

Thornton, NH Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting on January 25, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chairman Tyler and was followed by the Flag Salute

Selectmen Present: Chairman Tim Tyler, Vice Chairman Alfred (Butch) Burbank, David Joyce, Brad Benton, Roy Sabourn

Staff present: Town Administrator Tammie Beaulieu

Public present: See attached sign-in list

A work session was held until 6:00 PM with no public in-put

Selectman Burbank motioned to approve the vendor manifest for checks dated 1/27/12 in the amount of \$ 235,721.59. Seconded by Selectman Sabourn. Approved 5-0-0

Selectman Joyce motioned to approve the payroll manifest for checks dated 1/27/12 in the amount of \$ 20,937.35. Seconded by Selectman Benton. Approved 5-0-0

Public Forum – None needed at that time

TA Presents:

Administrator Beaulieu discussed the proposed budget to date, which indicates an approximate bottom line increase of 5%. Also discussed were anticipated revenues of approximately \$ 1,247,850.00. General discussion ensued relative to possible employee step raises, and COLA's. It was decided further discussion on wage issues would be taken up later in the meeting in a non-public session. A decision was made to reduce the election expense line under the Town Clerk/Tax Collector budget by \$2,000.00. The budget public hearing has been posted for February 8, 2012.

7:00 PM Appointment: Alexis Ennon discussed a Rights Based Ordinance she has been working on and answered questions about it from the Board. It has been primarily developed to fight the Northern Pass.

TA Presents continued:

Proposed Warrant Articles were reviewed for correctness and order of presentation in the Warrant was discussed and decided.

7:35 PM Appointment: Steve Morton had a lengthy discussion with the Board relative to his views on the new Zoning Code Compliance Officer and his job description. He also shared a proposed petition that he intends to get signed and submitted for inclusion on the Warrant to abolish the current Code Compliance position that was recently put into place.

(2)

TA Presents continued:

TA Beaulieu discussed the immediate need for some additional office staff due to the recent retirement of Marianne Peabody. She has a couple of trained people in mind that she will contact to possibly fill in temporarily. The board was in agreement with her ideas.

Questions have recently been raised by some town employees relative to working on both actual holidays and “observed holidays.” The board clarified that time and one half rate would be paid on the holiday if worked, but not on both the holiday itself and the observed day if the employees had to work both. Only one day will qualify for the time and one half rate under those circumstances. Selectman Burbank asked TA Beaulieu to check with the NH Dept. of Labor to make sure the Board was correct with it’s interpretation of “hourly employees” in this matter.

Action Folder:

Selectman Burbank motioned to accept the amended minutes of the 12/28/11 selectmen’s meeting. Seconded by Selectman Sabourn. Approved 3-0-2

Selectman Sabourn motioned to approve a Purchase And Sale Document to be entered into by the town and Karl and Irene Schroeder to allow them to buy back their former property that was taken by the town under a recent tax sale. Selectman Joyce seconded. Approved 5-0-0

Selectman Burbank motioned to approve and sign a deed for recent tax deeded property back to Ronald Carlson and Deborah Kilgore, the former owners of Tax Lot 4-1-2 in Thornton Gore. Seconded by Selectman Joyce. Approved 5-0-0

Chairman Tyler shared a complaint he had received about ice on Mad River Road. He drove to the site in question and determined that it was not much different from most of the town roads at this time due to the odd weather pattern of this winter.

Public Forum No. 2:

Fire Commissioner Jim Demeritt got a quotation from Ike Barton for approximately \$400.00 to fabricate a floor grate to replace the old one in the Thornton Fire Station. The existing grate is a safety issue. The purchase was approved by the TA under the new Purchase Policy guidelines as it was less than \$1,000.00. Jim also recommended cutting the Master Plan budget line by \$1,000.00. Mr. Demeritt is also a member of the Master Plan Committee, and after his explanation, the board agreed that such a reduction was justified.

9:22 PM A motion was made by Selectman Burbank and seconded by Selectman Joyce to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a- personnel) Role call vote: Selectman Joyce, yes; Selectman Burbank, yes; Selectman Sabourn, yes; Selectman Benton, yes; Chairman Tyler, yes. 5-0-0

(3)

10:23 PM The Board came out of non-public session. For the record, the non-public session discussed various wage steps and possible COLA's for employees. It was determined that no COLA's would be given this year but that step increases would be given where appropriate.

A Motion was made by Selectman Sabourn and seconded by Selectman Joyce to accept a letter of retirement from Marianne Peabody that is intended to rescind a prior letter of resignation that she had given the Board. Approved 5-0-0

A motion was made by Selectman Burbank and seconded by Selectman Benton to approve the current budget for the hearing presentation after reducing the election expense line by \$2,000, reducing the Master Plan line by \$1,000.00, and increasing the various payroll and associated FICA lines to reflect the approved employee step increases. Approved 5-0-0

A motion was made by Selectman Joyce and seconded by Selectman Benton to approve the Warrant as amended, subject to the addition of any legally submitted petition articles that may be brought forth by the public.

10:26 PM The Board voted to adjourn. 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Roy A. Sabourn, Selectman