

Selectmen's Meeting – December 12, 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 6:15 p.m.

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

American Legion & Memorial Day. Charlie Beauregard, on behalf of the veteran's organization, requested Selectmen increase the appropriation for Memorial Day from \$1,000 to \$1,200 due to increasing costs for flags and other supplies.

Citizen's Concerns – Fire Department. Charlie Beauregard expressed his view that department officers (who serve as supervisors in the town's department) should continue to be elected by the membership of the private companies. He felt Selectmen could confirm those officers elected to also serve as supervisors in the town's department. Selectmen advised that the re-organization of the department (developed in conjunction with department officers) establishes separation between the various social organizations affiliated with the department and the town department. Focus is on unifying the department as one town department with 3 stations. Selectmen advised Beauregard they appreciated his input.

Mt. Caesar Union Library. Selectmen met with Library Trustees Arthur Bouffard, Rob Kenney and Chris Betts reviewing the proposed request. Trustees amended their request reducing it to \$55,858 for operations and \$2,000 toward the expendable trust.

Stratton Free Library. Only lump sum information has been received from Stratton Library and Trustee Bouffard could not provide additional detail. Selectmen requested line item information be obtained to facilitate their review.

Monadnock Regional School District. Selectmen met with School Budget Committee members Bob Smith and Eric Stanley and School Board member Jane Fortson who expressed concern that the budget committee had voted at their last meeting to replace its chair without prior notice or inclusion on a posted agenda. They suggested Selectmen obtain a copy of the minutes of the budget committee meeting. They expressed concern that the action of the budget committee might serve to further divide the district. Other process questions were discussed.

Ashuelot Rail Trail. Project Manager Bohannon suggested involving Lee Dunham in the consultant selection process and advised that Theresa Diluzio had expressed interest in serving on the project's joint advisory board.

Department of Public Works. Selectmen met with DPW Director Dunham reviewing the department's proposed operations budget and equipment needs. Pricing to replace the

tractor was reviewed with the costs estimates obtained for new versus used discussed at length. Needed additional equipment was discussed. Selectmen requested a query be directed to the Sidewalk Committee seeking input regarding replacement and its methods. Grounds maintenance and grub control were discussed with members requesting some experience with grub control be developed on a small scale before proceeding town-wide. Status of light reduction at the Thompson Bridge was discussed. Changing the street light at the intersection of Sawyers Crossing and Route 32 to a higher wattage was discussed and Selectmen authorized proceeding as a test of the effectiveness of additional lighting at problematic intersections.

Fire Department Recruitment. Selectmen reviewed the advice received from Town Counsel regarding candidate selection and conflicts. Due to the composition of the candidate pool, Tatro and Davis will recuse. Carlson will appoint a former Selectman to consider the matter in accordance with advice received from Town Counsel.

Fire Department Matters. Selectmen expressed concern that policy regarding response to calls may not be as clear as it should be to members asking this concern be conveyed to Chief Symonds.

Deferral Application – Tax Map 73 Lot 22-559. Selectmen approved an application to defer 2007 property taxes for this parcel executing the necessary forms for recording.

Carpenter Home Septic System. Selectmen authorized funding of the improvement completed at the home from the 2007 operating budget.

Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Withdrawals. Selectmen approved and executed several requests for withdrawal dated 12/12/2007 directed to the Trustees of Trust Funds.

River Signs. Selectmen authorized Tatro to execute applications for signage designating the Ashuelot as a protected river at the bridge crossings in town.

Minutes of Previous Meeting. Selectmen reviewed and approved the minutes of their meeting of December 5, 2007 with amendments to Non-public Session – Fire Department (page 2) adding that a list requesting the status of personnel hired and compliance with the Firefighter I certification and correction of a typographical spelling error in the non-public session minutes pertaining to this same manner.

Correspondence, Permits and other matters. Selectmen executed the following:

- Abatement #2007-06, Tax Map 43 Lot 3-9, \$100.
- Intent to Cut, Tax Maps/Lots 67-2, 68-6, 69-2-1 and 69-2-2.

Meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.
Submitted by,
Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator