**BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S MEETING**

Monday, March 27, 2017

Call Meeting to Order **5:45PM**

**DRAFT**

**Approved on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Date)**

**Donald Harty \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Hugh Curley \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or amended on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**J Chris Bowes Absent**

**Present:** Donald Harty, Chair, Hugh Curley, Vice Chair and Kelly Dearborn-Luce, Recording Secretary.

**Staff Present:** Nancy Wheeler

**Other Attendees:** Joni Kitson, Len Gilman, Virginia Drew, Debbie Sargent, Maryann Zirngiebel, Chief Preve, Glenn Horner, Lt. Michael, Jay Hickey, Patricia Hickey, Gary Perry, Rick Bilodeau, Dawn Blackwell, Herb Bartlett and Deputy Chief Palermo.

Chair Don Harty opened the meeting at 5:45PM. The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Review and Accept Agenda** Hugh Curley made a **motion** to amend the agenda for Monday, March 27, 2017 by adding a discussion regarding the Letter from Lebanon and a thank you letter. Don Harty seconded the motion. All voted in favor to accept the amended agenda.

At 5:46PM Hugh Curley made a **motion** to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) personnel. Don Harty seconded the motion. A roll call vote was Don Harty – yes and Hugh Curley – Yes. Motion passed.

At 6:00PM the Board returned from non-public session. Hugh Curley noted that no decisions were made. Hugh Curley made a **motion** to seal the minutes for one year. Don Harty seconded the motion. Roll call vote to seal the minutes was Don Harty-yes and Hugh Curley-yes. Motion passed to seal the minutes.

**Signature:**

Accounts Payable/Manifest was reviewed and signed.

Payroll was reviewed and signed.

Hugh Curley made a **motion** to approve the annual agreement for payment in lieu of taxes for Epsom Elderly Housing. (Map U15-22). Motion was seconded by Don Harty, all voted in favor.

Hugh Curley made a **motion** to approve the charitable exemption annual application for the Merrimack Valley Church (Map U8-101). Motion was seconded by Don Harty, all voted in favor.

Hugh Curley made a **motion** to approve the charitable exemption annual application for Northeast Resource Recovery Association (Map U6-8). Motion was seconded by Don Harty, all voted in favor.

Hugh Curley made a **motion** to approve the following Veteran Disability exemptions (x2); R13-3-4 and R2-64. Motion was seconded by Don Harty, all voted in favor.

Hugh Curley made a **motion** to approve the following Veterans Exemptions x (6); U10-89, U19-5-1-1, R1-15-4, R9-23-2, U18-6-44, and U16-7-95. Motion was seconded by Don Harty, all voted in favor.

Hugh Curley made a **motion** to approve the Free Map/Publishing 2017 Contract with NH Community Publications. Motion was seconded by Don Harty, all voted in favor.

Hugh Curley made a **motion** to re-appoint the following: Barbara Clark for Deputy Treasurer, Celeste Decker for Deputy Welfare Officer and Peter MacCullum for Deputy Boat Tax Collector. Motion was seconded by Don Harty, all voted in favor.

Hugh Curley made a **motion** to approve the Report of cut-Tax levy for U01-112-5. Motion was seconded by Don Harty, all voted in favor.

**Staff:**

Nancy Wheeler spoke about the letter that was sent by the Attorney regarding the status of the postponed election/voting day. Nancy has not merged the 2017 budget yet until a final decision is made about the election ruling from the State. The Board also agreed to hold off any pay increases and other major expenses until final decision from the State. The letter asked if any Boards (of Towns that did postpone their election day) want to participate in filing a law suit with other Towns. The Board was not in favor at this time. Don Harty will respond to the Attorney. Nancy reviewed the former language for accepting donated funds in 2009 for the Meeting house article. If the Board wanted to set up an account for Webster Park Replanting, the language would have to be for a specific purpose.

Nancy noted that Yvette Toledo had donated the 9 pizzas for the election staff. The Board accepted and thanked Mrs. Toledo for her donation.

Kelly Dearborn-Luce spoke about the staff meeting held regarding the “Admittance Policy”. Kelly revised the policy to state that no one should be allowed in the Selectmen’s Office if there is no staff present. Board signed the revised policy. Kelly also spoke about the contract for Ram Printing and due to a malfunction in equipment, the date for completing the reports was not met and RAM will adjust the invoice by 15%. Kelly had contacted Mary Frambach again to check on the status of the deed for the water easement at the Meeting House and had to leave a message with Dick Frambach.

**Discussions:**

Hugh Curley read the letter from the City of Lebanon regarding accusations made by the President of voter fraud in New Hampshire. City Council voted to send a letter to the Governor regarding Town’s concerns with the accusations. Hugh would like to send a letter (of same) from the Town of Epsom as we take pride in the integrity of our elections. Hugh Curley made a **motion** to send the letter to the Governor and authorize Don Harty as Chair to sign. Don Harty seconded the motion, all voted in favor.

Hugh Curley would also like to send a thank you letter to Tim at “Tim’s Truck Capital” for the use of his sign to advertise the postponed date & time of the Election/Voting Day.

Herb Bartlett came in to speak to the Board about the service he had received from the Fire/Rescue Department. Herb said when he had a problem breathing he called for the rescue. They were quick and he wanted to thank them for a great job. Don Harty said we are fortunate to have such leadership and staff within the Department. The Board thanked Herb for coming in to share his experience.

