

TOWN OF BARNSTEAD
TOWN HALL
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

Attendance: Chairman Gordon Preston, Vice-Chairman Priscilla Tiede, Edward Tasker, Richard Duane, David Kerr, Karen Montgomery, Selectmen's Administrative Assistant and Francesca Latawiec, Recording Secretary. Members of the public included; Bruce Grey, and Bill Haynes.

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

D. Kerr made a motion to go into a non-public session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair P. Tiede. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion to go into non-public at 5:02 p.m. per RSA: 91-A 3II (c) made by E. Tasker and seconded by P. Tiede; the Board voted: G. Preston, yes; P. Tiede, yes; R. Duane, yes; D. Kerr, yes; and E. Tasker, yes. The Board came out of the non-public session at 5:20 p.m. and **on a motion** by P. Tiede and seconded by R. Duane; the Board voted unanimously to seal the minutes.

Signatures: The Board approved the payroll, weekly manifest and the minutes of 9/8/15 and 9/15/15. P. Tiede made a motion to direct Gordon Preston to sign the HealthTrust documents, which was seconded by D. Kerr and passed unanimously.

E. Tasker mentioned a notice of an open house/clinic for Highway Departments in Concord on October 16, 2015 and suggested that the Select Board authorize the Road Agent his crew to attend this free event. P. Tiede noted that they have gone to similar events in the past.

Appointments: 5:20 pm. The Board met with Joseph McDowell, Police Chief. There was discussion as to why the police have not signed the document stating that they received the personnel policy and the Chief stated that the current policy has a statement about department heads not being able to redirect personnel without authorization. Chief Dowell felt that the police chief statute, RSA 105.2-a authorizes the police chief to re-direct personnel as needed, without authorization and he felt this needed to be clarified, so that the policy is not subject to interpretation. The Board pointed out that the proposed changes were sent out to the town departments for review a number of months ago and there were no comments at that time.

G. Preston asked about staffing and the Chief told him that a conditional offer had been made to a person in Alton, but there has been no response. Chief McDowell reported that of the part time positions, one is a detective that does patrol on Wednesdays; one is in the police academy right now, and there is a fourth spot open. There is also a full time position open and an ad has been drawn up, which will be advertised on the town community page, the police department's webpage, the NH Police Standards and Training webpage, the LGC webpage, Monster.com, the Barnstead webpage, and possibly others. The applicant review process will include a written exam, and a physical fitness test.

The selection process will include a background check. The Board asked for a copy of the ad and the Chief stated he would send it over. Chief McDowell felt the wage scale for police officers in Barnstead needed to be revisited; adding that starting wages for an uncertified officer in Gilmanton are considerably higher. E. Tasker asked to see figures for other surrounding towns before Town Meeting and Chief McDowell said he is in the process of doing this. P. Tiede expressed a concern that there is a need for patrolmen. G. Preston inquired about the training plans for the truck trailers, generators and the Humvee and the Chief told him they are forthcoming from the liaison in Kingston.

P. Tiede expressed concern that the town does not have an animal control officer and that residents are complaining that the police do not pick up dogs. Chief McDowell explained that the town does not have a vehicle to accommodate this need and P. Tiede suggested using the Humvee. McDowell told her it could not be used as you have to lock the cages in and low dog kennels would be required that will not fit in the Humvee. He suggested talking with J. Doucette, Road Agent about the possibility of using the old Tahoe from the Highway Department as a vehicle for animal control, which could be retrofitted to hold two kennels with a barrier between them. McDowell told the group that the problem with transporting animals in a town police cruiser include allergies or parasites and that the vehicle would need to be reconditioned after each use; which would take an officer and a vehicle away from patrol service. P. Tiede asked what happens if a person vomits in the cruiser and the Chief said that it has to be reconditioned. It was mentioned that a solution of bleach and water (1part to 10 parts) is all that is required. P. Tiede expressed a concern about liability to the town, if they do not respond to an animal complaint, and someone gets bit by a dog. Chief McDowell explained that if the police pick up an animal they have to have an adequate facility to house the animal. P. Tiede asked what the Chief would suggest in the meantime and he stated that Chief McDowell suggested a part time animal control person who could also be involved in the licensing and rabies vaccination information.

