

**Kingston, New Hampshire  
Board of Selectmen  
Meeting of November 22, 2010  
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order in the Selectmen's Office of the Town Hall at 7:00 pm by Chairman Mark Heitz. Also in attendance was Selectman Peter Broderick.

**Resident Inquiry**

Madeleine Woodworth of Ball Road reported to the Board that one of her neighbors has several goats, dogs, and free range chickens - including roosters - that have been creating a noise disturbance for several months that she would like abated. Chairman Heitz advised that dogs should not be barking for more than a half hour; if the noise goes on for longer than that, Mrs. Woodworth should call the Animal Control Officer. Selectman Broderick advised that he will drive out to the area to speak with the neighbor about the roosters crowing; if a disturbance is ongoing, the property owner may need to be requested to get rid of the roosters.

**Fire Department Updates**

Fire Chief Bill Seaman, Deputy Chief Marty Conlon, and Fire Wards Kent Walker, Kevin Schea and John Merrill were present to discuss with the Board the Fire Department's additions to the Capital Improvements Program. Additional to the vehicle replacements and facility expansion plans, the department will add \$11,300.00 for the purchase of 6 defibrillator units for the various vehicles, \$67,000.00 for the purchase of 2 cardiac monitors, \$40,000 for the purchase of an SUV to serve as command vehicle, and \$35,000.00 for the purchase of a utility truck. Chief Seaman explained that, even though it's hoped that grant funds will be awarded to pay 95% of the cost for the defibrillators and monitors, the CIP Committee had wanted the full cost included in the plan. Similarly, even though it's expected that the SUV and Utility Truck may be acquired from another department, the committee wants the need and value included in the CIP.

Chief Seaman explained that the new cardiac monitors will replace units that are beyond the 10-year life span suggested by NFPA, and will have the now required carbon monoxide monitoring capability. Chairman Heitz asked if the proposed SUV will serve as the Chief's vehicle and what the mileage is on the current Crown Vic that the Chief has been using. Chief Seaman advised that the car has approximately 102,000 miles but, while it's in fairly good condition, it doesn't make a good command vehicle. The department probably would retain the car even after acquiring the SUV for use by department personnel to run errands, do inspections, etc., but the extra vehicle wouldn't become part of the fleet and wouldn't be replaced once it dies a natural death. Options for replacement of the present utility truck were discussed. Chairman Heitz suggested that, for the small amount of use the truck gets, one possibility might be to share a truck already in service with another department.

The Fire Wards advised that the \$170,000 CIP entry for a new Ambulance in 2013 may possibly be reduced because the department's been looking at a process whereby the old box is installed onto a new cab and chassis assembly. The cost is approximately half the cost of a new vehicle, however, Ford is going out of the ambulance business in 2014 so it's important to make the decision while the Ford chassis are still available. The present ambulances each have over 50,000 miles; both are diesel. Replacements will have gasoline engines.

Fire Ward John Merrill advised that the department will be applying for a grant to replace SCBA units at \$5,000 per unit. The new units will have visual monitors to show levels of carbon dioxide, remote transmission of CO<sub>2</sub> levels, and a means by which oxygen can be shared between units. If a grant can't be obtained, the department will look into a lease-purchase arrangement, but it's felt that the fact that the present units already are outdated will help to make the grant application more successful.

Another concern is the replacement of Engine 3, which already is 2 years beyond the 20-year replacement schedule. The department may need to look at a lease-purchase arrangement for that replacement, since voters recently have not supported the Capital Reserve that was set up to fund the replacement program. Fire Ward Kevin Schea noted that the entire schedule has been pushed back and that, if voters continue not to support the department, there eventually will be a reduction in the level of service. Richard St. Hilaire suggested that the

present Capital Reserve be converted to an Expendable Trust Fund from which withdrawals could be made without further action of the Town Meeting. One of the problems in the present set up is that voters are asked to make an appropriation to the Fund and each expenditure requires individual approval as well.

