

## SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

October 24, 2016

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees included John Halter, Selectman Chair, Stephen McGerty, Selectman, Margo Santoro, Selectperson, James Coffey, Town Administrator, Harry Power, Compliance Officer and Patricia Putnam, Administrative Assistant. Several members of the public were in attendance.

### APPOINTMENTS:

7:00 - Harry Power –

1. Tax Map # 419, Lot # 5.2 – Michael Oldershaw, Jr. 533 Juniper Hill Road – Overhang on front of barn – approved
2. Tax Map # 422, Lot # 12.22 – Mark & Diane Beall Juniper Hill Road – septic System and well for use as seasonal RV parking – approved
3. James & Beverly Cardoza – Champney Road – Road Waiver signed with a Check to Cheshire Registry of Deeds to have it recorded.
4. Tax Map # 133, Lot # 17 – Dean Dorman and Jan McGonagle 425 Treelyn Road – Their house has 2 bedrooms and the septic system is built for 3 bedrooms so the added bedroom in the top of the garage will be covered by the existing septic system.

7:30 – Linda Clark – Election Procedures – Linda met with the board to discuss the letter the Board sent her last month suggesting that the Town Clerk's office be closed on Election Day. Linda reported that she has consulted with the Attorney General and Secretary of State offices and Brian Bonamie, of the Attorney General office, quoting Election Law, advised that the Board of Selectmen has no authority to mandate whether the Town Clerk's Office will be closed or not. Jim Coffey reported he had researched the issue with the Municipal Association and was informed that the Board of Selectmen have an obligation for safety. The Board can close the Town Clerk's office if safety is an issue. During the discussion Steve McGerty suggested closing the office for the 4:00 – 6:00 time frame. John Halter asked if Linda Clark would be open to meeting the board 1/2 way and closing during the time that Steve McGerty suggested. Daniel Eaton said the suggestions were "silly" and did not think having the office open from 4:00 – 6:00 would be a problem. Linda Clark thought that David Vaillancourt should assign a police officer for traffic control during the afternoon hours. John Halter said it was the Selectmen's obligation to ask for police officer coverage and that the Board would take care of that. Dan Eaton suggested that the Selectmen be compensated for being at the Election polls for the whole day. Margo Santoro objected and thought the Selectmen were well compensated for the time they spend doing the Selectmen's job, the election poll attendance was part of the job and should not be compensated extra for the Election poll time. Further discussion brought about a motion by John Halter and seconded by Steve McGerty to accept the generous offer by the Moderator for compensation for serving on Election Day, the board approved with Margo Santoro against. The Selectmen will be present from 7:30 AM till the close of ballot counting.

John Halter moved and Steve McGerty seconded to appoint Harry Power as Selectman pro-tem in the event any Selectman is unable to work on Election Day, the board agreed, with the Moderator to fix the compensation for the pro-tem position.

7:45 – Cartwright, Joseph – County Commissioner candidate – introduced himself and explained that he is a resident of Alstead and has watched the County cost climb higher every year. He is running to try to address the issue of the high cost of the County Budget, among other things. Jim Coffey said he is a resident of New Ipswich, with a population of 5 times that of Stoddard, and the cost to Hillsboro County is about 1/2 the cost to Stoddard from Cheshire County. Jim Coffey also noted that Stoddard's share of the county budget is \$862,149 and that the dispatch portion of past years has been separated from the general budget and costs \$21,924.72 (2015-2016). The Board thanked him for his visit and wished him well in his candidacy.

8:00 – Jane McDermott – Non Public Session – 9:02 PM the Selectmen voted to go into a Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A: 3II(c) –

John Halter – yes

Steve McGerty – yes

Margo Santoro – yes

9:10 PM the Selectmen voted to close the Non-Public Session –

John Halter – yes

Steve McGerty – yes

Margo Santoro – yes

John Halter moved and Steve McGerty seconded to seal the minutes indefinitely, the board approved.

8:30 – Mirle Cross – Non Public Session – 9:11 PM the Selectmen voted to go into a Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A: 3II(c) –

John Halter – yes

Steve McGerty – yes

Margo Santoro – yes

9:34 PM the Selectmen voted to close the Non-Public Session –

John Halter – yes

Steve McGerty – yes

Margo Santoro – yes

John Halter moved and Steve McGerty Seconded to seal the minutes indefinitely, the board approved.

#### SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

1. Steve McGerty asked on an update on the Aten Road Village District – Jim Coffey reported that they have not held an annual meeting but plan to between January 1 and April 30, 2017. Dan Eaton offered to serve as moderator for the first meeting but they have elected a Moderator, 3 Commissioners, a Treasurer and Secretary.

2. Steve McGerty discussed having the Transfer Station stay open on Wednesdays until the first substantial snow fall. Jim Coffey will ask Waste Management representative, Shawn Hood, to attend a Selectmen's meeting to explore the possibility.

