



Selectmen Meeting 1/10/2017

Approved Minutes

Present: Selectmen Louise Lavoie, Bernie O'Grady, Charles Moser; Kathy Wile, Brenda Wiley; members of the public

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Louise Lavoie.

Approvals:

- Noted the payroll and check manifests had been signed.
- Minutes of the Dec 13, 2016 Selectmen Meeting were reviewed. There was a correction to delete on p 1 ; the letter "S" before the #2 under the NRPC contract. Louise moved to accept as amended, Bernie seconds – 2 votes to accept as amended. Charlie had not attended that meeting so abstained.
- Minutes of the Dec 27, 2016 Selectmen Meeting were reviewed. Charlie moved to accept as written, second by Bernie. 2 votes to accept as written. Louise had not attended that meeting so abstained.

New Business:

- **Contract had been received from Microtime for IT services** to both Mann House and Police Dept. Printed version reviewed by selectmen, noted that it was the amount agreed upon, and all services were clearly called out. Charlie moved to authorize the chair to sign the contract on behalf of the BOS, Bernie seconds. 3 votes to sign the printed contract. Charlie further moved to authorize Kathy to sign the electronic version to return to Microtime. Bernie seconds, 3 votes to authorize the electronic signature.
- **Schedule for Budget Hearings** was established. A preliminary run through with the Budget Advisory Committee will be held Jan 17, 2017 at 7:30. Formal Budget Hearing will be held on Jan 24, 2017 following the Highway building bond hearing.
- Bernie said **Ron Dube had requested some information** for the Town Report dedication he was working on. Louise and Kathy will coordinate getting that to him.
- Brenda requested there be a BOS **vote to approve applying for the TAN** loan for 2017. Charlie moved, Bernie seconds, that the board approve applying for a TAN in the amount of approximately \$750,000. Three votes to approve.
- **Mason Church Trustees and Treasurer** were present to discuss an abatement/potential exemption for a church property. Charlie recused himself from the conversation, saying he was a member of and auditor for the church, and he felt a conflict of interest. Mike Goen spoke for the church, saying that for the first time they received a tax bill for Lot E-48, the filed adjacent to the church building. He had spoken with the assessor, who explained the law to him, saying that parcel could be taxed, but does not need to be if the BOS so chooses. Mike said the church was there to request that the town grant the same exemption to the filed as is granted to the other 2 lots owned and used by the church. Bettie Goen, Darrell Scott and Keith Williams also spoke regarding the history of collaboration between town and church, sharing of resources, and a positive reciprocity.

Bernie commented that he had reviewed the case law attached, felt the Nashua case was not at all the same in particular, and that he was comfortable that the lot was regularly used and maintained by the church. Brenda agreed with Bernie's comments, and added the importance of working together in a positive way.

Bernie moved to grant an exemption from taxes for parcel E-48 for the future, second by Louise. 2 votes to grant an exemption upon receipt of annual application for E-48, with Charlie abstaining.

Trustees were reminded the abatement application is due March 1, and the deadline for the exemption application will be researched and shared with them once Kathy finds out.

Old Business:

- **Air quality testing at the Mann House** – air sampling had been done, results showed low levels of mold consistent with what would live in the carpeting/flooring. Recommendation to replace carpeting, install air filters for high particulate readings. Carpeting is tentatively scheduled to be replaced on Friday Jan 27th. Wally should oversee the process, and clean/treat the flooring underneath as needed.
- **Rail Trail Policy for Personal Mobility Devices**– Charlie has not gotten to confirming whether this was an ordinance vs policy question, and will be clear on the different policies for rail trail vs Quarry trails.
- **Internet at Mann House** – Dan from Microtime would be back Weds 1/11 to replace the noisy switch, check in regarding conduit/connections at both ends. Kathy was asked to find out about the cost and timing for the connection with the PD from the Mann House, as well as price differential between the 2 switches. It was decided that when the connection is made it would be a good idea for a photograph of town and school officials commemorating the partnership. Brandon Latham from the Monadnock Ledger said to give him a call.
- **Highway building bond article** is in progress – attorneys/bank have a copy of the audit report, will set the rate by next week and whatever paperwork required by the attorneys will be requested at that time. A more formal breakdown of costs will be needed for the hearing Jan 24th, and Bernie said the Highway Building Committee was working on that.
- **Forestry Fund money** – Brenda reported that Stephanie at DRA said to write a check from the general fund to the forestry fund for the amount (\$9500). Authority to spend that expires after a year anyway, so a new article would need to be presented to authorized spending it. Discussion of how public can know about the money in that fund – should be reported annually in Town Report, as does the Library for their funds.. Charlie moved to transfer \$9500, as voted as article 9 of the March 17, 2012 Town Meeting, from the General Fund back to the Forestry Fund. Bernie seconds, 3 votes to return \$9500 from general fund to forestry fund. Bernie will ensure a Forestry Committee report is added to the Annual Report.
- **K-9 fund** – Brenda has found that there was originally \$500 from the general fund voted to establish the K-9 fund. The first year, donations went through NH Chiefs of Police, who doubled all donations up to a total of \$5000. 2 other donors were also discovered. Final contribution to that fund came from the state as a result of drug arrests. Charlie said his understanding is that the Chiefs of Police and the donor would need to authorize re-purposing their donations to other police activities, and the town could vote on a warrant article for the other funds to be repurposed. Brenda will continue working on this.

Informational Items:

- **DES** sent a letter acknowledging receipt of application for subdivision on Turnpike Rd (under 5 acres/lot requires their approval).
- **Town of Bedford** sent notice of a public ZBA meeting regarding construction of communication/cell tower on Jan 17.

Public Forum:

- Charlie mentioned an email following up on a recent mailing from the Town of Pittsburgh regarding public utilities vs municipal control of local roads may be something Mason would want to get involved with. After brief conversation, he agreed to draft a letter of support.
- Barbara Devore suggested it may be good for the Highway Department to offer tours of their current facilities to help townspeople see/understand the need for a new building.
- Barbara also shared that the Conservation Commission had been contacted by a private foundation that is interested in funding work along the Rail Trail. CC will be discussing this offer further at their meeting of Jan 11.
- Final inquiry on a standard ROW along town roads? Concern that a house near the cascades had positioned a dumpster too close to the road. It was suggested the homeowner be contacted, and selectmen will look as well.
- It was determined that the Highway Dept capital reserve fund has \$3100 in it, following discussion about adding to that for future equipment purchases.

Adjourned:

Louise made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Charlie. Three votes to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Next meeting will be a preliminary budget meeting, to include the budget advisory committee, on Tues Jan 17, 2017 at the Mann House at 7:30 PM.

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be January 24th, 2017 at the Town Hall, and will follow the Bond Hearing and the Budget Hearing.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wile