

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES OF 4-9-2012

Submitted by stoddard on Fri, 04/13/2012 - 6:54pm.

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

April 09, 2012

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

Attending were Selectman John Halter, Selectman Louis GrandPre' and Selectman Chair Arnold Stymest, Harry Power, Compliance Officer, Jim Coffey, Town Administrator, Patricia Putnam, AA. Quite a few folks were in attendance at meeting for the hearings.

APPOINTMENTS

7:00 None Scheduled

OPEN TO COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Richard Gariepy asked why the Department of Labor was in town and why the Building Committee was not noticed about the impending visit. He voiced his displeasure at not being invited to be present.

Louis GrandPre' asked about the visit also. Arnie Stymest reported that he had announced the impending visit a couple meetings ago. Mr. GrandPre' stated that there was nothing in the minutes about the visit. (Note: searching the minutes of 3/26/2012 revealed that the announcement had been recorded.)

TO BE SIGNED/APPROVED

1. Minutes of April 2, 2012.
2. Building Permit, Patricia Putnam
3. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber

4. Elderly Exemption Application

All items were signed,

NEW BUSINESS

1. Letter Department of Revenue, Audits
2. Copy of Ellen Mason's notice of final tax warrant
3. Labor Department draft inspection report. It was noted that the inspectors suggested the town get in touch with Primex for assistance with the safety committee report.

Adjourn/Recess to:

7:15 P.M. Bond Hearing - The bond hearing was called to order at 7:15 pm to notice the residents to the plan to seek a bond if the \$585,000 (warrant article 2) request for funding is approved at the town meeting. It was noted that if approved, the bond would cost approximately \$.22/\$1,000 of assessment for repaying over 15 years. Jim Coffey said that the NH Municipal Bond Bank has suggested that the interest on that bond issue would be between 3 & 4 percent over 15 years. Mr. Coffey also reported that he has been in touch with People's United Bank to try to negotiate a more favorable rate. With People's United Bank the town would be allowed to prepay the bond where the NH Municipal Bond Bank would not allow prepayment. Mr. Coffey also noted that the Lake Sunapee Bank has been aggressively on lending. The first year of the bond would cost nothing on the tax rate but on the second year the town would start repayment.

John Halter moved and Arnie Stymest seconded to close the bond hearing at 7:30 pm, the board approved.

7:30 P.M. Budget Hearing - The budget hearing was opened and John Halter served as moderator of the hearing reading each warrant article as it was listed in the proposed Town Warrant.

Articles read:

Article 2. Noted that the Bond Hearing was to cover the legal requirements of RSA Chapter 33 covering Municipal Finance Act.

Terry McMahon read a list of items he questioned including:

1. Have the Selectmen considered the population of the Town in 25 years?
2. Is there room for expansion after the repairs to the Town Hall are complete?
3. What are the annual operation expenses?
4. Can the officers of the town share responsibilities?
5. Did the Selectmen consider facilities that the Town now owns?
6. What plans are being considered for parking capabilities?

Dick Gariepy said that the repairs, as outlined, would restore the Town Hall to 100% 1st class condition with a foundation for locating the town officers' offices in the future. The Building Committee has planned the future expansion needs of the town's officers.

Carol Clark remembered Baybutt quoting costs and she wondered why several building sections (Kitchen, Bathrooms, etc) were being rearranged after already paying for Baybutt's plans.

Ginny GrandPre' asked if this plan was for the walls only.

Dick Gariepy explained that the foundation would be in place and a vapor barrier would be installed over the floor and then crushed stone would cover the vapor barrier (plastic sheeting)

Geoffrey Jones asked where the furnace room would be located. It was explained that the furnace would remain where it is for the time being, with fireproofing erected. Mr. Jones also said the furnace is very noisy during things like Yoga. Arnie Stymest explained the furnace has been replaced with a propane-fired burner that is extremely quiet and, in fact, was running during the meeting. Geoffrey Jones was happy to learn of the replacement.

PJ LaMothe said that the construction drawings must be reviewed by the Fire Department for life safety concerns.

Joan Read said she would like to see a full size door entering on the lower level without having to use the lift to access the offices.

Ed Saleski told her that the problem with that entrance on the side of the building was that snow, ice and water would fall into the location and render it unusable during storms. That is the reason the entrance is being planned for the north side of the building with a roof over it.

Article 3. Bond hearing for \$765,000 article will be held next Monday @ 7:15 pm as the article was submitted by petition too late to get the notice of the public hearing in for this meeting.

Ed Saleski said it stands to reason that doing all the work at once will be more cost efficient with the workmen and equipment on site already.

Louis GrandPre' reported that he does not have a number for the cost for this article.

John Halter said he is not ready to endorse the plan without further study.

Dick Gariepy said the Building Committee is uncomfortable without more confirmed estimates.

Carol Clark felt \$585,000 would not be enough to protect the basement and would be a waste of tax dollars

Carole Briere asked if the flooring would have to be chipped out for installation of various support wiring and plumbing for the building of offices.

Geoffrey Jones felt it was a good plan for the Town Hall and the community to get usable space for serving the needs of the Town Officials and office space.

Article 4. Calls for a one time payment of \$145,000 to shore up the Town Hall including new siding, repairs to cupola, insulating walls, installing a vapor barrier to floor, fix the supports holding the floor up, repair front steps, removing the oil barrel lean too. Carol Clark asked if this would seriously increase the taxes for that year. It was noted that this plan would add \$.51/\$1,000 of assessment for one year.

Mike Oldershaw said \$145,000 does not make sense and urged the Board to get solid figures and then have a special meeting to get the project done once and for all.

