

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 8, 2008
6:00pm Town Hall
Newington NH

Preliminary

Chr. Iocovocci called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Present: Chr. Cosmas Iocovozzi, Selectmen Jack O'Reilly and Jan Stuart, Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi, Attorney Justin Richardson, Skip and Lorraine Cole, Mike Marconi, and Justin Flynn.

Pledge of Allegiance

Selectman O'Reilly moved to go into non public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (d) acquisition. Selectman Stuart seconded and on a roll call vote, the motion passed 3-0.

Selectman O'Reilly moved to come out of non public at 6:46. Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Selectman O'Reilly then moved to seal the minutes for 6 months. Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed on a roll call vote 3-0. No votes taken

Present: Chr. Cosmas Iocovozzi, Selectmen Jack O'Reilly and Jan Stuart, Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi, Code Enforcement Officer Charlie Smart, Larry Haas, Fire Engineers Wib Goins, Steve Sabine, and Ruth Fletcher, Fire Chief Roy Greenleaf, Asst. Chief Dale Sylvia, Secretary Sarah McQuade, Police Commissioner Paul Kent and Police Chief Jon Tretter.

Meeting House Proposal – Haas

As was tabled last week, Mr. Haas offered more detail in what the \$ 108,800 proposal will cover. Much of his work be hand crafted to reflect period construction. The windows are embedded with antique glass with upper stationary units and screen and storm lower halves. Plaster patch on the walls & ceiling, pew repair, shutter renovation and bulkhead work. ***Selectman O'Reilly moved to approve the Haas proposal not to exceed \$108,800 with a payment schedule of 1/3 1/3 1/3. Selectman Stuart seconded and on a roll call vote, the motion passed 3-0.***

Police Department Budget request of \$1,236,440 *(passed)*

Chief Tretter presented his department's budget. Fire Arm training will mostly be used at year's end. Equipment contracts increased over last year and as the Chief explained, what they will be saving in internet/phone, they dedicated to this line for a better computer back up. The bottom line is up 1.28% just over \$ 14,000. Chief Tretter spoke of a Ford Fusion (approx \$17,600) for Cap Out Lay from Hillsboro Ford. ***Selectman O'Reilly moved to recommend \$ 1,236,440 to the budget committee. Selectman Stuart seconded. On a roll call vote, the motion passed 3-0. The future Police garage will be discussed at the Board's next meeting (building wish list)***

Fire Department Budget request of \$ 1,254,530 *(passed with amendment)*

Selectman O'Reilly began the session by stating how disappointed he was receiving the Fire Dept. budget with wrong figures, not once but twice. In addition to requesting an increase of 9.54% over last year, there came Warrant Article for two additional firefighters/EMTs (funded for 6 months employment at \$ 61,036); another for the establishment of a hose and equipment fund; another to establish a C.R. for Protective Clothing; in addition to a request to fund the

existing CR for vehicles replacement/repair for \$25,000). Chief Greenleaf explained that the hose conversion should be a gradual future project. As far as protective gear, the operational budget is funded for 4 people, he feels more may be necessary. Selectman Stuart indicated she was taken back by the budget with today's economy and was actually hoping department requests would be at a minimal. Ms. Fletcher spoke to the personnel WA request and referred to a survey sent whereas the response indicated people were under the impression we were actually better staffed than we really are. Due to the fire last July, she felt the Town's people should decide if the cost to fund additional personnel is worth the sense of safety to them. Chief Greenleaf stated that the injuries really hurt the department this year. Selectman Stuart mentioned how strongly she felt about splitting the Chief and Assistant Chief into separate shifts for command and staffing numbers. One ambulance call, as it is now, takes the staff out of commission in helping in another emergency. When asked about personnel called in to cover the station or other events and if it were call or FT people, the Chief stated the FT people are called as the call people in many cases were limited on what they were certified in. Various shift configurations were discussed. The 53 hour shift will not be beneficial to cost saving efforts. In the end, ***Selectman Stuart moved to recommend a total of \$ 1,182,500 (4% over last year's request) on to the Budget Committee. Selectman O'Reilly seconded. On a roll call vote, the motion passed 3-0.*** The Fire Dept will send over new figures for the AA to apply. This represents a decrease of \$ 72,030 from their request.

There was additional discussion regarding health benefits. Engineer Fletcher felt the Town is too generous in paying 100% for employees and their families and asked if the Board was going to bring forth their own WA addressing this topic. Selectmen Stuart & O'Reilly stated that they would consider supporting such a WA providing that one of the components incorporated would be that current employees would be grandfathered. Selectman Stuart said when people are hired, they came aboard under certain pretenses. It just wouldn't be fair to change things now for the current employees. Ruth disagreed. Cos stated for the health contributions to change, since it was established on the floor, it should be changed from the floor. Chr. Iocovozzi noted that initially there was a WA which passed which stipulated if the employees unionize, the health benefit would then become a negotiation item and as long as employees did not unionize, the Board would not promote a change.

Selectman O'Reilly moved to approve the minutes of December 3, 2008. Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Selectman O'Reilly then moved to adjourn at 8:02pm. Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectively submitted,

Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant