

Newington Board of Selectmen Minutes

Monday, Sept 12, 2011

Town Hall 6:30pm

Chr. Cosmas Iocovozzi called the meeting to order at 6:30pm followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Chairman Cosmas Iocovozzi, Selectmen Jack O'Reilly and Rick Stern, Julie Biron, Chairman of the Budget Committee John Lamson, Recreation Committee members Tom Rossi, Martin Callahan and Bob DeLasola; and Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi.

Ms. Biron showed the Board of Selectmen an example of what was sub level post **paving of Little Bay Extension**. It was chunks of asphalt, which was to be expected in the grind portion of the project, it was larger, however, than expected. She wanted to plant a tree, however dug down to this material and couldn't continue. The contractor will be asked to visit the site to determine if there is a problem.

Fireworks Request from Recreation for SeptFest: After discussion, ***S. O'Reilly moved to approve the lighting of fireworks by the Rec Committee for Sept Fest providing they submit an acceptable safety plan with the Fire Chief and meet his stipulations. A Fire Truck will be on site during the lighting. S Stern seconded. Motion passed on a roll call 3-0.***

Health Care Costs – Selectmen's WorkShop: S. Stern spoke of his conversation with Greenland – they are on the Comp 5000 plan. They saved approx. \$12,000 the first year. Funded an expendable Trust Fund fully the first year. There seemed to be no internal issues with the staff. The employees pay 10% and the town is responsible for the deductible. He would like to see our employees contribute 10% as he felt the 250/500 contribution to the 2,500/5,000 deductible was not enough. (Comp2500).

S O'Reilly felt 10% employee contribution and switching to comp2500 was a big hit all at once and would rather see 5% in 2012 with 1% added over the next 5 years up to 10%. Mr. Lamson felt with the town converting to a higher deductible, the savings on the premium is substantial. He too would like to see 10%. Discussion of a C.O.L.A. or off set ensued with no indication of any adjustment at this time. Mr. Lamson agreed with S. O'Reilly with the 5% plus 1% over the next 5 years up to 10% was do-able. They spoke of private vs. municipal salary comparisons. Current Costs of Comp 2500 are as follows:

Single: \$ 598.02 p/mo or \$ 7,176.24 p/year
2 per: \$1,196.04 p/mo or \$14,352.48 p/year
Fam: \$1,614.66 p/mo or \$19,375.92 p/year

Chr. Iocovozzi felt this was a consideration however brought up the concerns about NH Retirement 2 ½% increase for the employees. Suggested that an option be left to each of the departments regarding an offset.

If the expendable trust fund WA request is passed at town meeting, the plan conversion and contribution would begin May 2012. Regarding new hires, they would be hired paying 10% from the get go. Steps are given based on expected performance. Merit is generally awarded based on a performance beyond normal duties. Discussion ensued regarding 5%, 1% annually up to 10% and 5% then 5% being year 1 and year 2. Also the board discussed 5% for 2012, 2.5 in 2013 and 2.5 in 2014.

The Board would now like to meet with the Engineers, Police Commissioners and the two Chiefs. Their goal is to be fair to both the tax payer and find a level of contribution for the employees. In the end, all to switch to Comp2500, 5% employee contribution 2012, then 5% 2013, (for a total of a 10% employee contribution to premium), town pay full deductible – leaving the awarding of any off-set salary adjustments up to the governing boards. The Selectmen are looking at October 11 (Tuesday) at 6:30 to hold that meeting. The AA will check with their availability.

Town Hall Landscaping: *S. O'Reilly moved to approve Celtic Creations proposal for Town Hall Landscaping in the amount of \$ 1,620. S. Stern seconded. Motion passed on a roll call vote 3-0.* This consideration was based on a memo from BI John Stowell after bids were sought and specs distributed.

Horse Shed Proposal: *S. O'Reilly moved to approve the Haas proposal of \$23,000 for the Horse Shed renovation and preservation project. S. Stern seconded pending receipt of comments from the HDC. Motion passed on a roll call vote 3-0. (1/3 down)* This consideration was based on a memo from BI John Stowell after research.

D.O.T. Spaulding Project – Old Dover Road and Slope Easement - The Board signed a letter designated to both the Planning Board and Conservation Commission regarding their needed recommendation on this land and easement purchase by D.O.T. per RSA 41:14 mandates.

Energy Audit Fox Point Rental: Payment was authorized in the amount of \$ 449 and the Board asked that BI John Stowell consider the contents of the audit and see if the cost to repair out weights teardown and replacement with moderate modular – with proper insulation, heating, foundation, etc. S. Stern suggested that the Refuge Manager be contacted on the future plans of the modular at that location. The Board felt perhaps a Cap Res be established in 2012.

At 7:53pm, Selectman O'Reilly moved to adjourn. Selectman Stern seconded and hearing no objections, the motion passed 3-0 on a roll call vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beatrice A Marconi
Administrative Assistant