

**TOWN OF NEW HAMPTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OFFICES
NEW HAMPTON, NH 03256**

January 11, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Selectmen Paul Tierney, Charles Bartley and Kenneth Mertz

OTHERS PRESENT: Barbara Lucas, Town Administrator

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM. The purpose of the session was to meet with Department heads and complete the preparation work on the 2010 budget.

BUDGET WORK:

Blake Brook Bridge Repair

Mrs. Lucas discussed with the Board was a recommendation to move the \$12,000 for the Blake Brook Bridge repair into the Highway Department's operating budget rather than as a warrant article. In speaking with the DOT bridge inspector last Friday, Mrs. Lucas was told their recommendation was that repair could not wait until the March election because of the 90 days or more it could take to get the necessary wetland permit coupled with the concerns for what spring flooding might potentially do to the bridge in its current condition.

Line items in the highway department budget, such as contract services exist now and can be accessed prior to the voting in March, but funds in a warrant article cannot, so the Board approved the adjustment to the proposed Budget.

Chief Douglas Salmon

The Chief took the opportunity to bring the new part time officer, John Evans, to meet the Board. The Board welcomed Officer Evans and wished him well.

One of the other officers is having some knee surgery in the near future. Currently it is estimated that he will be out for 6 weeks.

**NON-PUBLIC
SESSION:**

Re: Personnel Issue

At the request of the Police Chief, a motion to go non-public regarding a personnel issue was made by Selectman Mertz, seconded by Mr. Bartley. The motion was approved at 5:11 PM.

**PUBLIC SESSION
RESUMED:**

Mr. Mertz made the motion to come out of non-public session at 5:17 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartley. The vote passed

unanimously. A motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session for a period of 3 years was made by Mr. Tierney, seconded by Mr. Bartley. The vote was approved unanimously.

Fire Chief Michael Drake

Chief Drake arrived to meet with the Board and presented a requisition for \$890.00 for a new alternator for the ambulance. The original alternator, which is 15 years old, recently gave out on the Interstate. No one was injured and the vehicle was able to get off the highway, but the braking system was affected causing everyone inside to be thrown forward. The new alternator will supply 10 more amps than the current alternator. Mr. Mertz made a motion to approve that requisition, Mr. Bartley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Chief advised that after discussions with his staff, the decision has been made to withdraw the proposed warrant article for the addition on the back of the Fire Station (\$140,000). As badly as they need the space, there is a greater need for a whole new fire station. There is concern among staff that some voters may construe the addition as a suitable alternative to a new fire station when the reality is that the entire building is in very poor condition. With the economy as it is, the Chief advised his staff will work to put its efforts into a revised suggestion for a new public safety building instead. The Chief asked if more money was planned for adding to the Capital Reserve Fund. The Board advised they would decide that tonight.

The Chief discussed conversations he has had with the Police Chief and others for a revised building plan which would be less expensive. The Board agreed that a more energetic effort was needed this year to inform the public as to the serious needs for a new building as well as the opportunities that exist for better bonding, more competitive constructions costs, etc., given the current economic conditions.

The Board thanked the Chief for his work.

Budget Work

Mrs. Lucas advised that she moved the money for repair of the Blake Brook Bridge to the Highway Department proposed operating budget on the work sheet the Board was working with tonight. With the changes the figures for the 2010 budget are up over 2009 but by less than the mandatory insurance increases. The default budget, if the new budget does not pass, is actually greater than the proposed budget.

The Board decided how the budget would be presented and who would present which sections of the budget.

Mrs. Lucas noted changes to the warrant article figures. On the

workstations for the police department, the hosting fee (\$950) was not included, however the Chief will take that fee out of his operating budget and asked it be increased by \$200.00. This was acceptable to the Board and they authorized the increase.

The Bridge Expendable Trust currently has \$10,000, and the budget proposes to add \$20,000 to the trust. The purpose of the trust is to have funds available for any issues that might arise with town bridges. However the focus for the town is on the two currently red-listed bridges (Blake Brook Road and the Coolidge Woods Road bridge over Wallace Brook).

Mr. Tierney asked that Mrs. Lucas contact the Gordon Nash Library staff to find out who would be attending the hearing in support of their warrant article.

It was noted that the exact wording of warrant articles will not be available for discussion at the upcoming public hearing because there may be changes.

The draft warrant articles were reviewed by the Selectmen. The DRA and Town Counsel will review them after the budget hearing and then they will be signed by the Selectmen and then they will be posted on January 25th.

The question of appointment rather than election of a treasurer has been defeated several years in a row. After discussion, the Board decided the question will be removed for this year.

The wording for the warrant article pertaining to the replacement workstations for the Police Station will be reviewed by Mrs. Lucas to ensure the correct number of stations is noted.

The warrant article to change the use of the Land & Building Capital Reserve Fund has been withdrawn for this year.

The warrant article for a proposed addition to the Fire Station has been withdrawn.

Mr. Bartley moved that \$10,000 be added to the Capital Reserve towards a future Safety Building was seconded by Mr. Tierney. The tax rate would be increased by .03 cents per thousand. Mrs. Lucas asked if it might be more reasonable, given the economic conditions, to withdraw the warrant article for this year and present the whole package (funding options) in the next year's budget. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn and the warrant article was removed.

Highway Department

Mr. Boucher provided the Board with a requisition for \$4,500 for Wetland Permit and the proposal for the repair on the Blake Brook Bridge. The Board will ask Mr. Boucher to inquire as to the need for full survey for repair of the bridge. The cost would be approximately \$2,000.

A requisition for sprocket and bearings for the sander was approved.

F-550 welding requisition to secure the dump body has been withdrawn. The highway department personnel will do the work in house for less money. Mr. Bartley suggested an inspection on the repair would be prudent. This was acceptable to the Board.

Regarding a requisition for chains. Mr. Boucher advised the error was his for ordering the wrong size. The Board approved the invoice with the additional cost.

Memo to Department Heads

Mrs. Lucas advised that she did not prepare the draft memo to advise Department Heads that the Spending Freeze was lifted and reminding all that spending was still limited to operation expenses only for the three months before the Town Meeting in March. She advised she would have it for the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was none.

MINUTES:
December 3rd

Mr. Mertz made a motion to hold approval of the minutes as it appeared they were reviewing a preliminary draft version of the December 3rd minutes which were incomplete.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None was heard.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Selectman Bartley to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Mertz. The vote passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin J. Harmon