

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING OCTOBER 7, 2008

Chairman Foyle called the meeting to order at 7 PM in the Senior Center with all members present.

I. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of September 30, 2008 as written. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter read a memo from the Finance Committee asking that the Board of Selectmen institute a spending moratorium effective immediately. The FinCom is concerned that the state could renege on the local aid that was given to the town on the Cherry Sheets, and the potential for increases in energy costs to the town.

Mr. Foyle noted that the FinCom expects that the economic issues being experienced on the national and state levels will filter down to the local level. Our Free Cash is expected to be lower this year than in previous years, and if voters approve Question 1 on the November ballot there will be less revenue for the state to send to the cities and towns statewide.

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to enact a spending moratorium on all discretionary spending effective midnight October 7, 2008. So voted. It was agreed that there will be another memo to town employees next week that further defines "discretionary."

B. Mr. Foyle noted that the former Town House Building Committee met earlier this evening. Last week the selectmen voted to change the name of the committee to the Town House Renovation Committee. The newly renamed committee reviewed a survey that will be sent out to all of the town's residents in January with the annual census. The survey will ask people what they would like to see done with the town hall.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter read a letter from Bob Potvin, Chairman of the Historical Commission, asking for permission to hire Paquette Construction to perform an initial review of the condition of Bates Observatory. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to table the request until the selectmen get some firm numbers from the Historical Commission. So voted.

B. Mr. Petraitis read an e-mail announcing that on October 15th the Planning Board will have a hearing on the new Downtown Mixed-Use Overlay District.

C. Mrs. Walter read an e-mail from the Master Plan Implementation Committee that they are looking for additional members to help coordinate and track 2007-2009 goals and objectives from each chapter of the Master Plan. Interested residents should contact the committee.

D. Mr. Foyle presented a chart detailing the gasoline and diesel usage of several town departments, including the Police, Fire, Highway, Sewer, Water, School, Animal Control, Board of Health, and Cemetery. Most of the departments have done a good job reducing their fuel consumption. Mr. Foyle noted that the selectmen applaud those departments for their conservation efforts.

E. Mr. Petraitis reviewed an e-mail from Highway Superintendent Gary Jean asking for additional hours for the department clerk. Mr. Foyle noted that the Highway Department lost 25% of its work force when James Brown was hit by a car in February. Mr. Jean became a working foreman out on the roads, and additional clerk hours were added to pick up the slack in the office. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to authorize additional clerk hours thru December for Kim Kort, not to exceed 18 hours per week at a rate of \$12.23 per hour. So voted. .

F. Mr. Foyle announced that the selectmen will be hosting an open house at the new town offices, located at 215 North Main Street, on October 25th from 10 AM to 1 PM. He stated that former selectman Jim Caldwell has volunteered many hours getting the communications up and running. Mrs. Walter noted that this was a Master Plan objective, and will save money and improve the efficiency for the town's departments.

There was some discussion regarding uniform "core" hours for the town offices, and also the possibility of closing on Fridays. It was agreed that a member of the selectmen will contact all of the affected employees for their input before making any final decisions.

There being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant