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Select-Board Meeting: 01-13-2014

Attending meeting: Board members, Vic St. Cyr, Julia Simonds, Kathy Barden

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Vic St. Cyr at 5:30pm

Chairman made motion to accept minutes from prior meetings.

Seconded by Julia Simonds.

The Chairman Vic St Cyr explained that the Town Department Heads were asked to try and not purchase any items unless it was an emergency after the 15th of December. The Town had just closed out the year end on 01-10-2014 and that the accounts are being reviewed and that the budget information should be forth coming. The Board is still waiting for accounts to be reconciled. The Board would like to meet a few times with the Advisory Budget Committee so that everyone was on the same page going forward with the proposed 2014 budget.

The Select-Board reviewed the proposed Agreement for Assessing Services from Brett S. Purvis & Associates, Inc. They are the company the town currently uses for Assessing. The contract is now up for renewal.

The Chairman made a motion to accept the proposed contract form Brett S. Purvis & Associates, Inc.

Seconded by Julia Simonds

Motion passed 3/0

The Chairman explained that the contract will be sent to the Department of Revenue for their review and then the Select-Board will be able to finalize the contract.

Town Clerk Jessie Wentworth updated the Select-Board on the heating problems in her work area. Parts have been ordered and Stiles fuel will schedule a time to do the repairs. Jessie also reminded everyone of the upcoming elections for next Tuesday the 21st polls will open at 8:00 am and close at 7:00 pm. This is a Special Primary Election. Jessie also asked about the use of the Select-Board offices for the elections and the other office will be used to serve lunch to the election staff working the elections.

Town Clerk presented a written request to have a warrant article written at the upcoming Town Meeting in regards to the Town Clerk salary. The Select-Board reviewed the written request and are in agreement. The Select-Board will approve of the requested changes and support the article at the upcoming Town Meeting.

Chairman Vic St Cyr asked that any and all reports or information that needs to go into the Town Report for the upcoming Town Meeting be submitted to the Select-Board office no later than February 3rd 2014.

Kathy Barden Select-Board member inquired about the Town Report and asked if the Town is going to

use the same format as in the past and continue with the calendar. The Select-Board plans on continuing with the calendar format.

Chairman Vic St Cyr would like to meet next Monday and have a work session only with the Advisory Budget Committee. He also explained that there may be a need to be increases in the budget in some areas and that there may be reductions in other areas. He also went on to explain that the town currently has a note with the USDA and it is currently paying 5% interest on that note the amount of the payoff is approximately \$8,800.00 the final payment is due in 2021. It would be a wise move to do a warrant article to pay the note off and save on the interest charges.

David Spreadbury had questions and concerns about a recent encounter with a dog that was lose in the Bridge Hill area. There were concerns that the dog that was lost may not have had a collar or tags. He reported that the dog came out into the roadway in his path of travel he had to take evasive action to avoid hitting the dog. He was also concerned as to who owned the dog. He reported the incident on the night that it happened via phone message to the local Police Department. On another concern he explained that he was on his way to the Transfer Station and he noticed a vehicle with trash in the back that there were two blue bags that the town sells for trash and two other bags that where regular trash bags and a pizza box. When he arrived at the Transfer Station to unload his rubbish he noticed the trash bags that are not town bags and the pizza box in the container. David inquired if the Transfer Station attendant had allowed the person to leave the other two unmarked bags and the pizza box. Chairman Vic St Cyr made a motion to take reported incidents under advisement and will discuss the issue with the appropriate parties.

Seconded by Julia Simonds

Motion Passed 3/0

Fire Chief Ron Sheltry reported the number of calls responded to by Whitefield Ambulance and shared reports on the number of calls the Fire Department has responded to for the year is 162 total calls for the year this number is up from the call volume from last year. Fire Chief also explained that most of calls were EMS and that all the calls were responded to on the first tone out. The Select-Board thanked the Chief and members of the department for their hard work and dedication to the Town. The Chief also had a report from the Forest Fire Warden and State Forest Ranger. The report is posted on the board at the town office for citizens to review. Ron gave an update on the Emergency Plan for the Town and the grant. He would like to start working on the plan early this spring.

The Select-Board reviewed a written request submitted by the Animal Control Officer Bruce Walsh. Bruce would like a stipend for serving as Animal Control Officer for the Town. The Select-Board asked that Bruce submit a log with information as to the number of calls made and an estimate of time involved in an average call.

Chairman Vic St Cyr asked for a motion to go into Executive session to discuss Legal issues.

Motion made by Julia Simonds

Seconded by Kathy Barden.