

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes January 14, 2019

7:00 pm Meeting called to order by Board Chair, John Quinlan. Also in attendance was Selectman Jack Esposito. Selectman Kim Roberge was absent.

Board reviewed and signed checks and manifest.

Board reviewed last week's minutes. Esposito motioned, seconded by Quinlan to accept the minutes of January 7, 2019 as amended. All in favor.

7:15 pm Department Head Meeting

Library – Trustees Cindy Raspiller and Jane King

- 25% increase in visits (15,265)
- 31% increase in eBook /audiobook checkouts through Overdrive (1943)
- A record number of child and adult programs (254 programs with 4,933 attendees)
- Circulated 15,525 materials to 1,433 card-holding members
- 1,040 materials borrowed through interlibrary loans
- Lending records show that our #1 patron saved \$7,931.32 by borrowing 498 materials in 2018!
- A special thanks to the Friends of the Library and the Sophia G. Daland Trust for continued financial support. The Friends sponsored \$10,000 in additional programming this year. The Daland Trust contributed \$9,352.29 in building maintenance costs.
- There will be two articles for this year's warrant:
- Adding \$10,000 to the Library Capital Reserve Fund
- \$25,000 for additional site assessment for the new library

Police Dept – Chief Furlong

- Have submitted the compliance packet to Police Standards and Training.
- DARE starts this Wednesday.
- Will attend a "Right to Know" training geared to law enforcement.
- New part-time officer, Jason Johnson will take his physical test on January 19th, and begin the academy on February 5th.
- Purchased a pamphlet board for the lobby of the McCollom Building. It will hold information for support services, drug addiction, mental health, domestic violence etc.
- The generator was serviced last week, and the Town Clerk's office is served fully by it.
- Spoke with Beltronics regarding a new frequency. Cost for the FCC License is \$1000. It can take from 2 weeks to 2 years. Board ok'd and added the \$1000 to the Radio line in the Police dept. proposed budget.
- Regarding a complaint of someone shooting off Frankestown Tnpk – they are at a safe distance with a safe backdrop on their own property. There is no action to be taken.

DPW – Director Ben Crosby

- Have a new candidate for the full-time position.
- Sign shed has deteriorated almost beyond repair. Quote for fixing it up is \$20,000+. A new building would run approximately \$23,000.
- Mark Butcher will be off light duty the week after next.
- We have spent \$16,000 on repairs to the 2014 International along with \$10,000 of warrantee work (at their cost).

Selectmen's Minutes

January 14, 2019

Page 2

Fire Dept. – Chief Wilson

- Setting up a repair and maintenance schedule for the trucks.
- Getting 2 utility trailers from the Federal Excess Property Program. One for Forestry purposes and the other to carry barriers and the like. Board signed the Co-Operative Agreement.
- All of the apparatus is in good shape.

Quinlan asked if they were submitting a warrant article to purchase a new truck this year.

Wilson said yes, we would be replacing the 2001 – Engine 3.

Quinlan asked how this new truck would be different from the last one we purchased.

Wilson said that the last truck is a light duty truck built on spec, this would be an all-wheel drive built for us.

Esposito said that he could not be in favor of this until we find out what is ahead of us with the buildings etc. Last year we were able to buy back \$2.00 on the tax rate with unexpected current use tax income – we won't have that this year, and that increase remains.

Crosby asked if they knew about the Volkswagen Penalty money that is available to replace pre-emissions trucks with new. He will forward the info to Wilson.

End of Department Head Meeting

Chief Furlong asked if the Board had decided on any of his proposals.

Esposito said that we are not for hiring another full-time officer.

Quinlan said that we would talk about the other items later this week.

Furlong stressed that if he was a resident of Mont Vernon, he would be very concerned about the gap (midnight to 6 am). There is at least a 45-minute response time for the State Police. We have already had 4 calls in the gap this year. What I'd like to see us push is 24-hour coverage with all officers being trained as EMT Basic.

Quinlan asked Highway Director Crosby to help them firm up some of the numbers for the new truck. Since the 2007's bed is shot, we will take the body off the 2015 and install onto the 2007 (\$10,000) Budget for R&M of the 2007 will be set at \$15,000 to accommodate. Then the plow, wing and plow frames from the 2015 will be mounted to the new truck so that we don't have to purchase those new also. The new truck will have a stainless-steel body. There are two models that are being looked at: a Freightliner at approx. \$166,586 and an International at approx. \$173,695. The number for budget purposes is \$40,000 under Truck Leases.

Crosby brought up the computer check machine that he had spoken with Esposito about. The machine costs \$8,500 and can diagnose all of the DPW vehicles and the fire trucks also. When the last truck was diagnosed by an outside vendor, we were billed \$900. There is a charge for updating the software and hardware. Crosby was asked to look into the annual fees.

Board discussed the Holiday pay that the Police Chief had proposed. Esposito has had a change of heart and now supports it in full, as does Quinlan.

Monday, February 11th at 7:00 pm is decided on as the date for the public hearing on the 2019 proposed budget.

8:00 pm As there was no further business before the Board, Esposito motioned, seconded by Quinlan to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie Brown