R. Duane commented that what he's hearing is that the Chief doesn't want to do it. The Chief replied that that was not it and R. Duane pointed out that the Chief keeps throwing up roadblocks. McDowell stated that he is proposing a concrete pad with the proper fencing but it would have to have heating and air conditioning if the animal was there 10 days in the event of a rabies quarantine. He added that the ideal answer would be to have a fulltime animal control officer and that they've handled 209 animal complaints this year. If an officer were to transport a dog to Laconia or Dover, that would tie up both the officer and the patrol car for 1/3 of a shift. G. Preston asked if surrounding communities have animal control facilities and was told that Pittsfield has a temporary facility. P. Tiede noted that Gilmanton has a part-time animal control officer, but that both Pittsfield and Gilmanton police pick up dogs in their cruisers. The Chief said that the police had not received an updated list of the dogs in town and Karen will have the Town Clerk send one over. The issue of possibly two part time animal control officers that could transport animals to Laconia or Dover came up again. Karen told the group that the facility used by the town is now in Concord. D. Kerr questioned whether there was anyone in town who would, or could do this.

The next topic was regarding the police body cameras and the Chief explained that when the officers are down low, the cameras do not catch the full person. He has received a quote for new tasers

through the Taser Officer Safety Program (TOSP), which would include cameras that are mounted on top of the head, rather than the body. This would provide for recording with a better field of vision. The body cameras enhance that capability by providing footage of what the officer sees. The cost is \$99.00 per month per officer, and the company provides a camera and a taser. The Chief stated that the Department's current equipment is obsolete; as the current cameras need to be replaced by the town every 2.5 years, and the tasers every 5 years. The Taser equipment will improve efficiency, in that it allows the officer to download data right away without time taking steps and the company provides unlimited storage off site. There was discussion about the sturdiness of the cameras and it was mentioned that at night time they need to be switched over to infrared. There also needs to be a protocol for entering people's houses, with or without permission to record.

P. Tiede inquired about the status of SOP's for the Department and the Chief stated that he had sent them over months ago. Karen commented that they were the same SOP's that the prior Chief had sent over without any of the changes that the Board had made. The Chief stated that he's on patrol and can't be doing it. P. Tiede mentioned that she thought Frank Jones was going to update them and the Chief told the group that Frank is busy with 5 open sexual assault cases plus does patrol. He added that personnel is limited. The Chief noted that the Department averages about thirty calls for service per day and there have been approximately 6, 343 service calls to date. P. Tiede asked if that was calls on the phone and the Chief said calls for service included phone, traffic etc. D. Kerr asked about a closure rate on calls and was told that IMC has a program that can provide training in that area but it's a matter of finding the time. The training would require travel to Marlboro, MA. E. Tasker asked what would be the best way to ease up on the work load for the staff and the Chief replied that it would be to hire a certified officer to fill that fourth full time position; plus fill a part-time spot.

G. Preston inquired about the pay for a 40 hour week for the officers in the part time DWI grant and the Chief explained that the pay is dictated by the conditions of the grant. There was discussion about the issue with the main concern being that the town gets reimbursed by the grant source. R. Duane asked how soon the training manuals (for the surplus vehicles) would be done and the Chief stated that he is working on them. P. Tiede asked if the Department is continuing with their coffee and tea discussions (on the second Tuesday of the month) and the Chief said they were. She commented positively about the website, then asked about the Community Watch facilitators. The Chief stated that people who participate are volunteers. They receive instruction on how to take descriptions and make reports to the police. P. Tiede asked if they needed to complete paperwork for the Town and the Chief said they did not, as they work with the police, but are not working for the town. D. Kerr said, "So they have nothing to do with the Town" and the Chief said they did not.

E. Tasker made a motion to authorize the Police Department to hire a full time employee and a part time employee, and to put together and publish an advertisement these positions. The motion was seconded by D. Kerr. It was the consensus of the Board that this was already being done. E. Tasker withdrew his motion and went on record as stating his thoughts on the subject. Chief McDowell will proceed as directed.

