

**TOWN OF BARNSTEAD**  
**TOWN HALL**  
**SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2015**

**Attendance:** Chairman Gordon Preston, Vice-Chairman Priscilla Tiede, David Kerr, and Edward Tasker.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Signatures:** Payroll and Weekly Manifest, Minutes of 6/30/15, 1 Timber Tax Levy, Huckleberry Oil Agreement, Rymes Propane Agreement, BCEP Committee Appointments and Inter-Office Memos/Letters/Forms. P. Tiede made a motion to have the Chairman sign the Huckleberry Oil agreement and Rymes agreement which was seconded by D. Kerr and passed with a unanimous vote.

**Appointments:** The Board met with Police Chief Joe McDowell at 5:05 p.m. who reported that the cost for the transfer case and labor for the police vehicle would be around \$2500.00. There was a question regarding paintball purchases and a pizza delivery to the OSG Paintball facility. The Chief explained to the Board that the department had force-on-force training at the OSG with college students from NE College and next time would include Belknap County officers as well as surrounding towns. The group also practiced team commands, hand signals, room clearing, covered concealment and shoot-don't shoot scenarios. McDowell stated that this was the first time they had done this and it was set up by OSG owner, David Preston, who offers this to various groups in State and out – including the Navy Seals. G. Preston commented that the Town was not charged OSG's regular prices.

The next issue was a request for an outlet at the police station for a dryer and the Chief told the Board that the Welfare Officer gave the police a washer and dryer but it required a new outlet. D. Kerr asked if the circuit for the stove was still there and McDowell wasn't sure but would have Charity Electric check for it. Chairman Preston notified the Chief that the cement steps will be replaced with wooden pressure treated ones and McDowell asked that slip treads be added. G. Preston pointed out that the vehicle repair line in the police budget was shot and the Chief acknowledged this; mentioning that monies may have to come from other lines. G. Preston next asked for monthly schedules and the Chief told him it was hard to do right now where there were only 4 officers and the schedule is always changing. Karen gave the Chief a copy of the Bulletproof Vest Mandatory Wear policy and he stated that he had a new one and would send over a copy of it.

**On a motion** to go into non-public at 5:20 p.m. per RSA: 91-A 3II (c) made by P. Tiede and seconded by D. Kerr; the Board voted: G. Preston, yes; P Tiede, yes; D. Kerr, yes; and E. Tasker, yes. The Board came out of the non-public session at 5:47 p.m. and **on a motion** by P. Tiede and seconded by E. Tasker; the Board voted unanimously to seal the minutes.

**On a motion** to go into non-public at 5:50 p.m. per RSA: 91-A 3II (b) made by P. Tiede and seconded by E. Tasker; the Board voted: G. Preston, yes; P Tiede, yes; D. Kerr, yes; and E. Tasker, yes. The Board came out of the non-public session at 6:11 p.m. and **on a motion** by P. Tiede and seconded by D. Kerr; the Board voted unanimously to seal the minutes.

E. Tasker addressed the Board regarding the Selectmen's compensation that was due to the late Andy Houle. It was determined that a check will be issued to the estate of Mr. Houle which represents the months he had been in office.

The Chairman opened the meeting to public input at 6:15 p.m. and Kathy Kelley asked if the Board had adopted Roberts Rules. The Chairman told her they did not. She next stated that she had been attending meetings and trying to figure out the procedures for filling vacancies. E. Tasker informed her the meetings are public and encouraged her to attend other meetings as there were opening in other Boards. Kathy explained that she and Lori Mahar had been attending other meetings to see where they might fit in best. Chairman Preston added that once elected, there are classes and workshops available. P. Tiede commented that non-public sessions can only occur by specific state statutes.

Lori Mahar introduced herself, gave the Board her background and experience and stated that she had been attending Planning Board meetings and was on the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) Committee. She expressed the desire to help the town come together in a positive way; to think about the future and to try not to raise taxes. D. Kerr commented that he also was on the CIP Committee and the town has unlimited wants but a very limited budget. He explained that the budget that gets passed every year is paid for by property taxes and someone has to say no – to be able to keep within the means of the town. He added that the Board looks for new sources of revenues and encourages new businesses, as that can significantly reduce some tax burden. Kerr also pointed out that we are not like Concord. Mrs. Mahar commented that sometimes new people see things differently and that there has to be the right kind of change. She mentioned that some people on current Boards are not accepting of new people. P. Tiede told her that she was raised in this community which has a large elderly population and they needed to consider them. E. Tasker mentioned that one of the most distressing things is that the Select Board run the municipal side trying to save every nickel but the school side is the largest portion of the tax rate and it's very hard to rectify when you have 500 kids with roughly 2 parents each. Lori wondered why the town and school couldn't work together and create a friendlier atmosphere. E. Tasker commented that that would be the logical solution but when you have a town of almost 5000 people, but only 100-200 show up to actually vote on both budgets it unfortunate. He encouraged Lori to work on raising the attendance levels.

Chairman Preston told the group that he was on the School Board in the past and got the State to accept that the high school is one of a kind – a good school; but it took 6-7 years to get there. He added that the country has just come through some of the worst times he'd ever seen. He cited welfare increases, issues with the car industry and banks' lending etc. G. Preston asked Lori what kind of business consulting she did, as the former Timco property had 130 acres and she stated that she

would like to meet the owner. E. Tasker addressed Lori's prior concerns about everyone working together and told her not to look at the Board of Selectmen as a stonewall. He said, "Don't think we haven't been making changes – we've been changing since 1966 constantly with computers and everything. He told her not to think that the Board(s) haven't tried all these things before and that they don't have to re-invent the wheel. Lori thanked the Board for listening and for their service. (6:38 p.m.)

Bruce Grey updated the group on the target/archery program and E. Tasker asked if it was open to the general public. Bruce explained that it was and combined with the 4-H, who would be having an organizational meeting this week but thought there were 30-40 kids signed up. Bruce stated that they picked up 3 more instructors that are certified by 4-H and that the Parks & Rec Commission was very good in helping when they can. He added that they will be partnering with the Equestrian 4-H group that is already in Barnstead. P. Tiede expressed her gratitude for these types of programs as not all children are sport oriented (such as basketball, baseball, soccer etc). Bruce told the group that his wife, Joyce Parsons, is a huge part of the success of the program and the Board thanked her for her volunteerism. Bruce asked to purchase a flag to fly to notify people when the shooting is taking place and the Board approved. E. Tasker suggested getting a couple picnic tables from the prison.

Kathy Kelley asked the Board what the procedure was for filling vacancies and Chairman Preston explained that for a Selectman vacancy, the Select Board can appoint someone until the next election. It was mentioned that various Boards may have different procedures for filling vacancies but that there were State Statutes addressing this as well. Public input was closed at 6:48 p.m.

**New Business:** The Board reviewed the Building Permit report, the Prosecutor's report, and the Continuity of Operations Plan. Karen Montgomery reminded the Board of the CIP Committee meeting to address the Town Hall needs and set aside time at the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss this. She next informed the group that the Road Agent was looking at a new piece of equipment to purchase that attaches to the excavator removing the tree canopy.

D. Kerr inquired about the budget representative for BCEP and Karen told him she had contacted Bill Haynes who wanted to continue in that role. It was mentioned that the rep should attend the regular monthly meetings as well as the budget meetings.

**On a motion** to go into non-public at 6:56 p.m. per RSA: 91-A 3II (b) made by P. Tiede and seconded by D. Kerr; the Board voted: G. Preston, yes; P Tiede, yes; D. Kerr, yes; and E. Tasker, yes. The Board came out of the non-public session at 7:01 p.m. and **on a motion** by P. Tiede and seconded by E. Tasker; the Board voted unanimously to seal the minutes.

Liz Cantrell, reporter for the Baysider asked about the petition regarding a new business that may be coming to town. The group had a brief discussion regarding businesses in general and the benefits for the Town. P. Tiede left at 7:10 p.m. to attend a Legion Meeting.

**On a motion** to go into non-public at 7:15 p.m. per RSA: 91-A 3II (c) made by D. Kerr and seconded by E. Tasker; the Board voted: G. Preston, yes; D. Kerr, yes; and E. Tasker, yes. The Board came out of the non-public session at 7:40 p.m. and **on a motion** by E. Tasker and seconded by D. Kerr; the Board voted unanimously to seal the minutes.

**Correspondence:** The Board reviewed miscellaneous correspondence.

**Old Business:** The Road Agent will update the Board on the culvert program through Lakes Region Planning Commission next week

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. on **a motion** made by D. Kerr, seconded by E. Tasker; and passing with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Montgomery, Selectmen's Administrative Assistant & Office Manager

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Gordon Preston, Chairman

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Priscilla Tiede, Vice-Chair

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David Kerr

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Edward Tasker