

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MARCH 3, 2008
MINUTES**

Call to Order

6:00 pm Chairman Stephen Barry called the Meeting to Order.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Barry asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:

Present: Stephen R. Barry, Chairman; R. Andrew Robertson, Vice Chairman; Joseph E. Stone, and John Reagan; Selectmen.

Absent: Walter Hooker; Selectman

Also Present: Cynthia Heon, Town Administrator, and Diane LaFrance Recording Secretary.

Parks and Recreation

- Joe Manzi

Mr. Manzi stated Parks and Recreation had received the check from the insurance company. Mr. Manzi informed the Board the compensation check for the damage done to the Parks and Recreation van was approximately \$1300.

Mr. Manzi contacted a rental company and has a rental scheduled so the Parks and Recreation Department will be renting a box truck until the van has been repaired. Mr. Manzi stated the van's scheduled repair date is three weeks out from today and Parks and Recreation needed something to use in the meantime.

Chairman Barry asked Selectman Reagan to explain to Mr. Manzi the offer both he and Selectman Reagan had been speaking of before the Meeting. Selectman Reagan stated he had spoken with a Town vendor regarding fixing the van. The Town vendor stated he could fix the van if it was taken to the Town Shed.

Chairman Barry asked Selectman Reagan if the fix was a guarantee. If the windshield channel isn't fixed just fine, then the remainder of the damage cannot be fixed. Chairman Barry also asked what the cost was going to be. Selectman Reagan responded stating the cost to be about \$150 for the windshield channel and the cost of the windshield. The remainder of the cost depends on what the real damage is.

Vice Chairman Robertson asked the name of the vendor. Selectman Reagan responded Bert Allard.

MOTION: Selectman John Reagan made the motion to bring the van to the Highway Shed for repair. Seconded by Selectman Joseph Stone.

Discussion: Selectman Stone stated he would like to see the stipulation added to the motion should the Highway Shed discover they cannot repair the van they are to notify the Board immediately. The Board was in agreement.

VOTE: Chairman Stephen Barry called for the Vote; all votes were in favor.

Review of Outstanding Minutes

- February 20, 2008

MOTION: Vice Chairman Andrew Robertson made the motion to approve the February 20, 2008 Minutes as written. Seconded by Selectman John Reagan.

VOTE: Chairman Stephen Barry called for the Vote; in favor Vice Chairman Andrew Robertson, and Selectman John Reagan. Abstained - Selectman Joseph Stone.

Vouchers

- Accounts Payable Manifest totaling \$41,312.96

MOTION: Selectman John Reagan made the motion to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest totaling \$41,312.96. Seconded by Vice Chairman Andrew Robertson.

VOTE: Chairman Stephen Barry called for the Vote; all votes were in favor.

Signatures

- Personnel Plan Revision

Chairman Barry stated there was an issue regarding holiday and vacation days not counting as time worked when calculating overtime. The proposed amendment to the current Personnel Policy, Section 4.2, would address this concern.

MOTION: Selectman Joseph Stone made the motion to adopt the proposed amendment to the Personnel Policy, Section 4.2. Seconded by Vice Chairman Andrew Robertson.

VOTE: Chairman Barry called for a Vote; all votes were in favor.

- Renewal of Insurance Policy/Property Liability – The Local Government Center

Chairman Barry stated the Insurance Policy was a 3-year policy and within the policy was the guarantee of no more than a 9% increase regarding Workmen's Compensation.

MOTION: Selectman Joseph Stone made the motion to accept the proposed Insurance Policy Renewal. Seconded by Vice Chairman Robertson.

VOTE: Chairman Stephen Barry called for the Vote; all votes were in favor.

- Settlement Agreements
~Frederick and Claudia Spangler
~Richard Toombs Trust

MOTION: Vice Chairman Andrew Robertson made the motion to accept the recommendation of Avitar regarding the Spangler and Toombs agreements. Seconded by Selectman Joseph Stone.

VOTE: Chairman Stephen Barry called for the Vote; all votes were in favor.

