

SELECTMEN'S MEETING –TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017

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

Excused: Selectman Daniel Hobbs

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Special Chairman's Message

Mr. Ekstedt described the amount of work done “behind the scenes” by the Selectmen. What members of the public see on Wells cable TV is just the tip of the iceberg. In addition to attending the Selectmen’s meetings, each member serves on at least 4 or 5 Town committees and is the liaison back to the Board. The Selectmen’s meetings are called to order and televised starting at 7 PM; the workshops and off-air discussions are open to the public and usually begin around 5 or 5:30 PM. Agendas are posted on the Town’s web site. There are also 1-on-1 discussions in between meetings. Selectmen work with the department heads through the Town Manager.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS BUSINESS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public Hearing on the release of up to \$5,000 from the Town Clerk Animal Control Fines for the Planning and Development of a Dog Park on Municipal Land.

A group of residents has proposed a dog park on municipal land and the Selectmen have requested the development of a business plan for its management. These funds would be used to hire a landscape architect to work with the Town Planner on the site design. The park would cover about 2 acres including parking. There is a vacant parcel of about 46 acres near the intersection of Routes 109 and 9. Power and water would be needed.

Public comment was solicited. One resident spoke in favor of the park.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to close the public hearing. Passed unanimously.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to release up to \$5,000 from the Town Clerk Animal Control Fines for the purpose of developing a layout and cost for a dog park on Town land with a business plan to address its long-term operations. Passed 3-1 with Mrs. Chase opposed.

2. The Steak Co., Inc., dba: The Steakhouse, 1205 Post Road, Wells, application for a full-time Malt, Vinous and Spirituous Liquor License. (R)

Public comment was solicited and there was none.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to close the public hearing and grant the renewal application. Passed unanimously.

3. *The New England House Seafood and Sports Bar, 124 Post Road, Wells, application for a full-time Malt, Vinous and Spirituous Liquor License. (R)*

Public comment was solicited and there was none.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to close the public hearing and grant the renewal application. Passed unanimously.

4. *Good News*

~The holiday season was fairly safe in Wells.

~Congratulations to Tammi Hollins on achieving her certification as a Tax Collector.

~The agricultural conservation easement on the Spiller Farm has been recorded, completing a 3 year project. A large parcel of land in Wells Branch is now protected from development and will be kept as farmland.

5. *Open to the Public*

Public comment was solicited and there was none.

CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. *Review and action on Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants.*

There is a Warrant dated January 3, 2017 with expenses of \$348,388.45, no school payment, net payroll for the week ending 12/22/16 in the amount of \$77,726.63, net payroll for the week ending 12/29/16 in the amount of \$72,263.87, and state and federal withholding taxes, plus FICA, Medicare and federal taxes filed electronically in the amount of \$66,855.33 for total expenses of \$565,234.28.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to approve and sign the Warrant dated January 3, 2017 in the amount of \$565,234.28. Passed unanimously.

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

a. *Discussion and action on scheduling a public hearing to Amend Chapter 10 of the Code of the Town of Wells regarding adding a third alternate member to the Budget Committee.*

There were two well-qualified candidates for the vacant alternate position on the Budget Committee. The Selectmen decided to create a third alternate position and appoint both of them.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to schedule a public hearing for January 17, 2017 to amend Chapter 10-Budget Committee to reflect the proposed increase in membership from two to three alternate members. Passed unanimously.

b. *Discussion and action on accepting the amended Meeting Calendar for 2017.*

The July meeting dates for the Planning Board and Selectmen have been adjusted because of the 4th of July holiday.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to accept the amended 2017 Meeting Calendar. Passed unanimously.

c. Discussion and action to accept donations and bequests:

1. \$1,000.00 from the Lahaie Foundation to the Wells Public Library.

This is a foundation established by our Interim Fire Chief Sherman Lahaie.

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

2. \$37.00 from Various Library Users to the Wells Public Library.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to accept the generous donation to the Wells Public Library. Passed unanimously.

3. \$100.00 from Francis Macauley to the Wells Police Department.

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

4. \$100.00 from Rocky Furman to the Town of Wells for the Fuel Assistance Program Fund in honor of his wife Becky Furman.

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

d. Discussion and action on approving the minutes of the December 20, 2016 Selectmen's meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. Roche, to accept the minutes as written. Passed 3-0-1 with Mr. Roche abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Open to the Public

There was a question about drones and if they are addressed in our ordinances. The technology can be useful for first responders during emergencies, but there is also the potential for problems such as accidents and invasion of privacy. The Town has no ordinance in place, but the York County EMA has a drone. Drones must be piloted by a licensed pilot, and 5 pilots are available if we had an emergency and needed to use it. The courts are working on privacy rights and when there is a model ordinance we will look at it.

2. Town Manager's Report

~The County Commissioners are working to establish a detox/drug treatment center. The Commissioners have partnered with the County Shelter on this project to address the opioid crisis. The pre-release center has been identified as the site since the women's program is moving to Windham. There will be a meeting and public hearing at 4:30 PM on Wednesday, January 18 to consider the proposal and funding. Mr. Carter will attend and invited the Selectmen.

~Mr. Ekstedt invited members of the public to contact any of the Selectmen with concerns if they prefer not to speak at a meeting.

3. *Adjournment*

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

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by,

Cinndi Davidson,
Meeting Recorder