**Scheduled Time:**

6:45PM Department Head Meeting

Dawn Blackwell, Town Clerk/Tax Collector thanked the Board for responding to the letter regarding the accusations of voting fraud. Dawn said the school board elects are having a re-count. There are some vacant positions for Cemetery and Planning Board. There were a total of 667 voters. The Board thanked Dawn for a great job at elections. Dawn said she will be attending training for “Clerk Day” in Concord with her Deputy, Livia on April 11th and will need to close the office.

Chief Preve spoke about the active shooter training “ALICE”. The Board said they would support the training. Chief has submitted the mileage report. Chief spoke about the Expedition vehicle going to auction and Gordon was interested in it but some maintenance would be required. The new cruiser will be in and the Board signed the purchase order. Board also signed the purchase order for low profile equipment. Chief and Board held a discussion regarding “Detail Rates”. Chief reviewed the list of rates from surrounding Towns which is an average of $70.00 an hour. Lt. Michael spoke about the scheduling of the details as they getting calls daily requesting detail coverage. Hugh asked about the history of when the last time the rate was increased and in 2012 it was increased for the use of the cruiser and in 2009 was the last time rates increased. The Board would like to table the discussion further before making a decision and discuss again at next meeting.

Glenn Horner, Zoning Board said the case load is on track. They have had 3 cases in 3 months. The ZBA will be attending the training in the spring.

Rick Bilodeau, Emergency Management said it is calm for Emergency Management. There has been new communication to update the shelters. The Emergency Operation plan will need to be reviewed and signed by the Board. Hugh and Rick will discuss the appointment papers to be signed.

Jay Hickey, Zoning Compliance Officer said Aroma Joes is still thinking of coming into town. A new Day Care is opening soon. Adam Towne may be adding a new commercial building. There has been a lot of Solar Arrays installed. A sheet metal shop was looking to build in town but found other location. Blake’s Campground is under new management and will be replacing campers with “tiny houses”. Sonny Sell from Circle 9 has signed the entertainment agreement. Jay worked with FEMA regarding new floodway lines for Kingstown.

Planning Board – Jay said the Smith subdivision may get started which is for 60 lots. A Nano Brewery has received site plan approval. The Board is working on revising the Site Plan regulations.

Jay also spoke about the concerns with an abandoned house on Goboro Road. Jay is meeting with the owners on Monday.

Gary Perry, Webster Park spoke about the on-going stump removal and should be completed this week. The park is still closed but will be open for early May. Gary is still working on receiving quotes for the small pavilion and the back stop. The Eagle Scouts are interested in projects at the Park. Gary and the Board discussed the replanting and having a donation/expendable fund.

Deputy Chief Palermo spoke about the hiring process to replace Nik Bassett who resigned from the Department recently. Deputy Chief said there are 4 good candidates and would like to keep the hiring process within the firehouse. Board agreed with the Deputy Chief to hire from within first.

Patricia Hickey, Welfare Officer spoke about the on-going process with meeting and working on budgets with clients.

The Board thanked the Department Heads for coming in. Don Harty noted that the election results speak for themselves as it was noted that the budget passed by 65% which reflects on the performance of the Department Heads and staff. Don said we have good employees that work hard.

**Minutes for review and discussion:**

Draft – March 13, 2017. Hugh would like to make a correction on page 2 regarding the liaison report about the solar arrays. Hugh Curley made a **motion** to approve the amended minutes. Motion was seconded by Don Harty, all voted in favor.

**Minutes to sign:**

Final – March 13, 2017 phone conference meeting. Hugh Curley noted the time of the phone call to be in the minutes. Hugh Curley made a **motion** to approve the amended minutes. Motion was seconded by Don Harty, all voted in favor.

Non-Public minutes for March 13, 2017 were reviewed. Hugh Curley made a **motion** to approve the minutes, session 1 and session 2. Motion was seconded by Don Harty, all voted in favor.

Final – February 27, 2017 were reviewed and signed.

**Selectmen Liaison Reports:**

Chris Bowes (absent)

Hugh Curley spoke about the appointment papers for Rick Bilodeau and job description for Emergency Management. Hugh will meet with Rick this week.

Don Harty said a resident spoke about the traffic issue while waiting at the school. Don would like to discuss further with Pat Connors and Police Chief. Don also mentioned the water easement at the Meeting House and he hopes it can proceed soon. Don and Hugh discussed the recent topic on local Facebook page regarding Metrocast broadcast of meetings. Don asked Kelly to research further.

**For your Information:**

Town Clerks letter

Travelers Insurance Public Service services

LCHIP monitoring/ payment

NHMA 2017 supplement for moderators

NHDOT re: Roadside flashing beacons

Merrimack County Delegation/notices

**5 Minutes for Public Questions and Comments:**

Len Gilman agreed that the traffic waiting at the school is an issue and has been for a while. Len also asked if the Board agreed with use of tiny houses in the campground and the Board said they didn’t think it would be any different than trailers.

Joni Kitson asked about the grader again and heard the Town said not to put any money in to it. The Board said that they did not know of any such statement. Board stated that maintenance is done to keep it running.

Virginia Drew spoke about the ALICE program and that there is a less expensive training course done by the State for active shooters. Virginia also spoke about the history of Metrocast and broadband services.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding maintenance, utilizing the building and starting a new charter for the Meeting House. Don Harty mentioned that Article 10 failed at the recent election. Hugh Curley said the recent discussions on Facebook and around town about article 10 were misrepresented. Nancy Wheeler explained the difference between “Friends of Meeting House” to raise funds and accept donations –vs- a town committee and was better to have the non-profit organization to fund the Meeting House needs.

At 7:50PM Hugh Curley made a **motion** to adjourn. Don Harty seconded, all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Dearborn-Luce

Recording Secretary

*These minutes are in preliminary draft form only and are subject to change before final approval*.