

**Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2013- Town Hall
6:30pm**

Call to Order: Chair Rick Stern called the meeting to order at 6:39pm.

Present: Rick Stern, Chair, Jan Stuart, Selectman, Cosmas Iocovozzi, Selectman, Police Chief John Tretter, Police Commissioners Doug Ross, Jack Hoyt and Steven Prefontaine and Town Administrator Martha Roy.

The Pledge of Allegiance was declared.

TD Bank Card: Cosmas moved to approve a TD Bank credit card for Martha Roy, seconded by Jan Stuart. All were in favor.

Police Department Budget: John explained that the budget had increased by approximately 8.9%. The 1.5% COLA, the insurance change, 2 new police cruisers, the New Hampshire Retirement System 25% employer share of contribution and 2.5 % steps for 5 patrolmen made up the majority of the increase. Cosmas asked the Commissioners and Chief about deferring purchase of one of the cruisers until next year. The Chief recommended, as an alternative proposal, purchasing two cruisers this year and none next year. Jan objected to both ideas and stated that we should keep on track with purchase of all safety equipment.

The Chief notified the Board that they may be discontinuing the use of Smart phones and reverting to a less expensive variety as the officers do not need the ability to e-mail.

The Chief noted that he was deferring his step that was due to be paid to him in 2014.

Jan moved to approve the Police Department budget as presented, seconded by Cosmas. All were in favor.

The Police Commissioners and Chief left and the Planning Board Chair, Dennis Hebert and Town Planner, Tom Morgan entered the meeting.

Planning Board Budget: Jan expressed her concern about the COAST bus funding in the Planning Board budget. She stated that it only stops once per day in Newington. Dennis discussed the ability for people to call in for a ride from Shattuck Way and that the businesses at the Malls need this to carry their

workforce. Jan stated they had asked COAST to make one loop through Newington and they denied the request. Dennis replied that the total budget was \$70,000 and \$30,000. was for COAST. He understood her concern.

Dennis recommended that the Board consider COAST and Jan stated that it was not a necessity. Rick stated that he supported COAST. Cosmas noted the \$10,000 donation that Cumberland Farms had given to the Town for COAST this next year. He stated that this would bring the budget in at a level funded amount for 2014.

Rick asked about the status of the new flood maps. Tom replied that it will be at least another year or possibly two before FEMA will consider new maps for the town.

The discussion reverted to COAST and the possibility of only partially funding the budget.

Cosmas suggested merging Wildcat and COAST again to save funds. Jan stated she does not support anything that includes COAST. Cosmas stated he was satisfied with COAST.

The Board deferred voting on the Planning Board budget until the Planner's salary and benefits are included.

Dennis and Tom left and Gail Pare, Historic District Commission (HDC) Chair arrived.

Historical District Commission Budget: Gail reviewed the HDC budget with the Board including the increase to fund a historically correct sign board at the entry to the Historic District. \$2,500. Has been added to the budget for this purchase.

Cosmas moved to approve the HDC budget, seconded by Jan and all were in favor.

Gail requested that the Board consider another Pow Wow to be held behind the Old Town Hall and on the Stone School grounds. The Board was amenable to this. The actual forms will be submitted for the next meeting.

Cemetery: Cosmas reviewed the Cemetery budget with the Board. He explained that John Frink works part time in the various cemeteries. Rick noted that there was not a Sexton's wages proposed in this year's budget. Cosmas agreed stating it wasn't necessary with the three Cemetery Trustees completing the paperwork and meeting with people themselves. He related that this is the last year of the

mowing bid. Rick asked if some of the costs for Cemetery improvement could be charged to the Trust accounts. Cosmas stated some of the items but not the grub control. He discussed the new idea Peggy Lamson, Cemetery Trustee, has regarding the trash receptacles. He also asked Len Thomas, Road Agent to have his crew cut down two diseased pine trees in the Cemetery.

Jan moved to approve the Cemetery budget as presented. Rick seconded this and they were both in favor with Cosmas abstaining.

Highway Budget: Len Thomas, Road Agent, met with the Board about the Highway budget.

Jan expressed concern with getting budgets less than 1 week in advance. She requested each department have a cover sheet to accompany their budget.

The Board noted that there was \$275,000 budgeted for resurfacing. They reduced this figure to \$200,000. They discussed the new mower listed in the budget. Len explained that this was there in the event the old mower gave out on the department. The Board recognized that it was hard to do close work with the mower attachment for the Kubota tractor. Cosmas emphasized that the paving priorities for 2014 should be Shattuck, Piscataqua, and then Swan and Little Bay.

Jan moved to approve \$407,565. for the Highway budget. Cosmas seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Adjournment: Cos moved to adjourn at 8:12pm. This was seconded by Jan and all were in favor.