

July 10, 2012
Selectmen's Meeting/Approved Minutes

Present: R.P. McGinnity Chairman, A. Richards, C. Moser & A.A. Milkovits
Also present: P. Letourneau, Treasurer
One resident

Meeting opened at 7:30 PM. The check manifest was reviewed and approved.

Agenda:

Appointments:

1. Police Chief Barry Hutchins discussed the following
 - Holiday Pay – Currently an employee working on a holiday is paid at regular rate plus overtime rate (2 ½ times rate). This is according to the Personnel Policy. He explained that the Police Department is the only town department that has to have an employee work on the holiday. The Highway Department is affected by this policy in the winter in the event of snowstorms during the holidays. Now that the Chief is paid by salary he would not be affected by this pay, however if any of the officers work the holiday they would be paid at the 2 ½ times rate. This practice would cause a hardship to his budget, costing an estimated \$1,000 per holiday or annually close to \$10,000 (pay for 10 holidays). This extra pay is not figured into the PD budget. Chief Hutchins recommended two solutions: (1) eliminate the policy for holiday pay or (2) modify the policy by paying hourly employees working the holiday straight pay and giving hourly employees of the PD and HD a \$1,000 “holiday” paycheck at the end of the year whether the holidays were worked or not. The Chief stated that Road Agent Greenwood is also in agreement with his suggestions. The Chief is trying to watch his budget and still maintain good employees. The Board appreciated his concerns to save money and thanked the Chief for his input. It was decided that Chairman McGinnity would research this issue and make recommendations to the Board. The Board will discuss the recommendations at the next meeting and make their decision to modify the policy as needed.
 - Chief Hutchins relayed the news of the death of Linda LeBlanc, wife of part-time officer John LeBlanc. The LeBlanc's were long time residents of Mason and John has been working for the Police Department for 20 years. Selectmen will make a donation for a charity in Mrs. LeBlanc's name.
 - Detail work for PSNH – Asplundh, tree cutting service is cutting trees all over town for PSNH. There will be a police detail present when the crew is working on the main traveled roads in town, such as Brookline Road.
 - Activity at working quarry – there have been many drug arrests at Georgia Stone Quarry, Starch Mill Road. The PD has been regularly checking on the working quarry on Starch Mill Road and the privately owned quarry on Scripps Lane for any illegal activities.

July 10, 2012
Selectmen's Meeting/Approved Minutes

Selectmen reviewed the following:

Old Business:

1. Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2012, as amended, and Staff Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2012 were approved and voted into record.
2. Re: Fund Balance Policy – Chairman McGinnity will work on this policy and bring it before the Board at a later date.
3. Re: Investment Policy – Selectman Moser has been working on the template for this policy and is concerned that the RSA cited may become amended. To compensate for that, the policy will reference the statute as amended. This policy will be ready for review by the Board at their first meeting in September.
4. Re: RFP for Legal Services – RFP received from Drescher & Dokmo, P. A. Selectmen reviewed the qualifications of all three candidates for Town Counsel: Attorney Silas Little III, the Mitchell Group and Drescher & Dokmo. All are proficient in municipal law. Selectman Moser described Attorney Little as an excellent litigator but was concerned that no options were presented to the Selectmen by Attorney Little. Selectman Moser stated that he felt that Attorney Drescher was an excellent general municipal counselor. Selectman Richards expressed her preference for Attorney Little and commented that he had been representing the town for a long time. Chairman McGinnity his concerns for Attorney Little's recommendation on the Personnel Policy. Pros and cons were discussed on all three attorneys: travel time charges, timeliness of response, etc. Selectmen want a "broad spectrum" municipal attorney for the town. After further discussion, a motion was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative to accept the RFP from Attorney William Drescher of Drescher and Dokmo for Town Counsel, effective September 1, 2012. Letters will be sent to all the candidates to inform them of this decision. Selectmen will request Attorney Little to send the file on Will Johnson and to complete the work on the Fire Station ownership issue.
5. Re: Current Use Application, Jonas for lot J-76-4 – Town Assessor recommended that the current use application must match the map showing wetlands. After some discussion, Selectman Moser proposed that the Jonas' had waited long enough for action on their application and that the Board should approve this application. On Selectman Moser's recommendation the Board approved the current use application for the Jonas'.
6. Re: Town Website – Work on website is progressing. Email reminders will be sent to departments and committees that have not sent their information in for the website. Minutes for Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Board of Adjustment will be sent to the webmaster for uploading.

New Business:

1. Building Permits: #12-20 Dillberger, lot L-38 new house
2. From Robert Dillberger – request for waiver from Timber Tax. Selectmen discussed his request for waiver of the \$19 tax bill. Mr. Dillberger was aware that attaining a Building Permit prior to logging would have eliminated the need for an

July 10, 2012
Selectmen's Meeting/Approved Minutes

Intent to Cut. Unfortunately he chose to do the logging first. For this reason the Board denied his request for a waiver.

3. From Primex – notice of Premium Holiday – return of surplus to members resulted in a credit balance for the Town of \$12,598.33. These funds will be applied to the 2013 WC contribution.
4. From D.E.S. – Letter of Deficiency for McCaffrey Dam # 154-04 on Russell Road. Letter listed remedies for deficiencies and a timeline for Ms. McCaffrey to follow to avoid a penalty of \$2,000/day.
5. Police logs
6. PSNH rate changes effective July 1st - Energy Service Charge will be reduced by 18%.
7. Email notice from Road Agent of vacation time: July 21st – 28th. Kenneth Patria will be in charge of the Highway Department during that time.
8. Member Agreement, FY 2013 from LGC-PLIT
9. Other:
 - Abatement denial letters for Weiss, Old Ashby Road and Robinson, Wilton Road – Selectman Moser stated that he would not sign these letters as he did not feel knowledgeable about the reasons for the denial. He would like an explanation from Town Assessor Richard Rockwood to accompany these letters. After some discussion, the decision was made to hold the denial letters and to invite Mr. Rockwood to the next meeting to discuss the abatement applications. Selectman Moser also expressed his concern for Mr. Rockwood's attitude towards responding to the letters from the DRA appraisers. The letters were discussed at the last Board meeting with Mr. Rockwood. The feeling also was that some of the appraisal work has not been done on a timely basis. Chairman McGinnity questioned whether the Board should put together an RFP for a Town Assessor. He acknowledged that Mr. Rockwood has had some serious health issues in the last year and perhaps this is not the best time to suggest sending out RFPs. The decision was made to check on assessors listed by LGC and start working on a RFP for a town assessor.
 - Contracts – Selectmen discussed the need for a contract for all services over \$10,000. This will be further discussed at the July staff meeting.
 - Letters – Selectmen decided that the Admin. Assistant may sign general administrative letters for the Selectmen following the Board's decisions on these matters at a previous meeting.
 - Barbara Devore, resident, complained of loud music at the Driving Range. Apparently the Driving Range hosts some music groups on Thursday evenings. Mrs. Devore stated that some of these groups play until after 11 PM and can be heard as far as Valley Road and further. Chief Hutchins was present for this discussion. He mentioned that there was possibly a Selectmen's ordinance that had been adopted two years ago that required a police detail at the Driving Range due to the alcohol being served during events. This will be researched.
 - Other correspondence

July 10, 2012
Selectmen's Meeting/Approved Minutes

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara L. Milkovits
Administrative Assistant