

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, December 28, 2015

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM. Present were Selectmen Richard Morgan, Robert Freeman, and Franklin Riley, and Elaine Sherman, Finance & Benefits Administrator, who recorded the minutes.

Morgan opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Department Head Meeting & Workshop held on 12/21/2015. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on 12/21/2015. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Payroll Voucher was submitted for the week ending 12/26/2015 in the amount of \$152,252.14. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the voucher. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Accounts Payable Voucher was submitted for the week ending 12/19/2015 in the amount of \$257,213.56. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the voucher. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Morgan commented that the budget is still in good shape with approximately 5.4% remaining. He added that more bills will be submitted for payment from the 2015 budget but we are on track to not only meet all our expenses but have a sizeable amount left over to add to the unassigned fund balance.

The Highway Department Work Log was received for the week ending 12/26/2015.

An Intent to Cut Timber was received from Jason Moody for the property located on Map 132, Lot 4. The intent is to cut 1.5 acres of the 2.5 acre parcel and the logger listed is Douglas Kenny. The taxes are paid and there is no cemetery noted. Morgan made a motion to approve the intent. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Current Use Land Use Change Tax Collector's Warrant was submitted for property located on Map 29, Lot 1 and owned by JB & TA Enterprises. The warrant is for \$0.00. Morgan made a motion to sign the warrant. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An Intent to Cut Timber was received from Thomas & Heather Lewis for the property located on Map 223, Lot 15. The intent is to cut 19 acres of the 20.93 acre parcel and the logger listed is Brandon Valley. The taxes are paid and there is no cemetery noted. Morgan made a motion to approve the intent. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions (Veteran's Credit) was reviewed. Morgan stated that the Assessor had previously reviewed it. Morgan made a motion to approve the application. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A request for an abatement was received for the property owned by 2012 Foresight Realty Trust Holding for the property located on Map 239, Lot 001. The reason for the abatement is due to the change in assessment for this property. The first half tax bill exceeded the new total due for the entire year resulting in an abatement of \$482.00. Morgan made a motion to approve the abatement. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A request for an abatement was received for property owned by Robert and Ester Roakes for the property located on Map 223, Lot 008. As there was confusion regarding the details of the reason for abatement, Morgan suggested they hold this application over until next week. No objections were made.

A Request for an abatement was received for the property owned by Rabedo LLC for the property located on Map 96, Lot 002. The reason for the abatement is due to the change in assessment for this property. The first half tax bill exceeded the new total due for the entire year resulting in an abatement of \$100.00. Morgan made a motion to approve the abatement. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for an abatement was received for the property owned Green Oak Realty Dev, LLC for the property located on Map 235, Lot 004. The reason for the abatement is due to the change in assessment for this property. The first half tax bill exceeded the new total due for the entire year resulting in an abatement of \$903.00. Morgan made a motion to approve the abatement. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for an Abatement was received for the property owned by George Denoncour for the property located on Map 238, Lot 007. The reason for the abatement is due to the change in assessment for this property. The first half tax bill exceeded the new total due for the entire year resulting in an abatement of \$469.00. Morgan made a motion to approve the abatement. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for an abatement was received for the property owned by Cold Country Trust for the property located on Map 252, Lot 029. The reason for the abatement is due to the change in assessment for this property. The first half tax bill exceeded the new total due for the entire year resulting in an abatement of \$2.00. Morgan made a motion to approve the abatement. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for an Abatement was received for the property owned by Cate Family Enterprises LLC for the property located on Map 051, Lot 002. The reason for the abatement is due to the change in assessment for this property. The first half tax bill exceeded the new total due for the entire year resulting in an abatement of \$5.00. Morgan made a motion to approve the abatement. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for an Abatement was received for the property owned by Mark W. Washburn for the property located on Map 228, Lot 003. The reason for the abatement is due to the change in assessment for this property. The first half tax bill exceeded the new total due for the entire year resulting in an abatement of \$85.00. Morgan made a motion to approve the abatement. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A memo from the Selectmen to the Trustee of Trust Funds requesting the reimbursement to the town of funds from the Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve funds in the amount of \$1,260.00 was presented. This was for an invoice from White Mountain Survey for work on the Valley Road Bridge. Morgan made a motion to approve the request. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Another memo from the Selectmen to the Trustee of Trust Funds requesting the reimbursement to the town of funds from the Whittier Covered Bridge Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of \$107,100.00 was presented. This was for a bill from 3G Construction. Morgan made a motion to approve the request. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The General Assessing Proposal for the Town was submitted by our current contractor Granite Hill Municipal Services. Morgan stated they are acting on an agreement to enter into a one-year contract from 1/16/2016 to 12/31/2016 with an option to extend for an additional four years through 12/31/2020. The first year would give the Selectmen time to ensure that no serious discrepancies or problems arise from the current reassessment before contracting further. Morgan made a motion to approve the contract amended to one year. Freeman seconded. Being no further discussion a unanimous vote was taken.

A Contract for Use of Facilities was received from Angela Eldridge. The request is for the use of 2 tables and 30 chairs. Morgan made a motion to approve the request. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A letter was received from CarePlus Ambulance Service, Inc. announcing the change from two locations to one response location located at 570 Plains Road in Tamworth on January 1, 2016 and that they will be moving their crew from the Ossipee station to the Plains Road location by March 1, 2016. The letter stated that Mitch Gove, their Field Operations Manager, ensures this location will meet the required response times for each Town. Morgan stated that as long as CarePlus continues to meet their response times he has no issue as to where they store their equipment.

A memo from Chuck Stuart, Carroll County's Finance Director, will be available for review to anyone interested in doing so. The memo attached an amended copy of the MS-46 for the 2016 Budget, highlighting changes to Column 1 of the Estimated Revenues Previous Fiscal Year to eliminate overstated amounts and Column 3 Proposed Budget Ensuing Fiscal Year changes to provide a more efficient and transparent presentation of the budget.

A memo from Town Administrator, Ellen White, stating she has reviewed the 2016 Lakes Region Humane Society Animal Shelter Agreement and verifies there is no change from the 2015 agreement. Morgan made a motion to sign the agreement. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A second memo from Town Administrator, Ellen White, outlining the steps required to correct an error with the Certificate of Authorizing Resolution from HealthTrust's Application and Membership Agreement that was signed on 12/14/2015 was reviewed. An updated Certificate of Authorizing Resolutions naming Rick Morgan to execute and deliver the HealthTrust documents, the Cobra Administrative Services Agreement and Retiree Billing Administrative Services Agreement were submitted for signature. Morgan made a motion to sign the documents. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Old Business:

Whittier Covered Bridge – No update as Brad Harriman is on vacation.

Highway Garage – Morgan stated a meeting was held recently and things are progressing nicely.

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

Public Input:

Carol Holyoake, Reporter for the Carroll County Independent, asked if the Selectmen would like to comment on the year in review.

Selectman Morgan said that it has been a very busy year. Starting off with ratifying the multi town ambulance contract with a significant savings to the taxpayers. He stated we have an awesome staff at Town Hall and credited the improvement in communications between the Town's departments in part to the monthly scheduled Department Head meetings everyone was attending. He added that the Finance Team also meets monthly to brainstorm and plan for the actual cash flow, timing our purchases to when we had the most money. Not having to borrow until October is proof of that success.

Selectman Riley mentioned the success of the Whittier Covered Bridge project. The current phase has been completed even though they were challenged by a few issues that required extra work. He said they worked with the State to get that approved and now they are ready to begin the next phase which is the abutment work and then getting it put back across the river. He said everyone is looking forward to that. Riley stated the Board has been actively working with and has been readily available to the department heads at any time to assist as needed. He echoed Morgan's praise of the Town's staff and added they have done some great things in managing the Town and he appreciates it.

Selectman Freeman noted the Bayle Mountain fire which was a test of the Town's resources. He said we came out on top, being able to pay all the bills from within the overall budget was major. He also commented on the staff stating that he enjoyed working with them.

Discussion ensued regarding the challenges that other unforeseen events have had on the budget and how they would be funded if the budget couldn't allow for it.

Morgan stated that moving forward the work on the Valley Road Bridge when completed will complete the Red listed bridges. That is a huge accomplishment. He talked about the construction of the Highway Garage and the plan to complete it without borrowing.

Holyoake said she heard that Mountain Girl Bakery was closing and asked if there is any help available for small businesses from the Economic Development Committee. The selectmen each said they were sad to see both the bakery and the variety store on Route 16 close. Morgan stated that funds have been added to the 2016 budget for Economic Development and hopes the Adhoc committee will succeed in drawing and keeping small businesses open in Ossipee. He encourages town people to support all our small business.

On behalf of the Selectmen, Employees and Ossipee town's people, Morgan wished everyone a safe and prosperous Happy New Year.

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

Adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Richard H. Morgan, Chairman

Franklin R. Riley

Robert C. Freeman

To be approved 1/04/2016