

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 10, 2014
MINUTES**

Call to Order

5:30pm: Chairman, Steve Barry called the meeting to order.

Present: Steve Barry, Chairman; Alan O'Neal, Vice Chairman; Rebecca Hutchinson and Richard Pitman

Absent: R. Andrew Robertson

Also Present: Jan Foisy, Finance Director and Michael Wright, Town Administrator

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Barry asked all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag.

Motion: Vice Chairman O'Neal moves to enter into a Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A: II a

Second: Selectwoman Hutchinson

Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Reconvene

Chairman Barry notes for the record that a Plan for Personnel Action was agreed to during the Non-Public session.

Motion: Selectwoman Hutchinson moves to seal the minutes from the Non-Public Session

Second: Selectman Pitman

Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman Barry welcomed and introduced the new Town Administrator, Michael Wright. M. Wright took the opportunity to introduce a new Town resident John Howard who is interested in filling the vacant Water Commission position. Chairman Barry suggested Mr. Howard begin speaking with community members and asking they put his name as a write in candidate at the March Elections.

Regular Business

-Minutes January 27, 2014

Motion – Selectman Pitman moves the minutes as written

Second – Selectwoman Hutchinson

Vote to Approve – All in Favor – Motion Carries

-Accounts Payable - \$36,206.26

Motion – Vice Chairman O'Neal moves to approve

Second – Selectwoman Hutchinson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

-Permit Application – Veteran's Tax Credit for Shea Ahern, Echo Valley Rd

Motion – Vice Chairman O'Neal moves to approve

Second – Selectman Pitman

All in Favor – Motion Carries

-Permit Application – Elderly Property Tax Exemption for Paul Michaud, Pine Ave

Motion – Selectman Pitman moves to approve

Second – Vice Chairman O'Neal

All in Favor – Motion Carries

-Personnel Action Plan Regarding the Hire of Michael Wright

Motion – Vice Chairman O’Neal moves to approve the Chairman’s Signature of the Plan

Second – Selectman Pitman

All in Favor – Motion Carries

-Emergency Management Performance Grant Application Signatures

Motion – Vice Chairman O’Neal moves to approve the signing of the Grant Application

Second – Selectwoman Hutchinson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

-Non- Contemporaneous Business – Approved January 31, 2014 – with three Board members present

- **Payroll Manifest - \$45,219.45 (net \$34,021.02)**

- **Accounts Payable - \$49,047.67**

Review of Correspondence

Cate Rd Resident Complaint

The Board has been made aware of a complaint by resident Boyson of Cate Rd regarding a street light that was installed at the residence of Luke Cramer at 22 Cate Rd. The complaint suggests that due to the scenic road status of the area that the light should not be allowed. The Board reviewed the RSA pertaining to the Scenic Road statute and there did not seem to be a violation. There is currently no lighting regulations in Deerfield. The Town Administrator will compose a letter to the Boyson informing them of their thoughts.

Howard Resume

The Board is in receipt of Mr. Howard’s resume for consideration in filling of the Water Commission position.

Moser Meeting Request

The Board has received a request from Mr. Robert Moser to meet and believe it will be in a Non-Public session, Chairman Barry asked that Mr. Moser be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

8th Grade Metal Drive

Chairman Barry read an email from Selectman Robertson with a request from Jan Neeley with DCS that the 8th Grade be allowed to use the parking lot across the street from the GBW Building to host a Metal Collection drive on April 26th and 27th. The Board approved the request.

MBC - Concord Monitor Bill

The Board has received an email from MBC Chairman Kevin Verville requesting that a bill from the Concord Monitor be paid out of the Administrative/Legal line. The bill, in the amount of \$542.30, was for a Public Hearing posting that ran for 18 days, the posting had incorrect information and the Town Clerk ran a corrected posting at a cost of \$92.70. In the past, where the Administration handled the placing of ads it has come out of the Administrative/Legal budget line, however this posting was not done through the Town Administration and was handled solely by the MBC. The Board agreed that the cost should be paid for out of the MBC budget and the Town Administrator will touch base with the MBC Chair to review how these postings should be handled in the future.

State Defined Benefit Plan

The Board received notice regarding a Public Hearing to be held at the State House on February 12th at 9a regarding proposed changes to the employee funded defined benefit saving plan. The proposal is asking for more money to be put into the system by municipalities. As this is a rapidly changing area the Board asked that the Town Administrator closely monitor the issue and any applicable changes. M. Wright stated that he will be looking to the State for a more full presentation of the proposal. He is of the understanding that a Municipality can opt out of participation in the State Retirement System if it can demonstrate that it is providing an equal plan independently. Under the State’s system an employee must work for 10 years to be fully vested in the plan, so that any turnover experienced prior to the 10 year mark results in money paid in by Deerfield going out to other Towns. He will explore the issue further and report back to the Board with his findings.

