

Selectmen's Meeting – December 5, 2007

Present were Selectmen Bruce L. Tatro, Nancy L. Carlson and Deborah J. Davis. Also present was Town Administrator Elizabeth Fox.

Chairman Tatro called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Financial Matters. Selectmen reviewed and approved accounts payable and payroll manifests.

Cheshire County Proposed Budget 2008. Selectmen were provided with correspondence from the Commissioners conveying the proposed county budget with an estimated tax impact increase of 48%. Much concern was expressed about the size of the projected increase, its impact on taxpayers and some of the programs included by Commissioners.

RSA 41:14-a, Kibler/Gill Conservation Easement – Swanzey and Richmond.

Selectmen discussed favorable testimony received at public hearings conducted on November 14th and 28th. The board voted unanimously to participate with the Monadnock Conservancy in acquisition of a conservation easement over portions of the Kibler/Gill properties located in the Perry Brook watershed authorizing expenditure of up to \$12,000 for costs associated with acquisition of the conservation easement. In addition Selectmen voted favorably to acquire and accept on behalf of the Town a back up position in the conservation easement to be placed on the Swanzey portion of the Kibler and Gill parcels with the Conservancy serving as the easement's primary holder.

Page Court Turn around easement. Selectmen voted to accept, executing for recording, the turnaround easement located on Tax Map 19 Lot 97-2 – Attachment #1. Once the turn around is constructed, conversion of the portion of Page Court adjacent to Route 32 to a Class B trail as authorized by voters through Article 12 passed at Town Meeting 2006 will be concluded.

2004/2005 Homeland Security Grant – RSA 31:95-e, Emergency Operations Center Base Radio. Selectmen voted to apply for, and authorize Chairman Tatro to execute on behalf of the town, an application for a new base station radio for the town's emergency operations center with an estimate value of \$6,600.

Trustees of the Trust Funds. Selectmen authorized remittance to the Trustees of Trust Funds \$50 to cover bank charges assessed against the trustees which the bank will not waive.

Amendment to Cable Franchise Agreement. Selectmen were advised that an agreement had been reached increasing the franchise fee to providing additional funding for the PEG channel and scheduling of a public hearing was the next step. A hearing will be scheduled for December 19th.

Bureau of Emergency Communications. Selectmen, Police Chief Rich Busick, Fire Chief Bob Symonds and Deputy Chief Mick Sanchez met with Bruce Cheney and Sue Merritt of the Bureau of Emergency Communications who offered the town assistance in mapping the town for 911. Changes in the E911 system, including maintenance of the database by the Bureau versus Verizon, were reviewed by Director Cheney. The process to map a town and the data resulting was reviewed. Methodologies to approach addressing issues which will probably result were discussed. Need to designate mapping liaisons was discussed. Selectmen voted to proceed with the Bureau of Emergency Communications to map the town requesting that candidates to serve as liaisons representing the emergency services and the town's addressing working group.

Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIb, Hiring – Fire Department. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 7:30 p.m. Present at the session were Fire Chief Symonds and Deputy Chief Sanchez. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 8:32 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely. Selectmen authorized extension of offers of employment as volunteer firefighter to Justin Lyon, East Station; Donald Steadman, Center Station; and Eric Burns, Wayne Dunham, Nathan Hardy, Michelle Symonds and Richard Symonds, West Station. Approval of hiring of those approved being subject to the requirement that all obtain (if not currently held) Firefighter I certification within 3 years of date of hire. Selectmen also requested a listing of current personnel hired under the requirement they obtain Firefighter I within 3 years reporting their status attaining that requirement.

Fire Department Radios. Symonds advised that he had received a quote from R & R Communications of \$400 a month for maintenance and support of base and truck radios of \$400 a month. In addition he advised he had a quote from R & R Communications of \$8,200 for 20 new minitors.

Town Hall/Fire Station. Symonds advised that he thought the generator and furnace rooms had been cleaned and that he was still awaiting a proposal to capture truck exhaust.

Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIb, Police Department. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 8:55 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 9:00 p.m. voting to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

Budget 2008. Selectmen posed questions related to Animal Control, Libraries, Recreation Committee and adoption of a town wide policy regarding energy efficient lighting. Need for the DPW capital plan for roads and road improvements to inform budget discussions and need for department to assess vehicle plans was discussed. Merits of repair versus expansion of Carlton Road Extension was discussed. Selectmen requested analysis of the financial implications of both options. Selectmen also requested an assessment of fire department goals and status of projects/requests pending in other departments.

LGC 9-9-9. Selectmen voted to participate in the LGC multi-year plan adopting a resolution included as Attachment #2.

Cemetery Fees. Selectmen adopted amendments to the town's fee schedule as detailed in Attachment #3.

Correspondence, Permits and Other Matters. Selectmen reviewed and executed the following:

- Commitment from the town bridges capital reserve fund to NHDOT of \$72,000 necessary to fund the town's share of rehabilitation or reconstruction of the Warmac Road Bridge. Town's share of costs incurred to reconstruct West Street Bridge during 2007 will be funded from DPW operational costs to provide sufficient balance in the reserve account to commit funds for the Warmac Road Bridge.
- Insurance Renewals designating Chairman Tatro to execute on behalf of the board.

Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meeting. Selectmen reviewed and approved as written the minutes of their meeting of November 28, 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator