

Selectmen's Meeting

12/16/13

Chairman Harry C. Merrow called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM. Present were: Robert C. Freeman, Richard H. Morgan and Martha B. Eldridge, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes, and Ellen White.

Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on Dec. 09, 2013. Merrow seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The contract with Lakes Region Humane Society was presented. The Board agreed with the changes that have been made. Merrow made a motion the sign the contract. Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received the weekly report from December 09 thru December 14 from the Highway Department.

The payroll voucher for the week ending 12/14/13 was submitted in the amount of \$51,151.43. Merrow made a motion to approve and sign the voucher. Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The accounts payable voucher for the week ending 12/14/13 was submitted in the amount of \$834,137.45. Merrow made a motion to approve and sign the voucher. Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Kellie Skehan, Tax Collector/Town Clerk submitted a Grant Agreement from the State of NH Dept. of Cultural Resources New Hampshire State Library last week. The grant was for \$9,887.00 to conserve, microfilm and digitize Ossipee Town Records dated 1790-1847. Due to miss-understandings of two of the Selectmen, the grant application was denied last week and added to the agenda for re-consideration this week. Merrow made a motion to support this grant application. Freeman seconded. Morgan voted no. The motion carried.

A copy of a check from NRRA in the amount of \$1,181.70 for recycling materials was received.

A Timber Tax Warrant in the amount of \$1,468.10 was submitted for signatures. Merrow made a motion to approve and sign this warrant. Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An application for an abatement was received for property located at Ossipee Mtn. Estates. The mobile home was removed and a jeopardy tax was paid at the time.

Merrow made a motion to approve and sign this abatement. Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a copy of the "Watershed Happenings".

The Board received an invitation to "Chamber After Hours" hosted by the "Arts in Motion Theater Company" on Dec. 17th at the Eastern Slope Inn Playhouse.

The Board received an Education Tax Warrant for the Tax Year of 2014 from the Dept. of Revenue Administration. "In accordance with the provisions of RSA 76:8 II, you are hereby required to assess the sum of \$1,658,523. 00 for the 2014 Education Tax. Per RSA 76:3, this amount is based on the uniform rate of \$2.480/1000 of the 2012 equalized valuation without utilities in the amount of \$668,759,182."

The Board received a letter from Laura Paige in reference to her latest tax bill and the change in her assessment. The Board suggested the letter be turned over to the Assessor and an appointment made to meet with her.

Brad Harriman stated the Whittier Bridge project is still on-going.

He also reported that they will be meeting with James Rines, of White Mtn. Survey to review plans for the sidewalks.

The Board reported that they will be meeting with DOT to review plans for the Rte 28 & 171 intersection traffic issues.

Christine White, resident on Moultonville Rd, came in to meet with the Board in reference to damage being done to her home and vehicle by the town plow trucks. White submitted pictures of the damage. White's home sits very close to the edge of the road. She maintains that when the plow trucks pass by her property it throws snow, salt and sand on her home and vehicles. Harriman responded to her complaints and stated that he did not believe that this was intentional by the truck driver. Harriman agreed to talk with the driver to see if anything can be done.

This concluded the business portion of the meeting and Merrow opened the meeting to public input.

Chester "Ski" Kwiatkowski asked if the Board had met with the assessor to discuss how some of the valuations had been arrived at. The Board had not met with the assessor, but Merrow said he sat in on a couple of the meetings with the assessor and the taxpayer. Kwiatkowski stated that his only concern is that all are being treated fairly. The Board agreed to try to talk with the assessor this week.

Pam Stockbridge, employee of Ossipee Chipping came in to talk to the Board about the change in assessment of the chipping plant. Stockbridge was referred to the Assessor.

Melissa Seamans asked what happened with Jim Skehan's issues with the increase in his assessment. The Board stated that he met with the assessor.

Seamans asked if taxpayers are notified in advance of increases in their assessments. The Board said they are not.

Seamans asked what cuts the Board intends to do to make up for twice as much being asked for to provide ambulance service. The Board had no response.

Seamans suggested taking a look at the combining of the Fire Depts. and the Rescue Squad.

Being no further input, Merrow made a motion to adjourn. Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Adjourned at 5:25 pm

Harry C. Merrow, Chairman

Robert C. Freeman

Richard H. Morgan
To be approved 12/23/13