

TOWN OF BARNSTEAD

TOWN HALL

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2015

Attendance: Chairman Gordon Preston, Priscilla Tiede, Richard Duane, David Kerr, and Edward Tasker (arrived at 5:41 p.m.).

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

On a motion to go into non-public session at 5:02 p.m. per RSA: 91-A 3II (c) made by R. Duane and seconded by D. Kerr; the Board voted: G. Preston, yes; P. Tiede, yes; R. Duane, yes; and D. Kerr, yes. The Board came out of non-public session at 5:21 p.m. and on a motion by R. Duane, seconded by P. Tiede the Board unanimously voted to seal the minutes of that meeting.

Signatures: The Board approved the minutes of 12/8/2015, the weekly payroll and manifest.

Appointments: 5:21 p.m. Ed Neister of the Milfoil Committee was present to address the milfoil program for the Town of Barnstead. He explained that the program of herbicide treatment and removal, implemented since 2004, has not been greatly successful. On Suncook Lake they are considering reduction of weed removal. Remnants of plants that are disturbed by removal are redistributed by boat propeller action to generate new milfoil plants, which exacerbates the problem. E. Neister has had discussions with both Fish and Game and DES about an innovative approach to milfoil control. This would involve use of divers to remove the root systems of the plant. This would reduce the use of herbicides, and reduce the growth of the plant's stolen roots, that run under ground and produce new plants. He is requesting funding for divers to implement this program. He is requesting 500 hours of dive time at \$20.00 per hour during the time period between of May through July. This is the time period when the work would be most effective and would cost \$12,500. E. Neister noted that potential divers could be recruited through those looking to log dive time for their professional diving certification. The program currently is funded at \$10,000, \$8,600 of which has traditionally gone to herbicide treatment. The herbicide treatment would be eliminated in the current proposal for 2016. The removal of the vegetation would involve use of a suction harvester and would require a permit from DES. The Locke Lake Association is an annual contributor of \$6,000 to the milfoil control effort. There was discussion of invoicing the Suncook Lake Association for \$3,000 to cover their share of the milfoil treatment on their lake. Other local lake and watershed associations are potential contributors. DES does provide some funding for milfoil treatment, based upon their estimates of milfoil production areas. E. Neister believes that there are more milfoil areas than DES estimates. He is requesting funds to purchase a software package that can be used to record and track the milfoil treatment areas. DES and the Department of Agriculture have requested a report of the results of Barnstead's innovative milfoil treatment program.

E. Tasker arrived at 5:41 p.m.

K. Montgomery provided the Board with a quote for a surveillance camera at the Highway Garage where the salt/sand mixture is made available for Town residents for use on their private driveways. There was discussion about contractors taking truckloads for commercial use and it was a consensus that a sign would be posted that says "Sand for Resident Use on Personal Property Only : Property Under Video Surveillance".

Public Comment: G. Preston opened the meeting for public comment at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Tiede asked why the flag is not up to the top of the pole in front of the Town Hall and D. Kerr will look into this. B. Evans, the Health Officer, asked if the Board wanted to have the water tested at Town Buildings and it was a consensus that standard water testing be done on all municipal buildings included the two wells at the Police Department. The public input session was closed at 6:09 p.m.

Appointments (cont.): Acting Fire Chief S. Mulcahy reported that The Fire and Rescue Department is donating Engine 3 to the Town for use by the Highway Department for flushing out culverts. They had put the truck out for sale, but were unhappy with the bids they received. Engine 1 is still out of service due to an alternator problem. He is still working on employee evaluations. He mentioned that there are new businesses looking to locate at the Barnstead Business Park. As this occurs, there will need to be a water supply for fire suppression. The Fire Department will re-establish the old draft sites to the river. E. Tasker asked if they could work with the landowner of the site on this issue. A new pellet company is proposed for the site, which will require a water supply. There is also a solar company that is considering locating at the Park. The new fire truck is currently in Tamworth for preparation. The invoice for the new ambulance will be for the amount that was previously negotiated. The refrigerator at the Center Station failed and Stacey will be shopping for a new one in 2016. G. Preston asked for input on the Employee Physical Policy. There was a brief discussion regarding a \$510,000 warrant article for purchase of a new fire truck. Lease/purchase options are also being considered and the group reviewed how this relates to the CIP. The Fire Department will be able to fill the air tanks for the milfoil divers. K. Montgomery mentioned that Charity Electric is working on the lights at the Parks & Rec. and the Fire Department was able to provide assistance with the bucket truck at the Parks & Rec area. Montgomery also reported that Charity Electric will be fixing the exit sign in the Selectmen's Office as well as the emergency lights.

Budget: K. Montgomery stated that the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's budget has increased by \$50, as the fee for maintenance of the voting machines has increased. The auditor's fee has increased to \$500 due to GADSB64 reporting requirements. The Highway Department has a savings of \$5,000 with one employee going from a family to a 2 person health insurance plan. The milfoil program is requesting \$1,800 for the software package. In Parks and Recreation, B. Grey is requesting money for archery equipment and it was a consensus of the Board to budget those funds under the Other Cultural and Recreation line item. The Board did not include a Police vehicle in the 2016 budget.

New Business: The Warrant Article to appropriate \$879,000 for the Hannah Nutter Bridge project was passed by Town Meeting in 2015 but DOT has the project on their list for construction in 2020. A letter from DOT stated that the Town can go ahead with the design phase and will be reimbursed for those costs. There was discussion of the revenue generated from ambulance fees. Currently the Fire and Rescue gets 40% of the funds and S. Mulcahy would like to see this increase to 70%. Changing the percentage would require a public hearing. P. Tiede and E. Tasker agreed that there should be no major purchases in the 2016 budget and further did not support increasing the ambulance funds. K. Montgomery explained to the Board that there is a Capital Reserve Fund for Fire and Rescue Vehicles and Equipment that the Board could put money into for the future. **On a motion** by R. Duane and seconded by P. Tiede to put \$50,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund for Fire and Rescue Equipment. The Board voted: P. Tiede, yes; E. Tasker, yes; R. Duane, yes; D. Kerr, no. The motion passed by a 3 to 1 vote. D. Kerr asked about consideration of creating a Town Administrator position in the 2016 budget. There needs to be a salary survey conducted before doing this. There was a brief discussion of raises and personnel costs. E. Tasker stated that he was in favor of merit based salary increases based on evaluations. **On a motion** by D. Kerr and seconded by E. Tasker to increase the Highway Dept. Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to \$50,000. The Board voted: P. Tiede, yes; E. Tasker, yes; R. Duane, yes; D. Kerr, yes. The motion passed unanimously. There was discussion of the 2016 BCEP budget, which includes substantial raises for the Administrator and the Treasurer. E. Tasker and D. Kerr will be attending the BCEP meeting on December 16, 2015. They will both vote against these raises. The BCEP fees for the individual towns are based on population. G. Preston is proposing an ordinance for Town Meeting. D. Kerr has read the proposal, and stated that he believes that G. Preston's concerns are addressed in the Constitution. P. Tiede had not had an opportunity to read the proposal and no action was taken.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. on a motion by P. Tiede, seconded by D. Kerr and passing with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Francesca Latawiec, Recording Secretary

Gordon Preston, Chairman

Priscilla Tiede, Vice-Chair

Richard Duane

David Kerr

Edward Tasker