

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of January 25, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Al Letizio, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Selectmen Joel Desilets, Ross McLeod and Roger Hohenberger were present, as was Finance Director Daniel Popovici-Muller. Selectman Bruce Breton and Town Administrator David Sullivan were excused. Mr. Letizio opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence in recognition of the recent passing of former Cemetery Trustee Laura Swenson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS: Mr. Letizio advised that from January 24th to 30th Windham Junction would be hosting a fundraiser to benefit the restoration of the Moeckel Pond Dam. During that period, a portion of all soup sales will be donated towards this effort.

Community Development Director Laura Scott announced a change in the Department's hours. Beginning on January 30th, the Department will be open from 9A to noon on the last Saturday of each month. In addition, the office will be open until 7P on Monday evenings. No building inspections will be scheduled during these extended hours, however, residents may pull permits, etc.

PUBLIC HEARING/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FEES: Ms. Scott advised that the public hearing notice had contained a typographical error as it pertained to the fees charged for newspaper notifications; however the balance of the notice was correct. She indicated that Mr. Sullivan had suggested that the Board could adopt the correct amendments, and repost only for the balance.

Discussion ensued, and Mr. McLeod moved and Mr. Desilets seconded to continue this to the next meeting. Passed 4-0. Staff will correct the notice and repost accordingly.

CAMPAIGN BILLING: Mr. Letizio inquired whether the Board wished to defer this matter in light of Mr. Breton's absence. Brief discussion ensued as to whether Mr. Breton would need to recuse himself anyway, and it was the consensus of the Board to defer. Mr. Desilets, in particular, was in favor of deferral due to the lack of public in attendance. He indicated he had received feedback from a resident that public input on this matter would be important.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: Highway Truck Purchase: Mr. Letizio noted that the Board had previously voted that staff dispose of, via auction, several surplus vehicles and that the proceeds of same be put towards the purchase of replacement Highway truck. He advised that the surplus vehicles had garnered \$20,270, which would be coupled with an additional \$10,000 also authorized by the Board at year-end. Mr. Letizio indicated that a purchase and sale is in hand for the replacement vehicle plus a plow in the amount of \$38,549; with the cost of the latter to come from the Winter Maintenance budget. He indicated the Board, if so inclined, would need to waive the bid process to allow the purchase to be sole sourced.

Discussion ensued as to the previous votes of the Board and the reason this was not being placed out to bid. Mr. Letizio was able to reach Mr. Sullivan by telephone, and the latter clarified that his understanding of the Board's previous direction had been that, as Deluca was handling the surplus vehicle auctions the replacement would be also purchased from them. He noted that if this was incorrect, the vehicle could be placed out to bid.

After brief discussion, the Board members concurred with Mr. Sullivan's recollection and Mr. Desilets moved and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to waive the bid requirements and award the purchase of a replacement Highway Truck to Deluca Chevrolet for an amount not exceed \$38,549 as recommended. Motion passed 4-0.

IP Agreement: Mr. Letizio advised that an agreement has been drafted to extend the Town's contract with IP through 2018 under the following terms: zero cost for 2016 and 2017, and; cost not to \$5/ton for 2018. He noted that staff's recommendation was that the agreement be approved.

Discussion ensued regarding the previous agreement, before Mr. Desilets moved and Mr. McLeod seconded to approve the agreement as presented.

Further brief discussion ensued regarding the market and that there is a possibility that 2018 will represent zero cost, as well.

Ms. Devlin requested that Mr. Desilets amend his motion to authorize Mr. Sullivan to execute the agreement. Mr. Desilets amended his motion, and Mr. McLeod his second, accordingly.

Motion passed 4-0.

Donations: Mr. Letizio requested that the Board accept a donation towards the Searles facility in the amount of \$2,000 from Dr. and Mrs. Anderson. Mr. McLeod moved and Mr. Hohenberger seconded accept with gratitude. Passed 4-0.

Mr. Letizio then requested that the Board accept a donation in the amount of \$1,500 from Liberty Utilities towards a "Welcome to Windham" sign. Mr. McLeod moved and Mr. Desilets seconded to accept.

Discussion then ensued, and Mr. Hohenberger expressed concerns as to whether Liberty was connected to the Kinder Morgan project. Mr. Desilets indicated that, while he recognized that Liberty's donation was made in good faith and he was grateful for same, he wanted to avoid any perception of impropriety.

Mr. Popovici-Muller advised the Board of a press release from 2014 issued on the Kinder Morgan website which spoke to execution of an agreement between Liberty and Kinder Morgan. After further discussion, the motion failed 2-2, with Mr. McLeod and Mr. Hohenberger opposed.

Further, brief discussion ensued regarding waiting until the Kinder Morgan matter is resolved before accepting such a donation, and Mr. McLeod noted that it may be better in the future as part of the beautification projects.

CORRESPONDENCE: Resignation received from George and Marion Dinsmore from the Historic Committee. Mr. McLeod moved and Mr. Desilets seconded to accept with regrets. Discussion ensued as to the many contributions from the Dinsmores to the Town and the Searles facility. Passed 4-0.

Resignation received from Mark Moreau from the Historic District Commission. Mr. McLeod moved and Mr. Desilets seconded to accept with regrets. Brief discussion ensued regarding vacancies, which staff will be advertising to fill.

Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Desilets moved and Mr. McLeod seconded to adjourn. Passed 4-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendi Devlin, Administrative Assistant

Note: These minutes are in draft form and have not been submitted to the Board for approval.