- Letter of Gratitude to the Highway Department/On-Call Employees and Contractors

Chairman Barry read a letter written to the Deerfield Highway Department, on-call employees and contractors thanking them for all their hard work due to the extreme amount of snowfall this 2007-2008 winter season. Chairman Barry stated no vote was needed only the Board's signature.

Review of Correspondence

- Letter from Town Clerk/ Tax Collector

Chairman Barry stated the Board had received a request from the Town Clerk/ Tax Collector asking the office not open on March 12, 2008 until 12 noon due to the elections being held the day before and the amount of clean up required.

MOTION: Selectman John Reagan made the motion to approve the Town Clerks request and not open until 12 noon on March 12, 2008. Seconded by Selectman Joseph Stone.

VOTE: Chairman Stephen Barry called for the Vote; all votes were in favor.

- Letter of Request from Linda Bandecchi

Chairman Barry stated the Board had received a letter from Mrs. Bandecchi requesting the Board waive the interest of her taxes due to extenuating circumstances. Chairman Barry stated the amount Mrs. Bandecchi is requesting be waived was \$43.31.

MOTION: Selectman Joseph Stone made the motion to grant Mrs. Bandecchi's request and waive the interest in the amount of \$43.31. Seconded by Vice Chairman Robertson.

VOTE: Chairman Stephen Barry called for the Vote; all votes were in favor.

- Letter of Request from the Women's Club

Chairman Barry stated the Women's Club has requested the use of the hall for May 4, 2008. The Women's Club has requested the Board waive the fees for the hall rental and charge only the \$35 clean up fee, stating once the Women's club leaves the hall all will be clean and the Women's Club would have the \$35 paid back to them.

MOTION: Selectman Joseph Stone made the motion to approve the Women's Club request and waive the hall fee. Seconded by Vice Chairman Andrew Robertson

VOTE: Chairman Stephen Barry called for the Vote; all votes were in favor.

- Alex Cote

Chairman Barry asked Mr. Cote if he had sent a letter to a resident regarding car and road issues. Mr. Cote responded he had.

- Deerfield Cooperative Preschool

Chairman Barry stated the Board had received a letter from the Deerfield Cooperative Preschool requesting the use of Town Gazebo. Chairman Barry stated the Deerfield Cooperative Preschool is asking the Board to waive the rental fees.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated he believed the Board did not waive the fee last year but was not certain. The Board then asked Mrs. Heon to do some research regarding the issue and get back to the Board for the March 10, 2008 Meeting and the Board will decide then.

Unfinished Business

- Police Chief Detail

Chairman Barry stated after researching the issue of paid detail to the Police Chief it had been confirmed the Chief had been paid for detail duty at least twice and the Chief had also been paid for working the fair. Chairman Barry stated the Board basically had an obligation to pay the request received by Chief Greeley for the detail in which he worked.

Selectman Stone asked when the Chief's evaluation period was up. It was indicated the Chief would be evaluated in July along with all other Town employees.

The Board made the decision to send Chief Greeley a letter explaining the expectations of the Police Chief and making the issue of detail duty clear. Vice Chairman Robertson stated he would like the letter sent as soon as possible to avoid future confusion.

Other Business

- Personnel Policy

Chairman Barry asked the Board if all members had seen the Personnel Policy information and if they had any questions or comments regarding the changes. All Board members responded they had read through the Personnel Policy information.

Selectman Stone stated he did not go along with the new policy of a 1 year probation period of a new employee or promoted employee. Selectman Stone stated the policy to his understanding has been 6 months and would like to keep it that way. Selectman Stone also stated if an employee of the Town is promoted he did not feel the employee should have to go through another 1 year probation.

Vice Chairman Robertson asked why the Town went with the 1 year probation period. Mrs. Heon responded to her understanding the change was made for standardization. Selectman Reagan added the State has the same 1 year probation period.

Selectman Stone stated he did not agree with the 1 year probation period and the 6 month probation period had always been fine in the past and believed it to be a substantial amount of time.

Chairman Barry suggested the Board decide the probation period of each job and should an employee be promoted the Board decide how long or if a probation period is needed. Selectman Stone wanted to wait until Selectman Hooker returned to discuss his section of the Personnel Policy.

- Status of Bridge Reconstruction

Selectman Reagan asked Mr. Alex Cote the status of the bridge. Mr. Cote responded the reconstruction of the bridge is on hold of this time. Mr. Cote explained due to the early snow and large amount of snow the construction had to be put on hold. Mr. Cote continued once the weather warms and the snow has melted some reconstruction will continue. Mr. Cote stated when the reconstruction of the bridge began he was unaware Mr. Rollins was not going to be able to complete the project when the snow fell.

Mr. Cote stated at this time there have been two walls completed on the Ridge Road side. Mr. Cote stated again once the weather permits the reconstruction will start providing there are no flooding problems.

Chairman Barry asked Mr. Cote about the Town Equipment, and how his personnel are holding up due to the amount of snowfall the state has had and the hours everyone has had to put in. Mr. Cote responded the regarding the equipment at this time there are 2 trucks down but we are hoping to have them up and running for Tuesday March 4, 2008. Mr. Cote continued stating personnel are holding up well but tired.

Mr. Cote informed the Board the Highway Department has had to hire an outside contractor to open Sidmore Hill, stating the Highway Departments equipment just could not move the snow. Mr. Cote also stated they used the outside contractor to move the snow because they did not have the manpower.

Jon Therrien

Town resident Jon Therrien arrived at the Selectmen's Meeting and asked the Board the estimated finish date of the Bridge. Mr. Cote responded to Mr. Therrien stating again the bridge reconstruction will begin again once the weather breaks.

Mr. Therrien informed the Board of the massive hole caused by the April Flood waters crossing the road in front of his house. Mr. Therrien stated the road is getting worse and worse. Mr. Therrien informed the Board his son now has a plate in his arm after a fall he had taken due to the erosion. Mr. Therrien stated the erosion has caused him to lose land between the road and the pond in his backyard.

Mr. Therrien stated to the best of his knowledge the road had been paved 2 years ago and no preparation had been done and felt it was a waste of the taxpayers' money.

Chairman Barry asked Mr. Therrien where it was he lived. Mr. Therrien responded 23 Cole Road. Mr. Cote stated to the best of his knowledge Cole Rd had not been paved for at least 6 years. Mr. Cote stated he did not remember ever paving Cole Road and he has been Highway Agent for the past 6 years.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated he has heard from several residents of Cole Road and all the residents have in some way said thank you for the reduction of traffic on the road.

Chairman Barry responded to Mr. Therrien's concerns stating the Board and the Highway Department would like to do more but at this time everyone is hampered by the weather.

Selectman Stone stated once the snow is off the ground the Board also has the concern of assessing the new damages done to the roads due to the weather. Selectman Stone also stated there will be a lot to do and we still need to stay within the budget.

Mr. Therrien asked the Board if the "when the weather clears" means snow has melted and water is at its normal level. Mr. Cote responded to Mr. Therrien stating in order to bring in fill to fill the erosion damage the weather has to be warmer and more consistent to do the job correctly.

Mr. Cote informed the Board he had received several phone calls regarding a split Pine tree on Parade Rd over the weekend. Mr. Cote stated he had the tree removed feeling the tree was a liability. Chairman Barry thanked Mr. Cote for his quick response and informed him he was within his rights.

Citizens Comments

Maureen Mann asked the Board if the policy of overtime and detail duty regarding the Police Department included the entire department or only the Police Chief. Chairman Barry responded the policy is concerning the Police Chief.

Alan O'Neal asked the Board the rule for campaign signs on the Town Commons. Vice Chairman Robertson responded to his belief if the signs are on a State Highway right-of-way then the State removed the signs. Vice Chairman Robertson continued stating he believed you could post signs in the public right of way but you must not obstruct the view. Chairman Barry stated it really doesn't matter who removes the signs, all signs should be removed after the election.

Selectman Stone stated some laws have changed and he believed the law to read there were to be no signs on State Property. Vice Chairman Robertson asked Selectman Reagan to look into the matter.

Adjournment 6:42 pm

MOTION: Selectman John Reagan made the motion to adjourn the March 3, 2008 Meeting.
Seconded by Vice Chairman Andrew Robertson.

VOTE: Chairman Stephen Barry called for the Vote; all votes were in favor.