

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of March 31, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chairman Mr. Breton called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Selectmen Galen Stearns and Charles McMahon were present, as was Town Administrator David Sullivan. Chairman Dennis Senibaldi was delayed and Selectman Roger Hohenberger was excused. Mr. Breton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Recreation Coordinator Cheryl Haas announced the Child Safety Day, which will take place on April 12 from 10A – 1P at the Windham Center School. Activities will include Photo/Dental ID kits, vision screening, a Bike Rodeo for ages up to 11/Grade 5, and various performers. Helmets are required for the Rodeo, which will take place rain or shine. Mrs. Haas indicated that sponsors for the event are still needed, and encouraged anyone interested in assisting to contact her office.

Fire Chief McPherson approached to request permission to apply for funds through 2008 Assistance to Firefighters grant program, which closes Friday. Chief McPherson explained that, several times, the department has endeavored to outfit all full-time firefighters with a complete second set of gear. If awarded the grant, valued at \$57,650, it would be a 95/5% split for a cost of \$2,882.50 to the Town.

After a brief discussion regarding the availability of funding in the Department's equipment budget for the Town's 5%, and if the grant would equip the four new firefighters, Mr. McMahon moved and Mr. Stearns seconded to authorize the Chief's application for grant monies as described for protective gear for the full-time firefighters. Passed 3-0.

MINUTES: None.

LIAISON REPORTS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter received from Planning Director Al Turner relative to proposed blasting fees. Mr. Sullivan indicated this matter is being posted for public hearing.

Letter received from the State of NH regarding resumption of the By-pass project. Mr. Sullivan indicated that paving operations are beginning again.

NAULT'S WINDHAM HONDA: Postponed to April 14, 2008.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Sullivan inquired whether the Board wished to continue their contract with Amric for annual roadway sweeping as per the 2nd year option included in their bid. Mr. Sullivan indicated that the Highway Agent supports continuing with this vendor at Amric's same bid price of \$73/hour.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Stearns moved and Mr. McMahon seconded to award the road sweeping contract to Amric Powersweeping for their bid price of \$73/hour. Passed 3-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED: Mr. McMahon advised the Board that the Housing Authority has contracted with Mr. Mayberry, the same consultant who recently completed the Planning Board's impact fee studies. Mr. Mayberry will undertake a market study relative to affordable elderly housing in Windham. Cost for this survey is being funded by the NH Housing Authority Finance.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED: Officer Dave Comeau approached regarding replacement equipment for the Police Station exercise facility. Officer Comeau explained that ten years ago, when first established, the cost to equip the exercise room had been shared by the Town and the Police Association. Recently, there have been issues with static electricity in the facility, which has caused several pieces of equipment to short out. Officer Comeau indicated it is no longer cost effective to repair these items, and requested the Board consider sharing the cost to replace the stationary bike and treadmill. The cost for both replacement items is \$2,995 and each includes a five (5) year warranty. In addition, resident Charlie Tatone has offered to re-ground/insulate the outlets in the exercise room at no charge to prevent shorts in the future.

After a brief discussion regarding possibly humidifying the room to aide with static electricity and the availability of the Town's \$1,500 portion, Mr. Stearns moved and Mr. McMahon seconded to join with the Police Association to replace the treadmill and stationary bike at the Police Station. Passed 3-0.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Mr. Stearns moved and Mr. McMahon seconded to enter into a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91A:3 IIa, b, and c. Roll call vote – all members “yes”. The topics of discussion were personnel and reputations.

Chairman Senibaldi arrived at 7:30 PM.

Session 1 – Reputations (c). The Board, Mr. Sullivan, Chief Lewis, and Chief McPherson were present. The Board discussed a recent Zoning Board of Adjustment decision in Case #20-2008 relative to Lot 9-A-400 and a letter received from residents which requested that the Board consider appealing the Zoning Board's decision. The Board of Selectmen first discussed the attendance of members of the Police and Fire Departments staff at this or future hearings involving commercial businesses and letters written by staff commenting on the services received from the commercial business. The Board agreed that in the future the staff should document their comments in letter form however not to attend the meetings. Chief Lewis and Chief McPherson left the meeting.

The Board then discussed whether or not to submit a request for rehearing on the matter. It was a consensus of the Board not to submit an appeal and to instruct Mr. Sullivan to send a letter advising the residents who requested that the Board appeal of the Board's decision.

Session 2 – Personnel (b). The Board, Mr. Sullivan, and Ms. Haas, Recreation Coordinator, were present. Ms. Haas recommended hiring a head tennis instructor. The individual recommended worked for the Town last year in the same capacity. Mr. McMahon moved and Mr. Stearns seconded to hire Andy Paolino as recommended. Passed 4-0.

Mr. Stearns recused himself from the following discussion.

Ms. Haas discussed hiring of lifeguards for the 2008 season and recommended that the Board hire seven (7) individuals who were lifeguards for the town last year. Mr. Senibaldi moved and Mr. McMahon seconded to hire the individuals as recommended by Ms. Haas. Passed 3-0-1 with Mr. Stearns abstaining.

The Board and Mr. Sullivan were present for the remaining sessions.

Session 3 – Personnel (a). Mr. Sullivan updated the Board on the pending Police Union Contract. No decisions were made.

Session 4 – Personnel (b). Mr. Sullivan recommended the Board authorize Mr. Barlow and he to hire a temporary laborer for the maintenance department pending recruitment for a fulltime employee as approved in the budget. The Board agreed for Mr. Sullivan to proceed.

Session 5 – Personnel (a). Mr. Sullivan discussed a potential disciplinary matter. After discussion the Board agreed with Mr. Sullivan's intended course of action.

Session 6 – Reputations (c). The Board discussed an abatement issue relative to parcel 17-L-15, the parcel of land across from Griffin Park which has been offered as a donation to the town. Mr. Senibaldi moved and Mr. McMahon seconded to extend the existing agreement with the property owner to continue to abate the taxes contingent of the donation being completed. Passed 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi Devlin, Administrative Assistant
David Sullivan, Town Administrator

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