

MINUTES BOARD OF SELECTMEN – OCTOBER 18, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Selectmen Ramsey, Crichton, Murphy, Chambers, Elton

OTHERS: TM Trefethen, Police Chief Towne, TC Buckman and 20 members of the General Public

PUBLIC HEARING: Review of Special Town Meeting Warrant of November 8, 2011. Hearing was opened @ 6:30PM. Questions were asked on the Zoning changes and Planning Board Chairman Kerry Ashburn was present to answer them. It was discovered that the definition of outdoor storage was not correct as it appeared in the Attachment A-1 to the warrant. It was the intent to discourage its passing on November 8th, when voted upon. Many felt that the Zoning changes proposed were confusing and not needed. The zoning changes as always are reviewed and proposed by the Planning Board. The Manager took the time to review the differences in the State Statute on Recall of Municipal Elected Officials and the proposed Recall Ordinance to be voted upon. Public Hearing ended @ 7:28PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION Elton second Chambers “approve minutes of October 4, 2011” passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Oscar Stone inquired about the status of a Law Suit (French & Lavigne vs. Town of Berwick).

Resident Jodi Wright made comment to the Municipal Officials with regard to her disappointment in Municipal Officials (elected & appointed).

Resident Dave Stolpe commented upon an oil tank removed from the ground during the construction at the Sullivan School Project.

COMMUNICATIONS

Manager review the documents with the Board no action taken.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT PAYABLE WARRANTS

MOTION Elton second Chambers “approve warrants 1214, W1214, 1215” passed 5-0.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Land Use Committee Discussion: *MOTION Crichton second Elton “form a committee to review town owned vacant lots and make recommendation” passed 5-0.* Selectmen Crichton will return to the next business meeting and make recommendation to the board on the make-up of this advisory committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Automobile Graveyard Permits: Board reviewed the paperwork provided to them on these renewals. *MOTION Chambers second Elton "approve all five permits as presented and reviewed by town staff" passed 5-0.*

Hiring Freeze/Patrolman Position: Lots of discussing between the Police Chief and Board occurred and the Board was able to review a memo developed by the Police Chief on his request to fill the position. Many folks spoke about the importance of the position including residents who were also full-time members of our Police Department provided to the town some insight to the importance of retaining the position. Manager informed Board he was approached by the Town of South Berwick and with the attrition of the position if the town wished to enter into discussions about some enhanced joint or regional efforts. *MOTION Murphy second Chambers "Police Department retain the position and that the town seek to fill the position with an individual who is Full-Time Certified" passed 5-0.* The Board also instructed the Town Manager and Police Chief to discuss with the Town of South Berwick ways to reduce costs but retain existing level of services.

Retention of Police Cruiser: Police Chief wished to retain a cruiser coming out of service because of its low mileage (80,000) and its ability to supplement the fleet when needed. *MOTION Murphy second Crichton "approve the Police Departments request to retain a seventh car for the Department" voted 2-3 (Ramsey, Chambers, Elton) motion was defeated.*

Signing of Special Town Meeting Warrant for November 1, 2011: Board reviewed a warrant to conduct an Open Town Meeting on November 1, 2011 to vote on one item, to allow the Police Department to accept funds from the Criminal Forfeiture. *MOTION Murphy second Chambers "approve holding this Special Town Meeting and sign the Warrant authorizing it" passed 5-0.*

ABATEMENTS/SUPPLEMENTALS

Board review three requests from their previous meeting after additional information was provided to the Board.

MOTION Crichton second Chambers "approve abatements for Map R 18 Lots 13-15 & 13-16" passed 5-0.

MOTION Crichton second Elton "approve abatement for PP#731" passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Fred Dunn asked about how a joint Police Department would work when a Mutual Aid Agreement already exists, providing those joint services.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION Chambers second Elton "to adjourn" passed 5-0 @ 9:27PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Keith M. Trefethen

Town Manager