Northern Pass Historic Properties Impact

The Board has received a letter from the Department of Energy (DOE) asking that the Town identify how the Northern Pass may impact historic properties in Deerfield. Selectwoman Hutchinson spoke that she believes the same communication was sent to the Conservation Commission and that Erik Berglund was working on a reply. M. Wright will check with the

Conservation Commission to see whether it has responded and to make sure that the most full and thorough information is provided. The Town Administrator will be identified to the DOE as the primary contact person going forward.

Bridge Inspection Report

The Department of Transportation has provided the Board with an interim inspection report of the 5 municipally owned bridges in town. M. Wright will confirm that a copy of the report has been provided to the Road Agent.

Town Administrators Report

- J. Foisy will be scheduling a meeting with the Board and David O’Neal to further discuss the Fair Special Detail
- The Board had asked the Town Administrator to determine the vehicle owned by the Fire Department, it is a 1988 GMC, not a Jeep Cherokee as was previously stated. The Highway Department would like to assume the vehicle for use on jobs such as towing the chipper.
 - Motion:** Selectman Pitman moves to give the take the 1988 GMC from the Fire Dept and give it to the Highway Dept
 - Second:** Selectwoman Hutchinson
 - All in Favor – Motion Carries**
- Officer In Charge Deyrmond has received an offer of \$450 from the Town of Fremont to purchase former Chief Greeley’s vest.
 - Motion:** Selectwoman Hutchison moves to approve selling the vest to Fremont for \$450
 - Second:** Selectman Pitman
 - All in Favor – Motion Carries**
- J. Foisy asked that the Board be thinking about the dedication of this year’s Town Report, any input is asked to be made no later than Friday.
- M. Wright reported that he has received correspondence from Jim Raymond with Upton & Hatfield regarding the repurchase of the Doyle property. He presented the Board with a sample Deed & repurchase Agreement and the firm will continue forward with the process.
- The Town has been solicited by Senator Reagan for input on Senate Bill 315 which will change the way the Board of Adjustments works. M. Wright has reviewed the proposed Bill with Rick Pelletier. It would create another level of Administration at the State level and require the certification of individuals involved in the process. It is M. Wright’s suggestion that, as a small community, the Town should pass onto Senator Reagan that it is not in support of the Bill. Selectwoman Hutchinson asked what certifications were currently required, M. Wright answered that there are no formal certifications, but that individuals go through training and comply with the State’s unified building code standards. Vice Chairman O’Neal spoke in support of keeping the control local, citing an example where the local building inspector may have a better understanding of which areas of Town experience greater amounts of snow, affecting snow load requirements that he puts into place. He expressed his disappointment in the short window of time allowed to review and digest the proposal.
 - Motion:** Selectman Pitman moves to inform Sen. Reagan of the Town’s opposition to Bill 315
 - Second:** Vice Chairman O’Neal
 - Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 1 – Motion Carries**
- M. Wright updated the Board that PSSG has completed 13 interviews with the preliminary candidates for Police Chief and have winnowed the field to 7. They plan to do the next round of interviews on Saturday, February 22nd and have requested use of the GBW Conference Room. Finalists will then be brought before the Board.
- The Town has received notice that the Court has rescheduled a Trial Management Conference regarding the Warhall v. Town of Deerfield case for August 25th, 2014. The trial is scheduled to begin September 8th and members of the Board are required to attend jury selection and the trial.
- The Town has received the lab results from the GBW Water tests and it has passed all areas.

Unfinished Business None

Other Business None

New Business

Vice Chairman O’Neal asked that the Town do some research into the Ridge Road question in anticipation that the Davidson’s will be speaking with them. He spoke that the issue has been brought before the Planning Board for review as the Davidson’s are wanting to subdivide the property and the Town needs to have a better handle on how the land is viewed. He has reviewed minutes from 1939 that state the use of the road has been discontinued, but it is unclear whether

the land reverted to the owners and if so, if they have been paying taxes on it? He would ask what the status is, did the land revert to the abutters or is it classified as a Class VI Road? Chairman Barry agreed that the issue will be researched and the Board will be prepared to speak with the Davidson's when they are next available.

Selectman Pitman pointed out that there is a typo on the agenda, the next meeting is Monday, February 24th.

Citizens Comments

Harriet Cady expressed her concern that some individuals are allowed to speak on behalf of the Town with regards to the Northern Pass. She finds it unfair if only the Conservation Commission's views are be communicated. She wants clear air and feels that hydro power provides that. Additionally, it is her experience that the Union Leader charges significantly less to run an ad than the Concord Monitor. She believes circulation of the Union Leader exceeds that of the Concord Monitor in Deerfield and as a result feels that Public Notices should be placed in the Union Leader. Finally, Ms. Cady spoke that all Citizens receive the same short notice on the Hearings for Senate Bills, three days to prepare ones testimony is the typical time allotted.

Adjournment

Motion: Selectman Pitman moves to adjourn the meeting of February 10th

Second: Selectwoman Hutchinson

Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Next Meeting Monday, February 24th @ 5:30pm

*The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.
Pending Approval by the Board of Selectmen*