

SELECTMEN'S MEETING –TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Present: Chairman Karl Ekstedt, Selectmen Tim Roche, Kathy Chase, John Howarth and Daniel Hobbs, Town Manager Jon Carter.

Special presentation:

Mr. Ekstedt presented a plaque to Interim Fire Chief Sherman Lahaie and thanked him for his service to the Town in recent months. Chief Lahaie has volunteered to continue with the Department and finish some projects he has undertaken.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS BUSINESS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Good News

~A closing was held on Monday on the conservation land, the Tilton Parcel, which was authorized by the voters last June. Mr. Carter thanked June Tilton, Keith Fletcher and everyone who participated in acquiring this land. There is a house in dangerous condition which will be taken down.

~ Our new Fire Chief Wayne Vetre was sworn in this morning at a ceremony held at the main Fire Station. Guests included firefighters from his former department in Connecticut, Selectmen, and our State Representative. Chief Vetre thanked the Town for the support he has received and thanked Chief Lahaie for his service during the transition.

~Mr. Ekstedt noted that usually 200-300 children trick-or-treat in his neighborhood. Last night there were approximately 400 children. The good news is that the children and their parents were courteous, and the event had a nice community feeling.

2. Open to the Public

There were comments about the need to address Route One congestion and possibly constructing a cross-town connector road. Perhaps we need a building moratorium until the road situation is improved.

CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Review and action on Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants

There is a Warrant dated November 1, 2016 with expenses of \$ 470,605.97, no school payment, net payroll for the week ending 10/20/16 in the amount of \$75,273.10, net payroll for the week ending 10/27/16 in the amount of \$72,563.15, and state and federal withholding taxes, plus FICA, Medicare and federal taxes filed electronically in the amount of \$66,710.32 for total expenses of \$685,152.54.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to approve and sign the Warrant dated November 1, 2016 in the amount of \$685,152.54. Passed unanimously.

2. Update, discussion and action on Committees, Projects, Issues, Purchases and Personnel:

a. Discussion and action on postponing the November 15, 2016 Abandoned Mobile Home Public Hearing and rescheduling the public hearing to declare that a mobile home located at 1765 Sanford Road in the Town of Wells (and more particularly described as Tax Map 54, Lot 8) has been abandoned and to order corrective action, including demolition and removal of said structure, pursuant to the Board of Selectmen's authority under 30-A M.R.S. §3106-A.

The Town Attorney has requested additional time to notify the interested parties. She would like the public hearing postponed to December 20, 2016.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to reschedule the public hearing for December 20, 2016. Passed 4-0-1 with Mr. Ekstedt abstaining.

b. Discussion and action on scheduling a public hearing on placing a moratorium on Medical Marijuana Production facilities.

There is one facility in the Industrial Zone licensed for production. Several other parties have expressed an interest in having production facilities in Wells. Medical marijuana production is allowed in the Agricultural Zone. More time is needed for review of these projects and to consider regulations.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to schedule a public hearing for 7 PM on November 15, 2016. Passed unanimously.

c. Discussion and action on scheduling a public hearing on placing a moratorium on Recreational Marijuana Use.

If Question #1 on the November 8 State ballot passes, municipalities will be able to regulate recreational use in their communities. The State will take about 6-9 months to develop state-wide regulations.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to schedule a public hearing for 7 PM on November 15, 2016. Passed unanimously.

d. Discussion and action on Personnel and Committee Assignments, Resignations and Issues:

- i. Town Manager (information only)
 1. Appointment of Nicole Maurice as Assistant Tax Collector
 2. Promotion of Mark Webster to Transfer Station Coordinator

e. Discussion and action to accept donations and bequests:

1. Donation of \$1,000 from Spectra Energy to reimburse the Town's expenses in the construction of the recreation shed during the company's Day of Caring.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to accept the generous donation and send the donor a letter of thanks. Passed unanimously.

f. Discussion and action on approving the minutes of the October 18, 2016 Selectmen’s meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to accept the minutes as written. Passed 3-0-2 with Mr. Ekstedt and Mrs. Chase abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Open to the Public

Public comment was solicited and there was none.

2. Town Manager’s Report

~Standard time resumes this Saturday night. Turn the clocks back one hour.

~Election Day is Tuesday November 8. Polls will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM at the Junior High School. We have had a large turnout for absentee voting and early voting.

~The annual meeting of the Historical Society will be at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, November 9. The Selectmen have been invited to attend.

~The group supporting the fluoride referendum would like to distribute leaflets at the Transfer Station. We have not had this type of activity there since the new configuration, and there is no safe area where the people can stand. The consensus was to let Mark Webster control activity on site.

~Mr. Howarth expressed condolences to the families of Vera Hill Brooks and Bud Wheeler, long time Wells residents who passed away recently.

3. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by,

Cinndi Davidson,
Meeting Recorder

