

SELECTMEN'S MEETING – January 4, 2010

Present: Richard Bielefield, Margo Connors, John J. Strasser
Jennifer Gaudette

Guests: Nick DeMayo, Tommy Brigman, Chief David Wentworth, Chief Allan Clark,
Road Agent Douglas Glover

Correspondence was read and acted upon.

No meeting on January 18, 2010 in observance of the Martin Luther King Holiday.

2010 Budget Hearing is scheduled for February 8, 2010. Time TBA.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance as led by Chief David Wentworth.

MR. STRASSER made a motion to skip public input this evening, seconded by MR. BIELEFIELD. The motion passed.

CHIEF CLARK presented his 2010 budget and grant information to the board. The department currently has 23 members and responds to approximately 60-70 calls per year. The department holds training twice a month and currently has two members attending Fire Fighter I Class. This is a 250 hour commitment. Motor vehicle extrication and CPR training are handled locally on an annual basis. The potential major expenses would be the replacement and or repair of the trucks. One truck is a 1984 and the second truck has a 30 year old body and pump. The Chief also noted that currently the Franconia Life Squad responds to 40 medical calls in Sugar Hill and there are currently issues with response during the day. The squad is trying to address these issues but a back up plan may be necessary for Sugar Hill.

Currently the Chief has two grants pending; one for a thermal imaging camera which has a cost of \$13,500 and the town match would be \$675.00. The second grant to replace the 1984 truck would be a total cost of \$267,500 with a \$13,375 match from the Town. This year the capital reserve requests are \$50,000 for the equipment reserve fund and \$10,000 for the Fire Station Building Reserve. A Warrant Article for \$4,200 is for an easement to the Serafini Fire Pond located off Birches Road.

For Emergency Management Chief Clark is applying for a \$5,000 grant to update the Emergency Management Plan which is required every 5 years. The budget amount would be \$5,500. It is the intention to use North Country Council as a resource and that two meetings will be required.

Chief Clark asked the Selectmen to consider increasing the fees for building permits. He suggested the \$100 as a base amount with a % charged on permits for construction over 1 million. He also suggested that three inspections will be needed to meet new requirements.

CHIEF WENTWORTH presented his budget to the board with a .05% increase. The Chief noted that the police cruiser will be replaced in 2010 as scheduled. The Capital Reserve Fund request for 2010 is \$12,000.

MR. GLOVER presented his budget to the Selectmen. Increases for the budget came from the cost of road oil and also that the road plan approved by the Selectmen calls for increasing the yearly road improvement cost from \$50,000 to \$75,000. Mr. Glover updated the board on highway department work. It was noted that Dyke Road was much better but he is concerned with Crane Hill and would like to be able to shim and level this next year. With the 14% grade it makes maintaining the road difficult. The department is now on target to replace the Indian Creek Bridge in 2010. All permits are finally in place and Mr. Glover will meet with the Town Engineer Mr. McCarthy so that prints will be available and put out to bid. Mr. Glover reported on the ice dam in the gale river across from the Turtle Ridge Farm. He has spoken with the DES and has met with a representative of the Corp of Engineers. Currently the jam is approximately ¼ mile long and being monitored. If necessary to break the jam, Mr. Glover has owner permission and a contractor willing to do the work in the river to break the jam as well as the necessary permits from the DES. Mr. Glover reported that Mr. Henderson was upset with the department and the plowing of Sunset Hill Road in front of the Sunset Hill House. Mr. Glover will meet with Mr. Henderson to try and resolve the issue.

A petitioned Warrant Article was submitted to the Selectmen in regard to the Definition of Marriage.

The check for the 2009 Rooms & meals Tax has been received in the amount of \$28,704.70. This is up approximately \$44.00 from 2008.

The Sugar Hill Improvement Association will be meeting at the Crapo Building on January 19, 2010 @ 7:00PM. All are welcome to attend.

The Town Clerk received the results of an audit performed by the State of New Hampshire. All records were in order and the only complaint was a missing sign that has since been posted.

Carl Eaton of NE Utilities (PSNH) met with Jim Keefe and Margo Connors last Wednesday to perform lighting audits. The Crapo Building is in good shape and no changes are anticipated. Reports will be forthcoming on the Meetinghouse and Fire and Highway buildings.

The annual joint meeting to discuss the Tri Town Transfer Station and Recreation budgets with Franconia and Easton will be held on January 11, 2010 beginning at 4:00 PM.

The Board will be visiting the Albanese/Moose Realty properties located on Streeter Pond Drive and Old County Road to verify setbacks on the current building permits.

MR. BIELEFIELD made a motion to accept and apply for the Homeland Security Grant as prepared by Chief Clark, seconded by MS. CONNORS. The motion passed and the grant papers were signed.

MR. BIELEFIELD made a motion to accept the minutes of December 28, 2009, seconded by MS. CONNORS. The motion was approved unanimously.

MS. CONNORS made a motion AT 7:00 pm to move to non-public session to discuss correspondence from the town Attorney Bernard Waugh, seconded by MR. STRASSER.

With no more business before the Board, MS. CONNORS made a motion to return to public session and adjourn; seconded by MR. STRASSER the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM. The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, January 11, 2010 at the Carolina Crapo Building after the joint meeting in Franconia and checks will be signed and no appointments will be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer P. Gaudette
Administrative Assistant