Chief Seaman advised that he, Richard St. Hilaire and Chief Briggs, as Emergency Management Directors, intend to apply for a grant to cover 50% of a new \$10,000 base radio and antenna for use of the EOC during emergency situations. The recent flooding, icing, and wind incidents all pointed out the need for better communications during such events. Chairman Heitz suggested that the grant application be submitted as soon as possible as grant monies may not be available for very long and suggested that a purchase order be prepared now to earmark the town's match.

Chief Seaman then discussed the problems they've been having with access to their server and the backup of records. Because the town hasn't been able to contact its IT provider, the chief suggested that Police Chief Briggs be asked to try to track him down so that he at least can provide the codes and passwords that will allow the new IT provider access. Selectman Broderick will speak with Chief Briggs on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and request that he try to locate the former provider.

Discussion then was held about the addition concept proposed by the department for expansion of Central Station. Preliminary septic design work has shown some of the deficiencies in the lot, particularly since the addition and a new septic system will take so much area that currently is available for parking and travel lanes. The status of a discontinued road located to the north and west of the lot needs to be clarified and a letter has been sent to town counsel requesting an opinion on the chances of clearing title in the town's favor. John Merrill noted that the original cost estimate for a block and brick, 45' x 90' 2-story addition (including \$500,000.00 to upgrade and rewire the existing area) would be greatly reduced now, with overall construction costs dropping. At present, the total cost probably would be in the area of \$800,000.00. The cost of a new building likely would be about twice the cost of an addition and location could be an issue for a new building. The YWCA site may be too congested with the community building, playgrounds and beach area and with the required shoreland setback. The present Highway Garage site could work but would entail moving highway operations to another location. Richard St. Hilaire explained that the theory was, he could build his new garage on the present site and it later could serve for the vehicle bays for a new fire department; the highway garage could then move to another location. Mr. Merrill advised that one of the frustrations he feels is that there are several large projects under consideration - a new fire station or addition, a new highway garage, and a new library - and no clear plan or central planning authority to advise on how the projects will get done. He suggested that a good, long-range plan needs to be developed and a consensus based on the town's overall needs should be reached. Most experts advise that planning should cover a 50-year period and that building projects should be based on that. Chairman Heitz noted that there is a trend toward regionalization of services, so a 50-year plan may not be in the best interest of taxpayers.

The Fire Ward asked if the Board has any suggestion for how better to fund the department's necessary projects. Chairman Heitz suggested that the remounting of the ambulance box on a new chassis should free up some funds reserved for purchase of a whole new ambulance. He noted that the purpose of the ambulance fund could be changed to include fire equipment. He advised that less expensive ambulances could be considered. And he agreed with Mr. St. Hilaire's observation that the Capital Reserve being converted to an Expendable Trust would allow for necessary purchases without having to present individual requests to voters while still trying to fund the Trust.

### **Highway Department Updates**

Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire advised that the 1999 dump truck has been retired due to a bad transmission and asked if the Board wants him to put the truck, along with the sander and plow, out for bid. Selectmen authorized Mr. St. Hilaire to advertise.

Mr. St. Hilaire advised that he'd like to keep the old Road Agent pick-up through the winter. Selectmen agreed.

Mr. St. Hilaire asked if, during the Ball Road culvert replacement project, the Selectmen would want to straighten out some of the curves in the road and even out the grade somewhat. The additional work would require some taking of property from abutters. Chairman Heitz advised that if abutters seem amenable, if the work can be done relatively easily, and if the cost is not excessive, those aspects of the project can be engineered in.

### **Date of Deliberative Session Discussed**

Selectman Broderick advised that he had notified the Budget Committee that the date of the 2010 Deliberative Session has been set for February 5<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held at 9:00 am on that date, at the Town Hall.

### **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Upon motion of Selectman Broderick and second of Chairman Heitz, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the November 15, 2010 meeting as printed.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm and the Board retired to address administrative issues.

Respectfully submitted,  
Catherine Grant  
Administrative Assistant