



BOARD OF SELECTMEN / BOARD OF ASSESSOR
Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2016
6:30pm

Call to Order

Chair Thomas Wright called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

I. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Chair Thomas Wright, Vice Chair Robert Crichton, Selectman Edward Ganiere, and Selectman Joshua Plante.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Stephen Eldridge, Finance Director Maureen Finger, Library Association, the Sewer District, Water District, and Town Clerk Patricia Murray.

II. Approval of Minutes from February 16, 2016

Motion: Selectman Ganiere moved to accept the minutes as written and Selectman Plante seconded.

The motion carried unanimously: 4-0.

III. First Public Comment

Ms. Becky Narushof spoke. She wanted to thank the residents of the town who donated canned and boxed goods to the House of Hope. She thanked Hope of the Transfer Station and Lynn of Town Hall for bringing the donations to the House of Hope. She stated in 2013 they helped a total of 323 people, in 2014 a total of 645 and in 2015 1058 people were helped. 104 people have been helped in January 2016 and 192 in February. Chair Wright thanked Ms. Narushof for distributing the donations.

IV. Public Hearing - None

V. Reports of Committees

a. BCTV – None

b. Envision Berwick Committee (EBC)

Mr. Frank Underwood spoke. He noted the holiday tree has been taken down and packed away. He reported that they are waiting on final cost on the Estabrook School. Town Manager Eldridge has walked through the building with the consultant. Mr. Eldridge noted he had the cost and will share with EBC. Mr. Underwood stated he would then put a spreadsheet together with the information. Mr. Underwood apologized to Captain Sam Tibbetts with the Fire Department for the misunderstanding at the Estabrook School during the Fire Training. He reported that the February Farmer's Market was a success. There is a meeting on the MS4 Project on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 5:30. This is a kick-off meeting hoping to produce a conceptual plan for the PSNH land. The TIF work is continuing; there is a list of things EBC has to come up with which should be finalized within a few weeks. He noted the ice rink will be used as a learning curve for next winter. He also reported that the Brownsfield effort will be underway shortly. The demolition phases is slated to begin in the spring.

VI. Appointment / Presentation / Other Guests

a. Berwick Farmer’s Market Committee

- Kate Kennington

Ms. Kennington was not present. Chair Wright tabled this item until Ms. Kennington can come before the Board.

VII. Unfinished Business

a. Pay as You Throw Program – fee schedule

Town Manager Eldridge stated there is no update. Only two volunteers signed up at the February 2, 2016 BOS meeting. Mr. Eldridge stated he has been collecting data and would like to revisit this item once budget sessions are finalized.

VIII. Communications

Town Manager Eldridge stated he received a proposal for General Purpose Aide to Schools due to State budget cuts.

IX. Approval of Warrants

02/18/2016	A/P Warrant #1634	\$ 79,704.00
02/18/2016	Water Warrant #0634	1,017.98
02/25/2016	Payroll Warrant #1635	48,018.61
02/25/2016	Water Warrant #0635	41,147.24
02/25/2016	A/P Warrant #16353	45,840.64
03/03/2016	Payroll Warrant #1636	47,013.33

Motion: Chair Wright made a motion to accept the Payable Warrants as presented, Vice Chair Crichton seconded.

The motion carried unanimously: 4 – 0.

X. New Business

a. American Legion Job Fair

Andy Buckman was present. The Legion will be holding a job fair for the community. Some of the businesses attending are Pratt Whitney, Hussey, Com Cast, Media Is Us. The date is April 23 from 9-3. Refreshments will be available.

b. Tax Acquired Properties; Sale to Abutters

Ms. Maureen Finger, Finance Director, was present; she distributed a list of properties to the Board. Ms. Finger stated as part of the tax acquired policy she needs to present to the Board and request guidance from the Board on any properties going to foreclosure due to non-payment of property taxes. Ms. Finger noted the commercial property on the list has paid and that there is one property owner who is currently making payments. Ms. Finger stated prior tax sales have not been successful. She suggested mailing notices to abutters if a tax sale is suggested by the Board and if not to put the properties in the Town’s name so this isn’t repeated every year. Ms. Finger also stated a repurchase agreement could be sought.

Motion: Chair Wright made a motion for Ms. Finger to continue with the regular process with the exclusion of the property owner that is making payments. Selectmen Ganiere second the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 4 – 0.

c. Minimum Personal Property Evaluation

Town Manager Eldridge reported that the Assessor has a lot of personal property accounts that are small. Ms. Finger stated that a CAP of \$5000 would affect 49 parcels, a CAP of 10,000 would affect 69 accounts, and a CAP of 20,000 would affect 89 accounts. Discussion ensued regarding tax loss and cost of collection.

The Board requested more information and a potential solution at the next meeting.

d. Posted Roads

Town Manager Eldridge stated the Board has a list of posted roads that need approval for posting. The list includes: Pine Hill Road, Long Swamp Road, Little River Road, Diamond Hill Road, Old Sanford Road, Old Pine Hill Road, Cranberry Meadow Road, Blackberry Hill Road, Wentworth Hill Road and Guinea Road.

Motion: Vice Chair Crichton made a motion to approve the posted roads list. Selectmen Ganiere second the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 4 – 0.

XI. Quit Claim Deeds and/or Installment Contracts - None

XII. Abatements / Supplemental - None

XIII. Second Public Comment

Ms. Eleanor Murphy, Rochester Street, commented on education cuts. She read from an article stating that Mainers should see property tax relief due to an increase in educational funding for K-12.

Mr. David Dow, Planning Board member, spoke. He asked what need to be done in order to get an electrical ordinance for electrical inspections. Town Manager Eldridge will speak to John Stoll, Town Planner.

XIV. Executive Session

Motion: Chair Wright made a motion to enter into Executive Session per MSRA Title 1 §405(6)(d) - Discussion of labor contracts. Selectmen Plante second the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 4 – 0.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:07pm.

The Board resumed its regular meeting at 8:00pm. Chair Wright noted no actions were made during the Executive Session.

XV. Other Business/Non-Agenda item – none.

XVI. The Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Murray
Town Clerk

The March 1, 2016 BOS Meeting Minutes – Signed as approved at the Board of Selectmen’s March 15, 2016 Meeting.

On behalf of the Board

Chair Thomas Wright