

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
Monday, March 6, 2017 – 10:00AM

Present: Dave McGuckin, Chair, Bill Stewart, Selectman, Tom Maher, Selectman, and Bette Jane Riordan, Secretary.

Also present: Pam Cullen, Administrative Assistant to the Select Board, Chief Don White, Jim Cerny, John Ireland, Tom Smith, Richard Grenier, Paul Hamblett.

1. Minutes February 6, and 21st, 2017.

The minutes of the February 6th and 21st meetings of the Select Board will be deferred to next meeting for review and adoption.

2. Public Question and Answer:

a. Richard Grenier from Gilford NH regarding the Fire Boat.

Richard Grenier, Chair of the Guilford Select Board, and his Town Administrator, Scott Dunn advised the Board that he had come before the New Castle Select Board shortly after New Castle acquired the fire boat from Portsmouth and said he'd be back to see if the boat met the Board's expectations, as the Town of Guilford is still interested in the boat. Chair McGuckin replied that it had, and related that the boat is currently docked near the village and stressed that the boat is a secondary resource for the town in the densely populated village area. He noted that the boat can also be housed at the Wentworth Marina.

Selectman Maher stated his neighbor is a captain and has recruited crew who even in winter have been out training, practicing, repairing the vessel, testing its abilities, and continue to build a crew. The Select Board informed Mr. Grenier that they are going to hold onto this vital resource, but said to check back at a later time, and New Castle understands that Guilford remains interested.

3. Items.

a. Veterans Tax Warrant.

Pam Cullen explained that contrary to earlier information, the Town is not required to place this expanded veterans tax credit article before the voters at this Town Meeting. New Castle does still have to continue to offer the \$500 currently offered tax reduction benefit. The new provision expands the tax credit to more veterans regardless of length or type of service. Pam stated that at present, 67 veterans receive the credit costing the town approximately \$33,000 annually. Both Selectman Maher and Chair McGuckin expressed they were not in favor of this expansion at this time. Selectman Stewart felt the current veteran credit provides support and appreciation to our veterans and that there have been no requests to change the current structure at this time. After further discussion, the Select Board agreed to revisit this in a year.

b. Water and Sewer Warrant Article.

Selectman Stewart reported that New Castle is still negotiating with Portsmouth over the upgrade of the line along the entire length of Rte. 1B. He also noted that a draft of a warrant article has been done. He further outlined the deadlines which need to be met.

April 4th is the public hearing on the budget. April 24th is the last day to post the budget and warrant article.

Selectman Stewart stated that consideration is being given to private roads allowing for them to upgrading their water lines and repay the Town over time. Bringing these private roads in would benefit the entire system including increase of fire flows. Our attorneys are currently reviewing this matter.

Selectman Stewart stated that he will be consulting with Peter Tarlton and others in Town who have expressed an interest in reviewing the warrant article and funding solutions. The article will allow for different options for payment terms with different providers.

With respect to sewer, Selectman Stewart recapped the situation which is basically that the infrastructure is in bad shape, and the pumps need to be replaced. A study was completed which highlighted what the options were and how much each cost. For the Cadillac of option it would cost \$3million to have new above ground pump stations. A less expensive option which Selectman Stewart supports is to continue to have submersible pumps, electronics above ground, with above ground remote monitoring. We have received a bid for this second option. This will be discussed with the Water and Sewer Commission for their input. The Town does still need to do the bypass project which is the back up plan for pump failure.

Selectman Stewart stated that he and the accountant have been looking at Water and Sewer funds to help determine options for sewer funding.

c. Water quality project.

Chair McGuckin reported the Town recently failed the last quarter, with our average being .83 when .80 is the goal. We are improving. The town is however required to send out notices to residents, as well as submit a remediation plan to DES by end of March, showing how the reduction of TTHM's will be reduced so the Town can get back in compliance.

d. Old Ambulance vehicle.

The Select Board discussed the need for a policy for capital items which need to be sold or replaced. Should they sell the item, advertise it, or send it out for bid. It was noted that any monies derived from sale do end up in the General Fund. Rather than leave this to department heads,, Selectman Stewart stated he felt strongly the process should be centralized with the Select Board. After further discussion, it was determined that ambulance would be sold by the Selectboard via sealed bid, and advertised on the NHMA website.

e. Budget.

Selectman Stewart stated that the Board has put together an operating budget working with department heads. This will be discussed at Budget Committee in the next day . There is a slight increase of .5% on the operating budget excluding warrant articles.

f. Temporary speed reduction on Rte. 1B.

Chair McGuckin explained that it is time to apply for the 4-month speed reduction grant. The area to be covered will be the same, and the speed reduced to 20 mph. Chief White reported that the reduction made a difference last year, and supports doing it again. The causeway will remain at 30 mph. The reduction will be in effect from May 15 through September 15th.

g. US Army National Guard request for road race.

The Select Board approved the request for April 9 12 mile road race for 25 persons, (military) and requests use of the landing. Chief White reported he supports this and will have the on duty officer available.

h. Steve Tabbutt - new sewer line update.

Steve reported that the new sewer line coming from Pierce Island is being installed, as they are shifting lines at the River Road pumping station. During the interruption Portsmouth is paying for trucks to haul material from River Road station. Steve did not anticipate any problems.

4. Old Business - None.

5. New Business:

a. Town Administrator:

Chair McGuckin announced that the funding for this position has been put in the budget. A complete job description is being developed and it is hoped this can be implemented when funds become available after July 1st.

b. Public Information Meeting.

Chair McGuckin proposed having a meeting similar to the one held on January 17th in order for the people who winter in the south and were away, could get the same information prior to Town Meeting. After much discussion it was agreed to hold this informational meeting either May 1 or 2. Informational materials should be available prior to the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Selectman Stewart made a Motion to Adjourn with Selectman Maher seconding. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 PM.