

Selectboard Meeting  
April 17, 2012

Meeting opened at 7:07pm

Present: Noreen Suriner, Chair; Alan Vint, Clerk; Mitch Feldmesser  
Duane Pease, Administrative Assistant

Warrants were reviewed and signed: Payroll, \$3,959.14; Highway expense, \$4,215.98;  
Town expense, \$17,614.98

**Alan** stated he had received a call over the weekend about someone doing burning, he called **Ron Radwich**, asst Fire Chief and the matter was handled.

Meeting was suspended at 7:23pm on a motion by Alan to meet as the Board of Health.  
Noreen 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote was 3-0 to suspend.

Meeting reconvened at 7:32pm.

Minutes were approved with changes.

Mail was reviewed.

**Alan** felt an update from the Building Commissioner was warranted and the Board would like to briefly meet with him next week. Also, there was a glitch with the elderly and disabled abatements in the Tax Collector's billing system. That was promptly handed by the Tax Collector and letters were sent to the affected tax payers.

**Eleanor Doyle** met with the Board regarding the posting of the minutes from other Town Boards/Commissions on the Town web site. At that time the Administrative Assistant volunteered to post the minutes on line, the various boards/commissions will submit them on-line in a PDF format and they will be posted. It was also brought up that the Town Clerk should have the original minutes as the Clerk is the Keeper of Records.

Highway Superintendent, **Skip Savery**, dropped off his report for the Annual Town Report. He also had posted a legal notice in the County Journal regarding the shoulder work he had discussed previously with the Board. He has had no responses from prospective interested parties to date. He said he would be removing the old water tank from the Town Hall in the next couple of weeks.

**Susan Baker-Donnelly** addressed the Board regarding the Library Trustees request for an increase in the librarian's salary account. Noreen felt the position should have been funded with this increase in prior years even if the librarian did not want the increase. She could have donated it back to the library for the purchase of books or other supplies. Susan was aware this money would not be available until after the start of the fiscal year but the library does have some funds available left from this year to start the search for a

new librarian. She also informed the Board the library had 4,150 adult visits and over 900 child visits this year.

**Alan** spoke of the fact the first the Board got to see the proposed spending by the various Town entities was in the Draft Warrant 2 weeks ago. He felt next year the Board should have this info prior to the draft warrant.

**Mitch** said the Board should attend some of the Finance Committee (FC) meetings but the FC also meets on Monday nights while the Board is meeting which makes it impossible.

**Alan** is to check with Ton Berenson, Tax Title Attorney, to see what he will need for monies as he goes forward with Tax Takings.

**Steve Harris** told the Board he had contacted one company regarding the reverse 9-1-1 calling. The cost is approximately \$1,800 and perhaps the Hampshire Council of Government may help as it would be a good project for many of the smaller towns. There was a general discussion of the system and it would be pretty simple once it was set up and there should be little maintenance.

**Alan** contacted the Attorney General's Office about the secret ballot issue for the Annual Town Meeting and was told since the Town does not have a By-law, he should contact the Town's Attorney.

**Tom Austin**, Police Chief, addressed the Board regarding the article requesting funding for a new police cruiser. The current vehicle is 10 years old and has 30,000 miles on it. It is kept outside year-round as there are no facilities to garage it in town. Mice have gotten into the electronics from time to time. The vehicle still has use and would be a good vehicle to use as an EMT vehicle as all personnel could drive it to the scene. Currently, not all can drive the fire trucks. The money requested for the new cruiser would include all that was needed to make it street-ready.

**Noreen** motioned to recommend the Article, Mitch 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote was 2-0 with Alan abstaining.

There was a general discussion on Articles 37 & 38. Alan motioned to recommend, Mitch 2<sup>nd</sup> and vote was 3-0 in favor.

The Board discussed the secret ballot issue with **Joe Kearns**, Town Moderator, and it was agreed Articles 14, 15 17 & 18 would most likely be the ones subject to secret ballot. Joe will arrange with the Town Clerk on how to handle the voting. Also discussed with Joe, who is also the Finance Committee chair, was the fact the Board felt they were under the gun in getting the budget requests to review on the draft warrant. Joe advised all the budget information and requests were in his mail slot for anyone to review prior to the warrant being drafted.

**Joe** also felt quarterly meeting with the treasurer, accountant, tax collector, Finance Committee and Selectboard would be beneficial. In closing, Joe said if all the Articles pass the tax rate would increase by \$1 and over \$126,000 would be used from Free Cash.

The final item of the meeting was the approval of allowing the Southern Hilltown group to use the kitchen for their cooking classes twice during May. Noreen motioned to allow, Mitch 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote was 3-0 to allow the use of the kitchen.

Noreen motioned to adjourn, Mitch 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote was 3-0 in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:41pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes

Noreen Suriner, Chair

Alan Vint, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser