

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 20, 2008
Town Hall 6:30pm

Preliminary

At 6:30pm, Chr. Iocovozzi called the meeting to order.

Present: Chr. Cosmas Iocovozzi, Selectmen Jan Stuart and Jack O'Reilly, Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi.

Selectman O'Reilly moved to go into non public at 6:30pm under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) reputation. Selectman Stuart seconded and on a roll call vote, the motion passed 3-0.

At 6:43pm, ***Selectman O'Reilly moved to come out of non public. Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Selectman O'Reilly moved to seal the minutes. Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0 on a roll call vote.*** No votes taken

Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectman Stuart moved to approve the minutes of October 6. Selectman O'Reilly seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Facilities Use Application

The Board discussed the application and who could sign and request the rooms – ie: residents only and or non residents. It was determined that non residents could request the facility; however it had to benefit a resident. If liquor is sold, State and local permission (Selectmen) must be given for the event and the Selectmen have the right to mandate a police detail at the cost of the event sponsor.

Suicide Prevention Campaign

Father Pappas from Portsmouth spoke with Selectman Stuart last week of an effort to inform suicidal individuals of available help by way of signage. He asked, through Jan, if the Board would consider hanging them (the signs) in high volume areas. The Selectmen felt South Newington and here at Town Hall are the most visible spots.

Step Establishment for full time non-police and non-fire Employees

Selectman O'Reilly met with John Lamson who offered help in researching wage steps in area communities. Jack felt 10 steps were good as after 10 years, longevity kicks in. Selectman O'Reilly will continue to work on this. The AA was asked to contact the Police & Fire to see what their step formula is. Generally, Jack mentioned, the steps range between 2 and 3%. To keep it up to date, it should be adjusted annually for any C.O.L.A. allowance. Those employed full time currently with over 10 years in would be considered at their top step.

Ice and Snow Removal Policy and Winter Maintenance Policy Annual Adoption

Chr. Iocovozzi spoke of the current court suit involving another town (who adopted a winter maintenance policy and does not maintain sidewalks) and a wheel chair bound individual. Because of ADA regulations, it is very possible that town will be forced to buy the necessary equipment (and staff) to make passable. Selectman O'Reilly noted that we don't have public businesses where town sidewalks give access to. Chr. Iocovozzi suggested that when that ruling comes down that we inform our planning board to address accordingly. ***Selectman O'Reilly moved to adopt both policies with no changes currently noting it may have to be revisited depending on the above outcome. Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0.***

C.O.L.A. Adjustment for 2009

The September – September 12 month North East Regional (non-seasonal) Urban listed the CPI at 4.7%. Federal is 5.8%. Chr. Iocovozzi felt the Board should use the general standard of NE Regional (Sept to Sept) as done in the past - being 4.7%. ***Selectman Stuart moved to approve a 5% COLA adjustment for 2009. Selectman O'Reilly seconded.*** Discussion took place about the probability of continued monthly regional changes because of the economic crisis we are amidst and the volatile oil index effecting all

transportation thus rising costs of goods. ***On a roll call vote, the motion passed 2-1 with Chr. Iocovozzi voting no.*** Selectman O'Reilly also suggested the Board consider creating a line for merit for those who go beyond job description expectations. As it stands now, any merit is determined by not only the extra effort but also dependant on unused funds available.

Mower Prices

Selectman O'Reilly stated that the funding of this equipment should come out of Highway and Fox Point, not just Fox Point alone. Selectman Stuart said that the concept originally was just for a riding mower, not one with all the attachments. Chr. Iocovozzi felt it should be a 15 or 16 horse shared between both entities with the ability to do more than just mow. Selectman Stuart said 20 or 24 horse would be better. Johnnie Mow gave us a ball park of \$4,000 for the season and Jack stated that the Town 'could' raise the rent and take over the task. Selectman Stuart felt with notice, she would have no problem with that concept.

Key Access to Nimble Hill Gate

It was discussed and decided upon emergency access only for that gate. Highway, Fire, Police, BOS, ACO, CE, AA and Rick with a spare at Town Hall.

Yoga – Fridays – Old Town Hall

Selectman O'Reilly moved to approve use of OTH for Yoga on Fridays (sanctioned by Rec) until the end of the year. Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0 (fee waived)

Conservation Commission Alternate

Upon recommendation of the Conservation Commission, ***Selectman O'Reilly moved to appoint Erin Baird as alternate to the Conservation Commission until March 2009 town meeting. Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0. (Contingent upon residency here in town)***

Fire Chief Rotary Dues Purchase Order

The Board discussed the purchase order from the Fire Dept that detailed Rotary Dues, however the back up attached covered a pizza contest, a golf event and a dinner, all in addition. A letter was to be forwarded to the Board of Fire Engineers outlining the reason the Selectmen were authorizing payment for dues only in the amount of \$120 vs. \$260.

Gundalow Engineering Proposal

No action taken. Chr. Iocovozzi will speak with Eric from Altus.

Election Food

If we find that the Olive Garden is giving the workers free food, the AA is to call the Moderator and indicate this. The election will be a long one. Talk with Ruth to see if it is ok with her that the Board take care of the food.

Selectman O'Reilly moved to adjourn at 7:46pm. Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectively submitted,

Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant