

Selectmen's Meeting

01/13/14

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.

Freeman made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on Jan. 06, 2014. Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Merrow made a motion to approve the minutes for a Public Hearing held on 10/07/13. Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. (These minutes had been misplaced by Eldridge and not yet approved)

A job description for a laborer's position was submitted for approval. After review of the job description, Merrow made a motion to approve it. Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Use of Facility Contract was received from the Civil Air Patrol to use the town hall on Monday evenings from 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm for training. Merrow made a motion to approve and sign this contract. Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Use of Facility Contract was received from Kelly Jean Smith to use the gym on Sunday 2-02-14 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm for a birthday party. Merrow made a motion to approve and sign this contract. Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The payroll voucher for the week ending 01/11/14 was submitted in the amount of \$51,824.00. 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 01/11/14 was submitted in the amount of \$35,306.88. Merrow made a motion to approve and sign the voucher. Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Timber Tax Warrant in the amount of \$100.26 was received. Merrow made a motion to approve this warrant. Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Supplemental Intent to Cut was received from Edward Capron to cut 75 acres of a 130 acre parcel of land located on Route 16 Map 99 Lot 28.

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

The Board read a letter addressed to Michelle Marshall, State of NH Safety Engineer supporting a long-term solution proposed for the installation of right-turn lanes at the intersections of Routes 28 and 171. The Board also requested NHDOT to research the possibility of placing a traffic light at the intersection. The Board requested to have conduits or other necessary materials in place for the future installation of said traffic light during the road construction for the right-turn lanes. Merrow made a motion to sign this letter. Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board reviewed and signed a welcome letter to a new business in town. This will be done in the future when a new business comes to Ossipee. Best Wishes and assistance will be extended to all.

Chairman Merrow signed the 941 quarterly report for 2013's 4th quarter.

The Highway Work Log for the week ending 01/11/14 was received.

The Board received “Notes from Research” regarding the Reverse 911 Program from Melissa Seamans. It appears to be a difference in the information Seamans had discovered and what Emergency Management Assistant Freeman had reported. The Board asked Ellen White to take over this project.

The Board received an invitation from the Natural Resources in the Lakes Region: Regional Stories, Trends & Goals for the Future. The workshop is scheduled for 1-31-14 from 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM at the Meredith Community Center.

The Board received a thank you to the Ossipee PD for coming to the rescue of a property owner at the Lakefront Landing on Pequawket Trail with issues regarding the weather conditions. The property owner was very grateful that Ossipee has the police force they have.

The Board received a thank you from Michelle Marshall, State Highway Safety Engineer, for allowing her to present the Road Safety Audit. Marshall requested a letter of support from the Town in reference to the plan.

The Board received a copy of a letter sent to a property owner located at 595 Route 16 informing them of further survey work in the area needed in order to continue with bridge replacement projects scheduled.

The “Watershed News” was received by the Board.

The Board received a notice from the “North Country Council Disaster Resiliency Coordination Project”. This is regarding funding to support disaster recovery. This was forwarded to Assistant Emergency Director, Freeman.

Morrow addressed Brad Harriman in reference to snowplowing near the freight house. It was stated that the banks should be cleared enough to allow snowmobile traffic to have parking and access to the abutting restaurant. Harriman agreed to look into this.

Christopher and Cindy Stone attended the meeting to ask the Board to grant a right-of way or an easement to a parcel of land located at the end of Birch Tree Lane. The Board requested a detailed letter for what they are requesting. The information supplied by the Stone’s will be researched before any decision will be made.

The Board suggested that department heads attend the scheduled workshop for the Budget Committee.

Morrow excused himself from the meeting to attend another commitment.

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

Harriman reported that he had to close a portion of Pine Hill Rd. due to ice and water. It appears that change in the weather is correcting the problem.

Morrow asked Harriman if the \$80,000.00 warrant article for the Whittier Covered Bridge will be enough to finish the bridge and put it back on the embankment. Harriman stated that he believes it will.

Harriman reported that the new entry system to the Selectmen’s Office back door should be installed this week.

Morrow asked when the walls will be insulated in the Selectmen's Office where the freeze up took place. Harriman told him that when the renovations in the tax office are being done, this issue will be dealt with.

Chester "Ski" Kwiatkowski reported that he and Jean Hansen have been attending the meetings at Highwatch, as the Selectmen's Representatives. He reported that they have made many improvements to the facility and grounds. They now have 5 EMT's vs the 3 they had. They now have webinars aimed to law enforcement being held on the 3rd Thurs. of the month at 3:00 PM.

Kwiatkowski asked if the Use of Facility Permit could be used for the freight house as it is for the Town Hall. The Board stated that this is done for all town facilities.

