and in need of replacement. The Friends of the Library have some money available to assist with the purchase. Steve discussed sharing the cost with the Town. The Selectmen asked Steve to investigate the costs.

Police Department: Tim Julian, Police Chief, met with the Board. Tim anticipates 2008 expenses will be less than budgeted. He reviewed proposals for 2009. He did not anticipate any large additional expenses for 2009. He discussed dry cleaning uniforms and updating cruiser cameras. There is grant money available for the cruiser cams. He reviewed things to consider for coming years, i.e. replacement of the Ford Explorer, overtime and call time for hourly employees, and a new police department. The Selectmen asked him to keep his budget as close to level or less as possible.

Fire Department: Dallas Patten and Erik Rollins met with the Board. All equipment for the new fire truck has been received and the invoices were turned in today for payment. In 2009 the Fire Department would like to purchase additional hose to update the existing truck, as discussed last

year. They would like to consider the washer purchase this year. Erik reported the SCBA equipment and air compressor are due for inspection and service this year. The Selectmen discussed reviewing their remaining 2008 budget to see if there will be money to update some of the hose on the existing truck as discussed during this year's budget talks. Dallas and Erik will review their budget further and submit proposals at a later date.

Old Business:

Neal reported he met with Ross Stevens, Engineer and Peter Schauer, Wetlands Specialist at the emergency services building. They reviewed placement of the sand and salt shed. They have recommended working with the area behind the building for relocation of the sand and salt shed. Peter will speak to the State DES regarding requirements.

Neal spoke to Ross regarding fees charged for review of the Miller plans during the zoning process. Ross' review of the plans was extensive with many areas on the property that were not shown on plans originally submitted. The Board discussed the engineering fees the town paid. The Board discussed the complications stemming from complaints and allegations that occurred during this process and unanimously made the final decision not to pursue reimbursement of the engineering fees. Neal stated he would like to meet with the Zoning Board to explain the Selectmen's decision with them.

Employee evaluations were briefly discussed. The Selectmen agreed they need to schedule time to meet with employees. The Board unanimously agreed to increase Tamara's rate of pay that had been promised to her when she was hired.

Employee benefits:

Employee wages and benefits were discussed. Health insurance fees for existing coverage decreased by 0.8% for 2009. Alternate plans for increased prescription co-pay and a high deductible plans were reviewed. The Selectmen agreed they are committed to supporting benefits and wages for employees. Increased benefit costs for current and future employees need to be taken into consideration. Several possibilities were discussed. The Board agreed more time will need to be spent on this to determine a fair way to implement changes for existing employees. The Selectmen are recommending continuation of the current insurance plan for this year. They would like to be able to offer more than one plan to employees who pay for their own insurance.

Future Budget Planning:

Land purchase: possibly 2009

Highway truck replacement 2009

Cruiser replacement 2010

Highway loader replacement 2011

Assessment updates 2010. Every 5 years as required by the State Department of Revenue.

Associated costs will be evaluated during 2009.

Space needs/enlarged police department:

Correspondence:

The Board reviewed the advisory warrant article offered by the Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition. The Selectmen discussed their concerns with administration and implementation of additional guidelines and programs at this time. The Selectmen agreed they could not recommend this as a warrant article at this time.

The Board reviewed information received from John Trachy regarding Senate bill 381 allowing conservation commissions to make contributions to qualified non-profit organizations, or to acquire interests in land outside municipal boundaries. They will review this with John at a later Selectmen's meeting.

The Board reviewed the response from the DES regarding the Denison property on Stoney Book Road.

Signatures:

Annual reappointment form for Brad Butcher

Purchase Orders

Intent to Cut Timber

Tax abatement

Building permits.

Miscellaneous Business:

The roof at the town office has been replaced. Insulation has been installed. Half of the library roof has been completed. The inclement weather has caused delays. The Board agreed to cut an interim check for Top of the Line. A final bill will be submitted when the project is complete.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant