

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

December 13, 1999

PRESENT:

Lois Briere - Selectman
Gordon Carlstrom - Selectman
Burton Reynolds - Town Administrator

ABSENT:

Susan Clay - Selectman illness

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:08 PM by Gordon Carlstrom.

PUBLIC COMMENT

It was noted that Mary Statt had passed away. In recent years, she had helped at the library.

APPOINTMENTS

A) Conservation, Forestry, and FLESA members gathered to discuss how we can identify open space parcels of at least 25 acres and then how do we encourage the owners to keep them from development. The study approved via last March's warrant article is a first step toward parcel identification. Bob Todd suggested a committee be formed to look at all the ways property can be kept open. That group would also be charged with drafting a guidebook that would assist the public should they want to consider an easement or a development rights transfer, etc. Selectman Carlstrom emphasized leveraging the resources we have and using any state program that come into being such as the old REPP. Sue Martin reminded everyone that there also need to be funds to help manage the lands. Is what we get through the timber tax and Current Use Land Change Tax enough? Who else can assist us? Bob Fesinger wanted the committees to decide what projects to bring forward as they had the most knowledge. It was noted, however, that anyone can submit a petitioned warrant article. Kim DiPetro wanted to be sure landowners whose land is targeted be advised. They may need to be selling their property for retirement and may not share our desire that it not be developed.

B) Kate Fitzpatrick made a presentation on behalf of a program she runs called Host Homes. It is for children who need a place to stay for a short period. Chief McLaughlin has said he probably has six or so cases a year when he could use a resource like this. The cost to the Town would be \$1,500/ year. The Board was not sure whether to just include it in the budget or to place it on a warrant article, given the minimal cost.

C) Pat MacQueen and Steve Griffin from Municipal Resources presented their ideas for a review of our Planning and Building Depts. They have been in business since 1989 and have done many such studies for towns. They were to send a copy of a couple. The cost of \$3,500 is for 40 hours of Steve's time to prepare a report for the Town. The focus can be whatever we want it to be. Given the size of our operation, they felt cost savings were unlikely, but did expect to be able to offer advice on operational issues which hopefully would lead to better service and a more productive department. It would also address options for how to handle the long-range planning functions.

MINUTES

Minutes of the 11/29/99 meeting were approved after a typo is corrected.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) How we will be handling overtime has been reviewed with the Department Heads. There is really little change. More just implementing and clarifying what is already in the "policy and procedures" manual. One new clarification will be that police will receive overtime when they are called out in a week when they have not actually worked 40 hours because one of the days that week was a holiday. This will only happen a few times per year.
- 2) No additional Planning Issues were discussed.
- 3) It has been suggested by Finance that the Selectmen become involved in the purchase arrangements for the Whipple Barn for the library and recreation. The burden has been on library trustees Don Chapman and Tim Cady. If this is to be a Town building, then the Selectmen should be involved at some point. This would seem to be the time. Burton and Gordon will set-up a meeting with Don and Tim as a start.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Employees wanted to know if the Town would increase the Health Care Spending Account limit from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Gordon noted that unlike the Child Care Account, where the amount you can spend is only what you have put away in the account, HCSA works differently. With it, you can spend the whole amount right at the beginning of the year despite the fact there will not be \$2,000 in the account until the end of the year. If someone leaves, the Town would have to pay for what they used if it is over their contributions. The Board agreed to increase the limit to \$1,500 instead of the \$2,000 requested.
- 2) A subdivision for David Poole involves a sliver of land along the road that he wants to deed to the Town. This was researched, and the Board can accept it after holding a public hearing so a hearing was scheduled for 1/3/00 as part of the Board meeting.
- 3) A sample of the readout from the new fuel system installed at the highway shed was shared. It will detail what department got what fuel on what date.
- 4) Ed Barrett, the Town Administrator in Weare, wrote asking if we wanted to get together on PSNH issues. Both towns have a lot of outages. The Board was not sure what could be accomplished or whether there was a global issue to be solved. The outages this year were reviewed and it did not seem there was a systems issues to be addressed. A lot of tree cutting was done and that probably helps as much as anything.

5) The draft of a letter to be sent to all town property owners by the Selectmen and School Board was approved. The cost is to be covered by funds allocated to the town by the legislature to help explain the Statewide Education Property Tax.

6) Have selected candidates for both the Planning Dept clerical position and the Bookkeeping opening. Waiting for formal acceptance from both. The Bookkeeper was in for a trial day at it today. The Planning secretary would not start until after the 1st of the year.

7) A letter from Forestry asked if they could replace Mr. Constance on the committee because he has come to no recent meetings and has not returned phone calls. Burton will write to him and if no reply, an ad asking for a new member will be placed in the Bulletin for January.

A motion to adjourn by Gordon Carlstrom was 2nd by Lois Briere at 10:50 PM.

Burton Reynolds
Town Administrator