

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 5, 2016

At the Selectmen's meeting held on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Mark Lufkin, Wendy Hersom, and Peter Corey.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

John Ross, Jr., Whitefield Fire Chief, was in attendance to present his 2017 budget for Whitefield Fire Rescue. Peter asked about the container, John said they have no storage at the Fire Station and would like to get a storage container to put some of their items in. We were going to discuss the building space when Shawn gets here. Wendy was wondering about the increase in salaries and John said in anticipation of increased calls and they are starting to do transfers. For the radio contract with Lancaster, the Fire-Rescue was going to pay \$2,750 and the P.D. was going to do \$2,000. John said they are looking to put an AED on the first new engine. John is going to take the end room here in the town office building, and we were hoping on using the middle room for storage. Shawn said we are going to limit what is going in that middle room. The records we don't use can go upstairs. Mr. Pons asked about storage areas and are the loading issues ok—are the weights applicable? Shawn said when we had the architect and builder here they told us it was built to take the weight of the storage and that is why we are using it for storage. Mr. Pons was worried about records being damaged, etc. The permanent records are stored in the vault at the Bank of NH. Mossy had a new member to be approved, which he left with the Selectmen.

John has the number of calls to Dalton (17%) 83 out of 491 calls for 2016. We should notify Dalton soon, as they are working on finalizing their budgets as well. Total cost of calls was \$421 and if you factor in the revenue we were losing \$177. It makes up in the revenue what Dalton is not paying. Dalton was paying \$94 a call. Wendy said that was when Dalton doing 14% of the calls in 2015. We want to raise it and come up with something that is rationale. Tom said we should look at the number of non-billable calls—non-transports. Many fewer in Dalton because they handle those themselves. John has seen \$14 to \$15 per capita other towns charge to cover ambulance services. Whitefield population is 2,134. The ambulance is going to Dalton 17% of the time, and they pay \$7,500 flat fee. Mark thought there was an issue with us covering the calls. Peter said he feels it is certainly fair to ask them for \$14,000, and it is certainly a bargain. Wendy said if we could pay Dalton \$14 per capita for ambulance coverage, we would be golden. If we use John's figure that some towns \$13-\$15 per capital and the planning 933 residents in Dalton at the \$14 rate then it would be \$13,062 and at the \$15 rate it would be \$13,995. We lose \$177 a call right now for Dalton. In 2015 after revenues it was about \$100,000 to run the ambulance and 14% of that is for Dalton, \$14,000. Mark said he felt we should double what they pay now, making it \$15,000. Wendy and Peter agreed with Mark, and Judy will tell John to tell Dalton \$15,000. John had to leave for a call.

Shawn White attended the meeting to review his 2017 budget. Shawn said he went through on the salaries and used a standard 3%--some might be a little over and some might be a little under. Shawn said we are carrying 29 weeks of the pay for the person who will be shared between the highway and water department. Shawn increased the overtime budget, this year we have quite a bit of overtime left because of the mild winter in 2015-16.

Shawn decreased his vehicle fuel by \$10,000. Fuel is back down so Shawn feels we are covered going with \$30,000. Chloride is down by \$1,500. Instead of the backhoe and going every year for the grader we have built that in to the budget \$23,300 so ultimately we take the backhoe rental out of the warrant articles.

The light replacement is for the LED light conversion will raise the budget by \$38,500, we will get \$14,000 back from Eversource, but that includes the fixtures and installation. When the lights are replaced, the electricity costs will decrease by half. The transfer station budget is up \$1,589 or 1.1% increase. Street Sewer remains the same.

Shawn reviewed with the Board the items he reviewed with the CIP Committee. The fire station needs to be dug up and repaved and the town office needs to have a top coat. We need to do the base coat and top coat down back. Shawn would like to replace the bailer and he hopes to pay for it out of the operating budget.

Shawn said he has the last payment on the grader lease, which he would also like to pay for out of this year's budget. He feels we will have \$40,000 in surplus at the end of the year. Shawn said he has 22% as of today left in his budget. Shawn would like to expend \$24,000 to pay off the grader out of his operating budget. As long as there is a line item he thinks he can do it. Shawn said on his budget end, the \$112,000 paving budget he has. He has an asphalt line item for \$113,000. Shawn said he feels there is enough money in the budget to cover the cost of the mapping upgrade as well. There was a question with respect to the legality of paying the grader lease out of this year's budget. We will check with Town Counsel. Mr. Pons mentioned that there may be an advantage to paying off the lease early.

Shawn wants to fund out of his unused budget the mapping project budget \$8,000, and the grader payment. Shawn said we have not had a winter like this since he has been here.

Terry Lufkin asked Wendy if there was an airport meeting tomorrow night—Wendy said Wednesday night is the meeting for the airport public budget hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Shawn has an issue for our sand pile for resident's sand. Shawn said last year wasn't bad, but there is no way to control what they have. People fill the back of their trucks up. Shawn said it is out of hand. We have a contractor who doesn't live in town. He tells him he is using the sand for town residents and not billing them. Shawn thinks it is wrong. Lancaster has a pile at the transfer station that people can use sand from. Shawn is wondering what the limitations are. Peter said he doesn't see why we give sand away. Peter said he purchases his sand at Lowe's or Home Depot. Peter said if you can't police it, why don't you say "no sand". Mark said he feels the townspeople should be able to take sand. Shawn said people are abusing it. Gerry said as a taxpayer he hates to see that happen. Peter said it is Shawn's department and his assets to

manage. Shawn said the sand pile is used by a lot of residents. Peter said his recommendation is that we just stop it and people can go buy their own sand. There is always people who abuse it and ruin it for everybody else. Wendy said she is fine with the no truckloads of sand being taken. Shawn said this is used by a lot of residents. He needs the clout to stop the abuse. Wendy said why don't we limit it to two, five-gallon buckets. Wendy doesn't feel we should be giving sand to commercial contractors. The Board agreed to two, five-gallon buckets for the time being.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to approve the minutes of the November 28th Selectmen's meeting.

A motion was made by Wendy Hersom, seconded by Peter Corey, and unanimously approved at 8:00 p.m. to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 8:45 p.m. and the public session reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to seal the minutes of the non-public session because it is determined that divulgence of this information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this Board.

The Board asked Judy to give Frank Lombardi a copy of the e-mail we received from Attorney Christine Fillmore in reference to additional material needed for the Northern Pass Pre-Filed Testimony.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.