

AC

January 26, 2010
Selectmen's Meeting

Present: Mark Richardson, Chairman, A. Richards, C. Guiry and A. A. Milkovits

Meeting opened at 7:30 PM.

Vendor checks were discussed and signed.

Agenda:

Hearing on Issuance of note or bond for the Purchase of Backhoe for the Highway Department:

Present: Road Agent David Cook, Moderator Catherine Schwenk
Chairman Richardson opened the hearing at 7:30 PM. Road Agent Cook discussed the type and make of backhoe that he wished to purchase. Mrs. Schwenk asked some questions about the extra implements on the machine. Mr. Cook stated that he is hoping to find a machine for \$100,000 or less. After more discussion, Selectman Guiry made a motion, which was seconded and voted unanimously, for the Selectmen to endorse the Highway Department to purchase the backhoe for no more than \$125,000. Funding will be by lease or note for seven years. Chairman Richardson closed the hearing at 7:35 PM.

Appointment:

1. Catherine Schwenk, Moderator met with the Board to set the Town Meeting date. The Board voted to set Town Meeting on Saturday, March 13th at 9 AM, place to be determined. If the new meeting room in the school is ready then the meeting will be held there, otherwise it will be in the Town Hall.
Mrs. Schwenk discussed the Moderator's meeting that she attended in Concord. She said the feeling was that there will be many "secret ballots" at the town meetings this year due to the tough economic times. People may want to vote things up or down in privacy rather by hand or voice vote. She is concerned that the SB2 article will pass and feels it will be difficult to count votes by hand and is recommending that the town purchase a ballot machine. She feels that it should be on the warrant this year. No decision was made at this time.

Selectmen reviewed the following:

1. Legal: Attorney Little's letter to Planning Board concerning proposed Work Force Housing amendments. The final hearing on the amendments is tomorrow night. No changes can be made, however, after the meeting the Planning Board will vote on whether the articles will be on the ballot or not.
2. Re: EQ Ratio Study- Town assessor Richard Rockwood had reviewed the study and is satisfied that the Selectmen could release it to the State.
Re: Update on Robinson – Mr. Robinson has not paid his taxes yet. Mr. Rockwood will determine the new assessment based on Robinson's elderly exemption. Selectmen will abate a portion of the former tax bill and reissue a bill to Robinson with interest.
3. Timber Bond – Pelletier Selectmen signed a letter to Mr. Pelletier requesting a timber bond due to non-payment of his property taxes. No cutting is allowed until the bond is received and the Selectmen sign the Intent to Cut.

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4. NH HSEM application – updates from Jack Moorhouse concerning Hazard Mitigation Plan and NIMSCAST. The Hazard Mitigation Plan must be completed before any funds would be released. This information will be forwarded to Camille Pattison, NRPC who is working with the Town on the plan.
Mr. Moorhouse is looking for contact information for the NIMSCAST assessment and listed the training requirements for NIMSCAST compliance. This information will be forwarded to the appropriate departments. Police Chief Hutchins responded to Mr. Moorhouse with his contact information and the assurance that all the officers will complete the online NIMSCAST training before the end of 2010. Since Mrs. Pattison is coming to the Staff Meeting in February, Mr. Moorhouse will be invited to coordinate some of the work on the application.
5. NRPC 2010 Circuit Rider Contract for \$5,000 – Chairman Richardson signed the contract.
6. Police logs
7. Forwarded email from Town Clerk concerning an email that she received from Kimberly Vocell. Mrs. Vocell was inquiring about help with her utility bills. Selectmen will take no action until Mrs. Vocell requests a welfare application and verifies all her information.
8. Notifications:
From Jaffrey ZBA – hearings for variance and site plan for an extension of cell tower.
Meetings & Programs
9. Other correspondence

The Selectmen granted the following 2009 abatement requests:

Gagnon, lot G-46	\$150.19
Lavoie, lot H-73-1	\$507.36
Frank DeFranco, lot F-11-2	\$353.85

The Selectmen denied the following 2009 abatement applications:

Gaudet, lot H-36
Lavoie, lots L-25-1 & L-25-6 Corrections were made to Mr. Lavoie's property cards.
Bell, lot K-5-1

The Board signed the Yield Tax certification for Turilli, lot K-49-5. No tax was due as Mr. Turilli cut less than 7 thousand board foot, under the minimum.

Selectmen discussed the proposed leases for the backhoe and the police cruiser. Ocean Bank and TD Bank have been contacted and requested bids for the leasing. The Board also discussed the 2010 TAN and voted to apply for \$1,700,000 to be settled by the end of February. Mrs. Milkovits will contact both Ocean and TD Bank for bids.

Selectman Guiry made a motion to have the full time employees change their health insurance from a point of service plan to an HMO. This was already discussed and decided the health insurance will change from Anthem Blue Choice to Matthew Thornton Blue HMO Option I with the \$5 co-pay and \$3, \$15 and \$1 mail-in prescriptions. The

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dental plan will also be changed to Northeast Delta Dental Option 3D. This will be effective March 1, 2010. Health Trust will be notified to effect the changes.

Chairman Richardson discussed the Recycling Policy meeting that he attended last week. The Recycling Center's fee for 2010 is \$41,134.17, decreased from \$59,250.56 for 2009. The decrease is due to the increase in recycling by the member towns. This results in money deposited back into the center and shared by the towns. It's really important for everyone to recycle for the environment and also for the savings.

Chairman Richardson made a recommendation on raises for the employees. He cited the savings in the recycling budget and the savings from changing the health plans as possible funds for the raises. He is recommending 3% raises for full time employees, only. Selectman Guiry strongly objected to the raises citing the foreclosures and tough economic times. Police Chief Hutchins was present for this discussion. None of the employees received raises in 2009 and have not received C.O.L.A. in the past either. Chief Hutchins pointed out that "every year is a tough year" and it's frustrating to hear that, with no relief in sight. Chairman Richardson reviewed the figures for 2%, 2.5% and 3% raises. Three percent added over \$15,000 to the bottom line. Selectman Guiry made a motion to give the full time employees 2.5% raises. Selectman Richards made a motion to amend Dr. Guiry's motion to 3% raises. After more discussion, Mrs. Richards's motion was seconded and voted two to one, with Selectman Guiry voting emphatically "NO". The full time employees will receive 3% raises.

The Selectmen reviewed the December 31, 2009 fund balance. The fund balance had dropped from \$300,000+ to \$57,575! There was concern what the low balance could mean to borrowing, etc. there wouldn't be enough in the fund balance to help lower this year's tax rate. Selectman Guiry made a motion that in light of the low fund balance, that the Board should revisit granting raises. No one seconded his motion.

The Selectmen set the final public budget hearing for Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 7:30 PM. Reminders will be sent to all Departments that have not sent in their annual reports. The deadline is February 9th, after that their reports will not be accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 10 PM.

Barbara L. Milken
Admn. Assistant