

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2017

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, November 21, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Peter Corey, Wendy Hersom, and John Tholl.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to enter into non-public session at 5:00 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(b) the hiring of any person as a public employee, to conduct interviews for the Public Works Director position. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. Roll call to enter non-public session: Hersom: Yes, Tholl: Yes; Corey: Yes.

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 6:40 p.m.

The Board met with Mr. Lyons of FX Lyons, Inc. to sign the contract for the Grade 2 Operator License Supervision. The Board authorized Wendy Hersom, Chairperson, to sign the contract. Mr. Lyons said that he is going to meet with Fred Ingerson, Water Operator. He thought this was a good opportunity to come up and meet the Board so the Board knows who he is.

John Ross, Jr., Fire Chief attended the meeting to review his 2018 budget request. He also spoke to the Board about changing billing companies for the ambulance billing. John is still waiting to hear back from Lancaster on their proposal. They have also spoken with a company who does real-time billing. Wendy said she is sick of the whole ambulance billing issues. She said we did not have a good experience when we went with Lancaster a couple of years ago. John said he will come back with more information for the board to review. Wendy said she is curious to see how they are doing on their billing for calls other than transfers. The Board reviewed the Fire-Rescue budget and lowered some of the line item request amounts. This is the first go-around for the department heads. We will re-examine each department's budget once we have the total budget amount.

Edward Samson, Police Chief, attended the meeting to review his 2018 budget request. Ed wanted to let the Board know that Eoin is leaving the department on Sunday. He got a job with Berlin Police Department and gave us a week's notice so he is done on Sunday. Ed will be posting the position and we will see what is out there. Ten agencies are currently looking for people. Our current salaries are in a good place. One thing some of the agencies are doing is sign-on bonuses for certified officers. Thornton is the same size population wise as Whitefield, and they are currently advertising for officers with a sign-on bonus for certified office. It then becomes part of a contract with them. Ed said it may be something we would want to consider if we don't get much in the way of applicants. Ed reviewed his proposed budget for 2018. There was an error in calculating the retirement contribution. We were using last year's rate, which was 26.38% instead of 29.43%, which is the applicable rate until June 30, 2019. Ed said one thing he was looking into is to get the IMC log program. The Board suggested it may be something he could purchase out of this year's budget. Ed said he is still considering setting up the revolving fund for details. Ed said a couple of the selectmen have spoken to him about speed details. The Board also suggested looking at ways to beef-up the revenues. Ed said the health insurance plans are decreasing for 2018, but with the officer opening he is having to budget for a family plan instead of a single plan which is currently budgeted for in 2017. John Tholl suggested checking on the WEX cards for gasoline purchases, which allows you to purchase the gasoline without the tax and it saves you from filing for a refund later for the tax. He said the Sheriff's office uses them and they work very well. Judy

said she will look into it. The State of NH Road Toll Refund personnel had recently mentioned that to us as well. Ed also gave the selectmen a copy of a recent NH Law Enforcement pay study.

The Board set the following meeting schedule for the rest of November and December: November 27, December 4 and 18.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to approve the November 13, 2017 Selectmen's Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Wendy Hersom to enter in to non-public session at 7:45 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(b) the hiring of any person as a public employee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.