

Board of Selectmen
Town of Newington -Town Hall
January 17, 2006
Meeting Minutes

Approved 2/21/06

Present: Chairman Cosmas Iocovozzi, Selectman Jan Stuart, Selectman Jack O'Reilly, Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi, Fire Chief Roy Greenleaf, Fire Engineers Wib Goins and Ruth Fletcher, Mike Goot of Fosters, George Fletcher-Treasurer, Peter McDonald and Dennis Acton- Recreation Representatives, Sue Smith, Alfred Smith, Gail Pare, and Barbara McDonald & Vincent Frank.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

Fire Department 2006 Budget Request

Chief Greenleaf gave an overview on the Fire Department's Budget proposal. Insurance plan changes, fuel increases, vehicle maintenance, clerical wages went up, and overtime had a minimal increase and the call pay increased from \$8.50 to \$10.00. Vehicle Maintenance went up in an effort to use less out of the Capital Reserve. The fire equipment budget line went down due to the fact that the Fire Department will require less this year. Chairman Iocovozzi and Chief Greenleaf had a brief discussion on the fireboxes and their use as when new businesses come in to town the system hardware vs remote is discussed.

On unrelated to Fire Department Budget business, Ruth Fletcher stated that after a discussion with Attorney Fillmore of the NHMA, that the town could put combined benefit amounts that the firemen receive with their salaries if the Board decided to place this information in the Town report.

Chief Greenleaf spoke of requests for building improvements. Chief spoke of the storage unit. The Fire Department is looking to put in a buzzer on the office door to let people in; an intercom to communicate with people if no one is at the front desk, and a security system for the building.

Chief Greenleaf added that the Fire Department returned \$40,000.00 back to the town.

Selectman O'Reilly moved to send the Fire Department budget request in the amount of \$1,006,179.00 before the Budget Committee. **Selectman Stuart seconded the motion.** Roll call vote 3-0, **motion passed.** The Fire Department will have the warrant article for the truck lease proposal to the Board of Selectmen by the end of the week.

Minute Approvals

Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to approve the minutes of December 19th and 28th and January 3rd and 9th. **Motion seconded by Selectman Stuart.** Roll call vote, 3-0, **motion passed.**

Formerly Sealed Minutes

Selectman O'Reilly made motions to unseal the meeting minutes of December 11, 2001, March 21, 2005, June 6, 2005, June 27, 2005, July 18, 2005 and July 25, 2005. **Selectman Stuart seconded motions.** Roll call vote 3-0, **motions passed.**

Selectman O'Reilly made motions to keep the following meeting minutes sealed until further review: May 25, 2005, August 29, 2005 and October 3, 2005. **Selectman Stuart seconded these motions.** Roll call vote 3-0, **motions passed.**

Salaries in Town Report

Selectman Stuart spoke on this issue stating that she feels that the interested people can come and ask but she is against this information being published in the town report. Chairman Iocovozzi has no objection to making this information available as it is part of the budget. Susan Smith asked what benefit does the printing of the salaries bring to the taxpayers of Newington? What is the intent of use? Mrs. Smith also wanted to know why certain departments are being singled out. She feels as if that there should be some type of privacy left in all this and the publishing of this information would be totally inappropriate. Alfred Smith stated that the information should be posted by position and not by name. He also states that we should only publish by the base and benefits and nothing more, no outside details and no overtime pay. Mr. Smith also includes that in a town of Newington's size it wouldn't take long to figure out who made what if the information was posted by position only.

Barbara McDonald stated that she was the person who originally asked for this information to be published. She feels that the taxpayers of Newington should know if they're getting their money's worth in the employees that are hired.

Selectman Stuart stated that the individual who wants to know this information could go down to the town hall and get this information.

Sue Smith also wanted to thank the Board of Selectmen because there is a silent majority who appreciate all the time and hard work they do. Mrs. Smith states that she is grateful for the full disclosure that goes on in the town. Mr. Smith added that the Town is in full compliance as it is full disclosure (line by line) at the public hearing. Sue further goes on and states that the residents have a duty not just to elect town officials but also to keep up with what goes on after that.