Melissa Seamans asked about the paving on Sawyer Rd. (the Tuftonboro portion) Seamans stated that this was not part of the Master Plan for Tuftonboro. Harriman responded by saying that a portion of Lang Pond Rd. in Wolfeboro was paved. And a portion was located in Tuftonboro and they paid for this. (Harriman wondered if this was part of Tuftonboro's Master Plan).

Seamans asked if money had been appropriated in the past for Reverse 911. Morgan said yes it has, but not used. Morgan stated that they may look at a warrant article for the coming year to raise money or they will be looking into the option through the State that has no charge.

Kevin Straughan, for Agape Ministries came in to see the Board. He stated that he had received a letter with a time line for the taxes. Straughan asked why they had not been given the exemption for this property. He stated that the final decision for an abatement is made by the Board of Selectmen. The Board asked Straughan to write to them and recap what he has done in applying for the exemption. The Board of Selectmen agreed to talk with the assessor about the denial of the exemption.

Seamans asked for the RSA dealing with the charitable exemption. White agreed to get that for her.

Being no further input, Freeman made a motion to recess until 6:00 PM for a meeting with the Fire Chiefs and Care/Plus. Morgan seconded. The motion carried.

Recessed at 5:15 pm

Selectman Freeman made a motion to come out of recess at 6:04 PM. Selectman Morgan seconded. Present were Selectmen Robert C. Freeman, and Richard H. Morgan, Fire Chiefs' Adam Riley, Mike Brownell, and Carl Huddleston, Scott Quilty and Mitch Gove from CarePlus Ambulance, and Martha Eldridge, Town Administrator, and Ellen White who recorded the minutes.

Riley stated the draft contract presented is comprised of parts from the old contract from 4-5 years ago, the old contract with Lifestar/Ossipee Valley EMS, and part of the temporary contract in place.

Selectman Morgan asked Quilty and Gove if they had a chance to read through the contract. Quilty responded that they just received it and had only skimmed through it. He further requested some time to read through it thoroughly.

Morgan stated that there was a section in American Ambulance's proposal where the Town would be reimbursed any profit over 8 percent. He also discussed the proposal from CarePlus which states their ability to increase their rates with 30-days notice. Quilty stated that the rates published are more of a guideline which is adjusted based on insurance and Medicare. He stated there is a figure of profit figured into the proposal. Morgan stated he would like to see the ability to recoup a portion of any profit to offset the expense of the service.

Selectman Morgan discussed the option of entering into a multi-town agreement in which case the number of ambulances proposed to be in Town must be available for a call. He stated in the past, the Town of Ossipee has always paid the higher share for the service and surrounding communities were taking advantage of the service. Quilty stated he is in favor of a multi-town agreement basing the operating rate on population.

Chief Brownell discussed the issue with the current contract where the ambulances are not being designated to the Town as should be. Moving forward in the new contract, fines will be enforced if the allotted ambulances are not available to provide service. Quilty asked if there has been a situation where an ambulance was not available. Riley stated he encountered that situation over the weekend.

Chief Riley presented a discrepancy in the current contract, namely #13, where it states a fine to be implemented if a tertiary truck is not made available. This is a contradiction to #2, stating two ambulances would be made available in the current contract. Quilty and Gove were both unaware of this discrepancy and stated it would be corrected. Morgan stated that the issues they faced with the last contract will cause additional scrutiny with current ambulance service.

Chief Brownell stated a clause was added that with unanimous vote of the Selectmen and Fire Chiefs' the contract could be canceled at anytime. Morgan stated that the former breakdown of communication with the Board and Chiefs is now on track to be restored.

Chief Huddleston stated that the contract is written as if there were no other commitments other than to Ossipee which is the main goal. He does not want to see an incident where all trucks are called to another town and Ossipee is left uncovered. If one of Ossipee's trucks is called out of Town, the truck covering Tamworth should then move into Ossipee. He stated there has to be a mechanism in place where we can get sufficient coverage in the event of a mass casualty.

Selectman Morgan stated the desire to capture a call in the surrounding community that is part of tri-town agreement is leaving Ossipee without the coverage required as part of our agreement. Chief Brownell stated the need for Ossipee to have two trucks available. In comparison to the Town of Wakefield, they have two trucks available with statistical reason as a comparable size town.

Quilty requested some time to review the contract and then sit down to review it further. A meeting was scheduled for 10:00 AM on Monday, 1/20/14 between the Fire Chiefs' and CarePlus.

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

Adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Harry C. Merrow

Robert C. Freeman

Richard H. Morgan

To be approved 01/27/2014

