

TOWN OF BARNSTEAD

TOWN HALL

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2015

Attendance: Chairman Gordon Preston, Vice-Chairman Priscilla Tiede, Richard Duane, David Kerr, and Edward Tasker. There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

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

Signatures: Payroll and Weekly Manifest, the Revised Estimated Revenue Form, and Inter-Office Memos/Letters/Forms. P. Tiede made a motion to have the Chairman sign the Revised Estimate form and it was seconded by D. Kerr, which passed with a unanimous vote.

Appointments: The Board met with Road Agent Jim Doucette, who presented his 2016 budget requests. He would like to increase his training budget from \$500 to \$1000 and the water cooler from \$300 to \$500. Pennichuck will pay 20% of the completed paving project on Varney Road next year. Jim will bring in the results of the culvert inventory as completed by Lakes Region Planning Commission. He explained that he reduced his tree removal line if he can get a tree shear to go on the roadside mower to be able to remove the tree canopy from the roadside where there are no wires. Asplundh will be returning the following year to handle the canopy around the wires. Jim acquired a permit and hired a company to spray various areas for knotweed. He will have to replace some hard hats and purchase some chaps. The group discussed hiring more personnel and Jim stated he could use a fulltime laborer but would like to approach a retired grader operator to see if he would work part-time to get the roads in shape and to help train our operators.

The Road Agent and a retired State Bridge Engineer reviewed the Town's bridges – a report will be forthcoming. Jim spoke with DES Official Dori Wiggin regarding drainage issues in Locke Lake Colony and she has suggested having engineering studies done. She will look into the possibility of grants for us. Jim informed the Board that the next piece of equipment the department really needs is a loader and a brief discussion ensued regarding the government surplus. The department has a 2 yard bucket loader but Jim would like a 4 yard. Various maintenance lines were reduced, as a lot of equipment is new. He would also like to sell the old roadside mower locally as he's had several people interested in it. There was no decision made. Jim would like to purchase a new chainsaw out of this year's budget for \$1,199.95 – a Husqvarna 94cc with a 20" bar. D. Kerr and R. Duane both felt it was too big of a saw. Jim said the department has a 72cc with a 16" bar and D. Kerr pointed out the saw would take a 20" bar. The group reviewed the capital outlay expenditures and the capital reserve accounts.

At 6:45 the group discussed the State's land behind the Highway Garage and Jim gave the Board the contact information for the property manager at the State level. Jim reported that the Highway has the

welfare wood, scrap metal and the government surplus vehicles on the State land and they have asked him to remove the vehicles. R. Duane made a motion to send a letter of inquiry to the State Property Manager for the purchase of some of the State-owned land. The motion was seconded by D. Kerr and passed with the following vote; G. Preston, yes; R. Duane, yes; D. Kerr, yes; and E. Tasker, yes. P. Tiede had left the room during the conversation and abstained on the vote.

The Road Agent informed the Board that the Highway Department would be going back to five (8 hour) work days beginning Monday, October 19, 2015. E. Tasker asked about the roadside mowing and Jim stated that the part-timer Arthur Locke will not be available much as it is the busy season at his regular job. Jim said that his crew is doing some mowing here and there. The Wolcott Company will be installing the guardrail on Peacham Road on Tuesday, 20, 2015. Jim next asked the Board to consider keeping the Tahoe as they use it to pull the rake for the roads. He added that it is also used to pick up dogs but it is usually the Highway crew that goes and gets the dog. D. Kerr suggested using the old roadside mower to pull the rake and E. Tasker commented that it was too big for that job. R. Duane wondered which vehicle would bring more money if sold and Jim felt the mower would. He added that the Tahoe does not need a lot of repair and is more useful to the department. D. Kerr mentioned that the catch basins on Maple Street should be raised and Jim explained that the last time they adjusted them, the ground around the basins sank. Jim stated that he will look at them and determine if they can be raised slightly.

On a motion to go into non-public at 7:10 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 7:35 p.m. and **on a motion** by R. Duane and seconded by P. Tiede; the Board voted unanimously to seal the minutes.

Public Input: 7:37 p.m. Bruce Grey asked if the Highway crew could remove the dead tree (that's on the ground) and the brush pile from the Parks & Rec area. He added that he and the Conservation Chairman will be assessing the area to have more trees removed. Bruce informed the Board that he will be asking Parks & Rec to increase their budget by \$2,500 to purchase more targets and to get larger bows for adults. The Chairman closed public input at 7:47 p.m.

Karen told the Board that Jim Kidder had asked her if the lights at the Parks & Rec area were on a timer and if so, could they be set to come on at dusk for a couple hours. The reason for the request is because a few male adults would like to continue to play basketball after work. D. Kerr will assess the light situation and timers.

New Business: Karen relayed to the Board an incident last Friday morning where a woman came to the Town Hall with a dog she found on Route 28 and told the office the police Sgt. had instructed her to bring the dog to the Town Hall and drop it off. After some time, the office was able to contact the veterinary hospital and find the owner, who retrieved the dog. The Chairman of the Board was contacted and it was pointed out that this is unacceptable. The police are required by statute to take

care of dogs. Karen contacted a resident who has kennels and would be willing to hold dogs until the owner can be located. The resident was encouraged to speak with the Board of Selectmen. Unclaimed or abandoned dogs can be brought to the Animal Shelter in Concord per the towns' agreement. The Board acknowledged an e-mail from Chief McDowell that was received at 4:11 p.m. that afternoon stating his plan is to build a proper kennel with heat and ventilation, get an ACO vehicle and hire a part-time Animal Control Officer for 32 hours per week.

On a motion to go into non-public at 7:51 p.m. per RSA: 91-A 3II (c) made by D. Kerr 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 8:21 p.m. and **on a motion** by E. Tasker and seconded by P. Tiede; the Board voted unanimously to seal the minutes.

E. Tasker reported to the Board that the Conservation Commission had viewed both of the town-owned sites and felt both properties had potential. The Peter Biron Road property is only a couple hundred yards from the Wenblad, Grau & Pitman conservation areas. The property in town is almost across from the police station has the river along it, but has a huge area of trash. The group discussed various ways of removing the trash, including utilizing the inmates at the Correctional facility in Laconia. E. Tasker envisioned the property as being leveled and having soccer fields. R. Duane thought perhaps it was worthwhile for the town to hold on to as it has real potential. D. Kerr mentioned that the school has a need for soccer fields too. Tasker stated that he envisioned a warrant article asking for money to reclaim the property and develop soccer fields. D. Kerr commented that it was worth cleaning up now and it was suggested that the Road Agent look at the site to see if the inmate program was available. Tasker further stated that he would like to make an overture to the School Board that the Town purchase the Hannah Nutter property. The group determined that they would perform a site walk on the Route 126 property.

Correspondence: The Board reviewed the miscellaneous correspondence.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. on a motion by D. Kerr, seconded by R. Duane and passing with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Montgomery, Selectmen's Administrative Assistant & Office Manager

Gordon Preston, Chairman

Priscilla Tiede, Vice-Chair

Richard Duane

David Kerr

Edward Tasker