

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 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. Doug Summerton, Dean Huber and Linda Clark were also in attendance. Steve McGerty left the meeting shortly after it was convened.

APPOINTMENTS:

1. 7:00 P.M. Harry Power, Building Permits
 1. Tax Map # 139, Lots 4 & 9 – Kevin & Debra Robbins, 638 North Shore Road, Deck – approved
 23. Tax Map # 139, Lot # 3 – Rufus & Joan Chaffee, 628 North Shore Road, changing a garage into a study – no building permit needed – notice to assessor to check for upgrades.
 3. A notice for the Selectmen to allow Harry Power, Stoddard compliance Officer, permission to approve a building permit for an applicant to proceed prior to the Selectmen's signatures, should the circumstances necessitate an immediate startup of the project – John Halter moved and Margo Santoro seconded to approve the notice, the board approved.
2. 7:30 P.M. Conservation Commission/Island Pond Proposal – Geoffrey Jones advised the board that the Price Family would like to donate the islands in Island Pond to the Town. They are in conservation easement and only generate a minimal tax revenue. Geoffrey Jones remembered emailing the Conservation Commission members and Jim Coffey of the idea in November. He then send an email on the subject to the full Selectmen's board in December. The Prices do not feel they can continue to steward the property anymore. The Conservation Commission's November meeting minutes indicate that the commission considered the subject. Margo Santoro suggested having the Conservation Commission write a letter to the Selectmen, indicating they are willing to take on the stewardship of the property. Geoffrey Jones said he take a half a dozen trips to the islands during the year and has not seen any littering, or defacing of the islands. Dean Huber asked who would clean up any debris that might be thrown on the islands. The idea is that the Conservation Commission members would monitor and remove any trash.
3. Jim Coffey reported that the State had sighted that the Pioneer Dam at Stoddard Rocks needs to be maintained with mowing and brush cutting once a year. The Conservation Commission was advised of the notice. Jim Coffey advised Geoffrey Jones that the Conservation Commission needs to meet on a more regular basis, finding that there were no meetings from April until November.
4. Linda Clark met with the board over concerns she has.
 1. She reported that the Town Clerk's Budget has been paying for meals served to election workers. She doesn't feel that her budget should be paying them. Linda was told that the Moderator's budget is now being charged for those meals
 2. Linda was asked to attend the meeting concerning the voting machine. As Steve McGerty was not in attendance, she said that the Moderator, Dan Eaton, was not planning on using the machine except for major elections.
 3. Linda reiterated that the Town Clerk's Office needs a website address. Jim Coffey will meet with her on Thursday to establish her password to the town's web site.
 4. Linda reported that her laptop has died and it is at David Galluccio's office to

determine if it is repairable. It is a refurbished computer and it might have to be replaced.

5. Linda reported that David Galluccio is willing to be on call to the town 4 hours per week for \$400.00 per month for IT support. Linda reported that the Town Clerk's office has had several serious issues with the IT system.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

None

SIGNED/APPROVED:

1. BOS Board Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2016
 2. Payroll Manifest
 3. Yield Tax Warrant & Certification for 16-425-05
 4. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber
 5. Pistol/Revolver License
 6. Notice of Lien
- All the above were signed.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discuss compliance with DOL for payroll reporting, if necessary. Not needed.
2. Discuss with Administrator the April forest fire State reimbursement and FEMA grant status. Jim Coffey reported that he is creating a spread sheet of expenses and revenues, to date, on the Forest Fires of 4/21 & 4/22. He feels that the FEMA Grant he is working on should net the Town a reimbursement of 75% of the costs. In addition, he is working with the State Forest Fire Warden to submit the expenses of all the other days of forest fires to submit to the State for 50% reimbursement they should be paying to the Town.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Island Pond Proposal-See Conservation Commission Appointment
2. Roadside tree remove, Granite Lake and Old Forest Road – Jim Coffey and David Vaillancourt have looked at 3 trees that are in danger of falling into town roads. Two are on Old Forest Road and one is on Wet Shore Road. David Vaillancourt is getting prices to remove them. John Halter suggested getting a bid from Merrill's Stump Grinding on Murdough Hill Road in Nelson. Jim will pass the name on to David.
3. Discuss access to Town Hall using Knox Box – it was reported that the Stoddard Fireman's Association accessed the Town Hall for their Christmas Parties without obtaining a key from the Administrative Assistant. In addition there was no insurance certificate submitted for the 12/10 party, where alcohol was being consumed. It was noted that the key in the Knox Box is for emergencies only. Margo Santoro reported attending the party but the Town Hall was open before she arrived.
4. RE-establish a policy for the Selectmen's Office for significant weather events. Margo Santoro volunteered to draft a proposed policy for all hourly employees.
5. Discuss with the Administrator potential telephone system improvements for future budgets. Jim Coffey reported that he is working with Fairpoint on having one line serve all the phones in the Town Hall and Gould House with a menu to have the caller reach which every office is desired. Jim thought he would have a proposal by early January.
6. Establish meeting schedule Dec/Jan Monday holidays, and for January 1, payroll. Jim Coffey noted that the next Selectmen's meeting is scheduled for December 26, which is a legal holiday and suggested December 28th as an alternative meeting date. After discussion, John Halter moved and Margo Santoro seconded to meet on December 19th

and that the Payroll that is scheduled for 1/2/17 be cut on November 30th but dated January 2, 2017. Employees will be advised to submit estimate hours they plan to work for the 12/12-12/31 2016 and any changes will be taken care of in the January 16th pay check.

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Cheshire County Proposed Budget (2.35% increase=\$19,540 for Stoddard)
2. Letter from Administrator to Site Evaluation Committee – a copy was emailed to each board member and approved.
3. Letter from New Hampshire Department of Transportation send a notice closing out resurfacing projects (route 123).
4. Request for January 22-28, 2017 to be proclaimed as “Town of Stoddard School Choice Week.” Margo Santoro declared that she would not support this proclamation as it would add to the tax payers' costs of education, having to maintain Faulkner Elementary School and having to pay tuition to private schools for students that attend alternative educational institutions. Margo also said the School Choice voucher system dilutes public school funding and that is detrimental to all the local students.

ADJOURN: John Halter moved and Margo Santoro seconded to adjourn at 9:25, the board approved.

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia E. Putnam
Administrative Assistant

Approved:

John Halter

Margo Santoro

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
AGENDA
DECEMBER 12, 2016**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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TO BE SIGNED/APPROVED

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SELECTMEN'S ITEMS

MISC. CORRESPONDENCE

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