Geoffrey Jones suggested that the foundation be fixed and then go from the bottom up or get the moisture problem solved and deal with other repairs from year to year.

Article 5. Ginny GrandPre' questioned the need to raise money for the Recreation Department where the Trustees of Trust Funds have a fund with \$4,000 in it that has never been used.

George Davenport asked about the legal fees. He was told that the insurance with Local Government Center is \$25,000 and the AT&T lawsuit is up to \$50,000 for the ZBA now. He noted that the town is in a couple other lawsuits that are ongoing and will cost more to dispose of.

Article 6. Planning Board - no action

Article 7. ZBA - The legal costs are with the AT&T lawsuit because the ZBA board quit. Angel Nicoletti explained the ZBA's actions and reported what is going on with the Orr & Reno Law Firm that is representing the Town of Stoddard in Federal Court. She has no knowledge of how high the legal costs

will go.

Geoffrey Jones understands that a couple viable alternative sites are available.

Ginny GrandPre' asked if the town could be refunded for times causing increased legal fees to protect non-Stoddard objectors. That seemed to not be an option.

Article 8. Building Committee - If Articles 2 & 3 fail, the building committee will need \$25,000 to further explore future siting of Town Offices.

Article 9. Police Department - same as last year except Jim Coffey added a bit for the increase of fuel.

Article 10. Police Cruiser - the present one is 10 years old and will not be worth anything to trade in so the Chief intends to keep it for backup if the new cruiser is disabled.

Article 11. Ambulance - no questions

Article 12. Fire Department - main reason for increase is the vehicles needs for repairs are significant so the Chief added \$6,000 to cover any repairs. She has added money to bring the fire department P/R from \$8.50 to \$11.00/hour of time at scenes (adds \$4,000.). That is more in line with area fire departments.

Article 13. Fire Warden - no comments

Article 14. Repairs needed at the Old Fire Station. It is in deplorable condition.

Article 15. Fire Warden request to go 50/50 with a wild lands fire suppression equipment grant paying for 1/2 the cost. This will be a non-lapsing warrant article as defined by RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the purpose is completed or by June 30, 2013.

Article 16. Emergency Management - no questions

Article 17. Continue to pay for the new Brush Truck.

Article 18. Continue to pay for the pumper/rescue vehicle - no comments.

Article 19. Lay Monitoring & Lake Host Programs - no questions.

Article 20. Conservation Commission - no questions

Article 21. Highway maintenance - about the same as last year with plans to complete the School Street work (\$50,000).

Article 22. Transfer Station - last year of the current contract,

Article 23. Hazardous Waste Collection Days @ Keene Recycling Center - noted that the Town would be listed in the ads that Keene publishes. Keene only has the spring days established.

Article 24. Davis Library - Virginia Saleski explained that the library assistant is only being paid \$8.25/hour and the Trustees plan to increase that wage to \$9.00/hr. They also plan to have evening hours on Fridays to accommodate anyone wanting a book or movie for the weekends.

Article 25. Cemeteries - no change

Article 26. Accept land next to the New Dow Cemetery to have that area available for the driveway area.

Article 27. Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services - for visiting nurse services being provided to townspeople.

Article 28. Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services - for Age in Motion Program. It was asked how many participate. Angel Nicoletti said between 6 and 16.

Article 29. Monadnock Family Services @ \$1.25 per capita to provide mental health services.

Article 30. The Community Kitchen, Inc to provide meals and food to participation Stoddard residents.

Article 31. New Hampshire Region of the American Red Cross - requesting \$.45 per capita based on census of 2009 of 1045. There was a question of this being a charity and not wanting to have tax dollars to a charity but to allow the residents to give as they feel the need to.

Article 32. Rescind the Vote that established Site Plan Review regulations. Petitioners want this revocation to force the Planning Board "to finally develop a set of comprehensive, objective standards for the development and operation of non-residential activities in the Town of Stoddard".

Article 33. Limit the salary of the Building Compliance Officer to equal to a Selectman's salary with such limit to take effect as a part of the new budget year.

Article 34. To replace the appointed Building Compliance Officer to an elected Building Compliance Officer to be effective with the moderator calling for nominations for candidates and the election, by ballot, to be completed at this Town Meeting.

Article 35. Authorize and direct the Selectmen to sell the Cahill Property, so called, as they see deem in the best interest of the Town. George Davenport asked if the deed allows the town to sell the property. John Halter recalled the only restriction is that the Transfer Station cannot be located on it.

Terry McMahon said the town would regret selling it later.

Article 36. Eliminate the position of Compliance Officer in the Town of Stoddard. One attendee asked if the Compliance Officer could be fired - and told the board to fire him. Geoffrey Jones asked if the petitions and their signers are public knowledge under the Right to Know Law - Yes.

Article 37. Abolish the 9-member Building Committee. Geoffrey Jones made a call to stop the contention and get on with the business of the town.

Article 38. Calls for a 5-member committee to complete a comprehensive study of land and buildings owned by the Town and to research the potential benefits of closing the School and tuitioning the students to other towns and study the town's use of the school building for Town facilities.

Louis GrandPre' moved and Arnie Stymest seconded to close the public hearing @ 10:00 pm, the board agreed.

John Halter moved and Louis GrandPre' seconded to adjourn the meeting @ 10:10 pm, the board approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Putnam

Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

Arnold Stymest

John Halter

Louis GrandPre'

SELECTMEN’S MEETING

AGENDA

April 09, 2012

APPOINTMENTS

7:00 None Scheduled

TO BE SIGNED/APPROVED

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4. Elderly Exemption Application

NEW BUSINESS

1. Letter Department of Revenue, Audits

Adjourn/Recess to:

7:15 P.M. Bond Hearing

7:30 P.M. Budget Hearing