3. Steve McGerty reported that the 20 year old Quad, which was damaged during the Forest Fires, needs to be sold. As it is Town property, Steve McGerty asked permission to sell it. Dan Eaton suggested waiting until May, 2017, when the next State Surplus Auction will be held. Dan said then there will be a lot of buyers looking at the equipment and items, like this one bring ridiculous prices. Dan Eaton reported that the tobacco industry, annually, donates Gators to government entities. The Selectmen are interested in a second piece of equipment for the Fire Department and Dan Eaton will submit a request for one.

4. John Halter asked Mirle Cross to take a look at the furnace in the Gould House and advise the Selectmen of its condition. Mirle said a new furnace should provide 85% - 90% efficiency. John also asked Mirle to write up what type of replacement furnace should be put out

for bid.

5. Steve McGerty has gotten an estimate to repair and paint the Fire Station for \$9,000. Steve requested permission to look into vinyl siding for the building. The Selectmen approved the plan and asked that the Old Fire Station be included.

#### SIGNED/APPROVED:

1. BOS Board Meeting Minutes of 10-10-2016
  2. A/P Manifest
  3. P/R Manifest
  4. MS-1 Summary Inventory of Valuation
  5. Cemetery Deeds (2)
  6. Land Use Change Tax Warrant.
- All the above were signed.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discuss EM/FEMA Forest Fire Reimbursement and New Ipswich FD Bill – Jim Coffey reported that the town has received a bill from the Town of New Ipswich for Fire Mutual Aid in the Forest Fire that has errors that require clarification prior to the Town reimbursing them. Jim Coffey wrote a letter stating the concerns. The Board signed the letter and Jim Coffey will hand deliver it to them tomorrow. Jim Coffey reported that he has been consultation with the FEMA representative and has been awarded a 60 day extension on the deadline to submit the cost report to them for consideration.
2. Discuss Repurchase Request for tax deeded Property with Administrator – Jim Coffey read a letter of intent to repurchase 2 parcels on Barrett Pond Road, which the town took by Tax Deed. Anndean Kmetz, a family member, indicated that she would need a few days past the deadline to make financial arrangements to buy the properties back. Jim Coffey suggested that the Board require a \$5,000 down payment as a part of the purchase and sale agreement and allow for a few days over the deadline date. The Board agreed to this proposal.
3. Notice of Bench Trial, Stoddard v. Kenneth Holland, et al (May 2017) – So noted.
4. Discuss Knox Box Proposal for elderly and infirm. Steve McGerty reported that the Keene Sentinel has run a story about the plan to offer Knox Boxes to elderly and infirm residents of the town. He plans to attend the Senior Luncheon tomorrow to tell those attending about the plan. He is ordering 5 Knox Boxes to start with. Each box costs \$300 with the recipient paying \$100 towards the cost and the balance will be paid out a special warrant article passed at the last Town Meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Department of Labor Report/Reply – Jim Coffey reported that he is working with the Department of Labor on the penalty assessed for three items that the Labor Department Auditor found in non-compliance. In addition, the town has been paying hourly employees bi-weekly forever, with the exception of the Fire Department, which has been paid quarterly. The town doesn't have authority to pay any less than weekly. Jim Coffey has submitted the required form to allow for hourly employees to be paid bi-weekly or monthly, depending on their position.
2. Discuss proposed tax rate with Administrator – Jim Coffey reported that he has submitted

the necessary document in order to have a tax rate set. He is confident that the tax rate for this year will be \$14.99. He has consulted with Ellen Mason, Tax Collector, and they have agreed to have the tax bills due the first Thursday in December, a regular Tax Collector office day. Jim Coffey thought that the tax bills would go out in the next week or so.

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE:

Misc Items

ADJOURN: John Halter moved and Steve McGerty seconded to adjourn at 9:35, the board agreed.

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia E. Putnam  
Administrative Assistant

Approved:

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John Halter

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Stephen McGerty

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Margo Santoro

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
AGENDA  
OCTOBER 24, 2016**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

**APPOINTMENTS**

- 7:00 – Harry Power
- 7:30 – Linda Clark – Election Procedures
- 7:45 – Cartwright, Joseph – County Commissioner candidate
- 8:00 – Jane McDermott – Non-Public Session

**TO BE SIGNED/APPROVED**

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3. P/R Manifest
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5. Cemetery Deeds (2)

**OLD BUSINESS**

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4. Discuss Knox Box Proposal for elderly and infirm.

**NEW BUSINESS**

3. Department of Labor Report/Reply
4. Discuss proposed tax rate with Administrator

**SELECTMEN'S ITEMS**

**MISC. CORRESPONDENCE**

Misc Items