

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 12, 2016 Town Hall

The meeting was to order at 6:34pm

Present: Board of Selectmen members: Cosmas Iocovozzi; Jan Stuart; Mike Marconi; Budget Committee members: John Lamson; Sandra Sweeney; Brandon Arsenault; Gail Pare; Jennifer Kent Weiner; Katherine Latchaw; Board of Fire Engineers; Darin Sabine; Ruth Fletcher; James Fabrizio. Guests included Andy Head, Fire Chief; Rick Stern, Sewer Commissioner, and Martha Roy, Town Administrator.

J. Lamson explained that the Fire Department will give a presentation regarding their proposal to sell the Smeal ladder truck and purchase a Seagrave ladder truck in the month of October. J. Lamson went on to say that the Selectmen were seeking the Budget Committee's recommendation on - Should we complete this outside of the Town Meeting process and- How should it be funded.

Chf. Head explained that they were having continuous problems with the Smeal's electric system failing and getting timely repairs. They explained that the truck cannot be refurbished without great expense being made. D. Sabine explained that Smeal waits until they have 4 or so repair requests in NH before they will send a repair tech here

J. Stuart asked if it is a concern that the Seagrave does not have a water tank and the Smeal does. Chf. Head explained that because we have 750 gallons of water on the other 2 engines, we don't need water on the ladder truck.

A Budget Committee member requested the costs to repair the old truck (Smeal).

D. Sabine spoke to the history of why the Seagrave truck is for sale. The department is purchasing a tower truck and did not need the ladder and a tower truck.. He stated this truck will run another 30 years with a refurbishment. A transmission and engine replacement would cost additional funds.

C. Iocovozzi noted that he has always been told that the I.S.O. rating has been "20 years on a truck". What will happen to the 1999 truck?

Andy Head explained that once it is refurbished it becomes a new ladder truck in the eyes of the I.S. O. rating system.

C. Iocovozzi thought that we should keep the Smeal ladder truck. He stated that swapping a 17 year old truck for \$270,000 versus a 10 year old truck for \$270,000. is an even trade. He is still concerned with South Newington and the water pressure there. Chf. Head mentioned that Portsmouth Water said that there is not enough water pressure for fire protection but that Newington found better water pressure when they tested the system in that area.

Chf. Head stated that the Kennard Pond could be used as a water source in South Newington. He stated the department might purchase a tanker.

M. Roy asked when would the tanker be bought and where would it be stored? Chf. Head stated it could be stored in the Highway garage.

Chf. Head stated his long term preference was to trade in the 2013 Smeal fire truck as well and purchase an engine and tanker.

D. Hebert spoke in favor of the swap of ladder trucks. He stated that the proprietary software on the current ladder truck is not in the best interest of the town. He was in favor of having a 100 foot ladder versus a 75 foot ladder.

B. Arsenault expressed concern with the purchase of the Seagrave. While he understood the concerns about proprietary equipment the age difference between the trucks was significant. He stated that he was not in favor of the trade-in at this time.

M. Roy explained that the Department of Revenue Administration and the Auditor have approved an over expenditure of the Fire Department line if the Selectmen approve of the Fire Department line over expending.

R. Stern stated that if this went to Town Meeting the voters might not vote for this.

J. Stuart expressed concern expending these funds prior to Town Meeting.

D. Sabine stated that he believed the Town could trade in their current Smeal ladder truck and buy the Seagrave ladder truck for \$1. thus not over expending lines of the budget. M. Roy will research if the Town is allowed to engage in a trade in.

G. Pare moved (on behalf of the Budget Committee) to recommend purchasing the Seagrave ladder truck and selling the Smeal ladder truck. K. Latchaw

seconded the motion. The vote results were 4 in favor, 2 opposed (B. Arsenault and J. Kent Weiner).

J. Kent Weiner stated she had voted in opposition as she wanted to review the cost associated with the refurbishment of both trucks before making a decision.

The Budget Committee would like a 15 year projected cost of the Seagrave.

J. Lamson said there would be another meeting regarding potential places to cut the budget and the research results on a 15 year refurbishment schedule of the 2 trucks.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha S. Roy
Town Administrator