R. Duane asked about National Night Out and the Chief told him it will be held behind the Police Station on Tuesday October 6, 2015 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. The Department would like to have their station painted this year and it was determined that they should enlist the inmates from the prison as they did last year.

Public Input: 6:15 pm.

Bill Haynes commented that he had three points - 1) that the reason the reason that the State does not have body cameras, is that financially the funding must go through the legislature and the storage of the data would be 2 million alone. 2) That at Town Meeting, the new vehicle for the Highway Department was because the old one was "on its last legs" and supposed to go away but was still in use. There was discussion about the vehicle being used as an ACO vehicle and D. Kerr mentioned that they had gotten rid of a Highway vehicle. 3) He inquired about the status of the new dump truck that was in an accident during as ice storm and wondered if an accident report would be forthcoming. He was told that the truck is fixed and that a State Policeman was at the scene who took the information. The Safety Committee will be doing an investigation on the matter.

D. Kerr asked about the BCEP Budget and Mr. Haynes said he plans on retaining the position, and would be attending the meeting on Thursday.

B. Gray reported on the 4-H group. They formed last Friday and there are about ten children. They plan to meet the first Friday of every month and have some good ideas for community service projects. They plan to do some clean-up work on the Big River, behind the police station. He will post information about the group on the town website and requested that the 4-H group be allowed to use the Town Hall for their meetings without a charge. The Board concurred that would be fine. E. Tasker asked about the archery program and was told it would not continue through the winter. The program was very well attended and he will be asking for more money in the budget this year, as a separate line item. He plans to expand the program to include adults in the spring.

New Business: DOT Re: Discontinued Street lights. D. Kerr reported that the Town received a letter that there is a state program to save money by discontinuing street lights. There is one street light in Barnstead that they propose to discontinue. It is pole 9/77.5. He checked this out, and this pole is on the east side of Maple Street. It has transformers on it, but no street light. There is a light on pole 9/77 on the west side of the street. D. Kerr followed up with DOT on this, and the response was that they often find that they are paying for street lights that do not exist. There is a format to appeal for the discontinued street light that does not exist. The board concurred that this would not be necessary.

The Board reviewed the Building Permits for July and August and P. Tiede reported that there were only two or three new houses permitted during that time period. G. Preston noted that was nowhere near the building moratorium that is still in place. R. Duane expressed that there were concerns relative to the noticing of the most recent ZBA meeting. There is an issue of publishing the official notice in a paper of general circulation. The notice of this meeting went to the Laconia Citizen and there was a question whether is met the criteria of a general circulation paper. K. Montgomery

explained that the notice was legal, and was meant to meet a deadline. Bruce Shearer asked to utilize the Town Hall for a public meeting regarding the Dollar General project and requested that the \$60 fee for use of the Town Hall be waived. P. Tiede made a motion to waive the fee for the meeting. The motion was seconded by R. Duane and passed with the following vote; G. Preston, no; P. Tiede, yes; R. Duane, yes; D. Kerr, yes; and E. Tasker, yes.

K. Montgomery provided a report to the Board showing that the MS-1 (value of the town) report, depicting that after the required adjusting of the equalization ratio (based upon valid sales from the last year and a half) the value of the Town has declined. K. Montgomery and Lisa will be attending a workshop on changes to the Federal Department of Labor’s standards on the yearly salary amount for some individuals. This will involve changes that will take place on January first.

On a motion to go into non-public at 6:58 p.m. per RSA: 91-A 3II (c) made by E. Tasker and seconded by D. Kerr; the Board voted: G. Preston, yes; P. Tiede, yes; R. Duane, 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 P. Tiede and seconded by E. Tasker; the Board voted unanimously to seal the minutes.

Correspondence: There have been requests in the past from the Red Cross. Discussion on requests will be discussed during budget time.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m. on a motion by P. Tiede, seconded by D. Kerr and passing with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Francesca Latawicz, Recording Secretary

Gordon Preston, Chairman

Priscilla Tiede, Vice-Chair

Richard Duane

David Kerr

Edward Tasker