After much discussion, **Selectman Stuart made a motion** not to publish the salaries in the Town Report, but to instead have the information ready as a hand out to those who

may be interested at Town Hall. **Selectman O'Reilly seconded the motion.** Roll call vote 3-0, **motion passed.**

Building Inspector-C. Smart

Mr. Smart spoke on the chimney work being performed on the New Town Hall. As the chimney work progressed the workers came across a problem with the exhaust fan that now has to be repaired. He received prices from Hart is proceeding with the job and the use Capital Reserve Fund might be needed. **Selectman O'Reilly made a motion** to authorize the relocation and repairs of the exhaust fan not to exceed \$5,000.00. **Motion seconded by Selectman Stuart.** Roll call vote 3-0, **motion passed.**

Charlie filled the Board in briefly on the work being done at the Old Town Hall.

Town Hall Use

Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to approve the town hall use to the following: Rockingham Planning October 25, Nov 1 & 8 (**no fee**), Board of Tax and Land Appeals July 27, 2006 (**no fee**), Kohl's January 22, 2006, NH Local Government Center April 20, (**no fee**), Seabreeze February 10, (**no fee**) and Celiac Spru January 19, 2006. (**no fee**). **Selectman Stuart seconded the motions.** Roll call vote 3-0, **motion passed.**

New Business

There was an update given by Charlie Smart about the bringing our bathrooms to handicapped compliance at the Town Hall. Chairman Iocovozzi stated that this was to go into the budget.

Public Comment Session

Al Smith stated that he was reading the tax maps and he wanted to know why the tax maps in 2004 show prime wetlands that weren't approved until 2005. It was decided to ask the Town Planner Tom Morgan and get back.

Gail Pare has a draft of the CLG Grant that has to be signed by Thursday. Chairman Iocovozzi stated that he would come in when called.

Dennis Acton stated that the Recreation is looking to craft a warrant article for a boat ramp. Both Dennis Acton and Peter McDonald addressed this issue. Dennis Acton stated that during the summer Newington residents used the boat ramp frequently. After much discussion Chairman Iocovozzi requested that the Recreation Committee check figures and with DES for permitting and possible more costs. Selectman Stuart stated that she wishes that she had more of a definite count on how many people use the docks. The Recreation committee will look further into this and come back next week.

Petition Warrant Article Circulated by Mr. Frank

Sue Smith addressed the Board with an issue that was bothering her. She stated that Mr. Vincent Frank on January 11, 2006 approached her at her home and told her that he was circulating a petition for a warrant article about wetland mapping that need signatures. He

asked if her husband was home and he then asked that if he was not home could she please sign the petition on his behalf. She states that she quickly asked him if that was committing fraud. She continues to inform Mr. Frank that she would not sign her husband's signature due to the fact that she felt as if it was fraud. Mr. Frank informed her that she should not worry because he was only asking the people he knew and trusted to sign on their spouses' behalf. Mrs. Smith called her husband and informed him of what had happened, Mr. Smith shocked, gasped and stated that Mr. Frank was a public official. Mrs. Smith after finding out what Board he served on called the Police Department and voiced her opinions and concerns. She passed a letter detailing the above to the Selectmen and stated that if town expects their employees to be held to certain ethical guidelines, and then all elected officials should be held to the same standards and guidelines. The Board was asked to pass on the copy to the Police Commissioners. Mrs. Smith stated there is a chain of command, which she has followed. She went on to say that she hopes that the Police Commission would reprimand him.

Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to go into a Non-Public meeting RSA 91-A: 3 II (e) legal. **Motion seconded by Selectman Stuart.** Roll call vote 3-0, motion passed @ 8:30 pm.

At 9:03pm, the Board voted to come out of non-public and voted to seal the minutes on a Roll Call vote which passed 3-0. No votes were taken.

Motion to adjourn came from Selectman O'Reilly at 9:04, seconded by Selectman Stuart, motion carried 3-0.

Respectively Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant