

DRAFT



Town of Winchester 1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

MINUTES of the BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Wednesday
March 28, 2007

Board Members Present: Theodore Whipple (Chairman), Gustave Ruth and Sherman Tedford. Also present: Town clerk/ Tax collector Jim Tetreault, Town manager John Stetser, and secretary Roberta Fraser
The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am

1st Order of Business: Meeting with Jim Tetreault, Town clerk/ Tax collector

Jim is at the meeting to discuss the position of the deputy town clerk/ tax collector
The warrant that was approved by the citizens is for a full time town clerk/ tax collector and a full time deputy. The problem is that it was an unfunded warrant article and the budget that was approved was for a part time town clerk/ tax collector. The decision the board needs to make is whether to make the position full time or part time, as the decision is now up to the Board of Selectmen. The board holds a lengthy discussion regarding what should be done. Sherm and Ted believe that since the voters approved the position as full time, that is what it should be and it is up to the selectmen to figure out how to pay for it. Gus disagrees, he doesn't think that the position has to be full time, as he is concerned about where the money is going to come from to cover the shortage in the tc/tc budget. Sharon Haley has many scenarios she has prepared for the board to look at regarding the rest of this year's budget and next year's budget. The charts show what will be left this year in the budget based on the position hours and the rate of pay and benefits or no benefits and there is a comparable one for next year's budget. After much further discussion, Sherm makes a *motion* that April 1 to June 30, 2007 the position will be full time with benefits at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour. Ted seconds it. *Motion carries with Gus voting no.* Sherm makes a *motion* to begin the 2007- 2008 fiscal budget year with the rate of pay for the deputy tc/tc to be \$13.00 an hour with full time benefits. Ted seconds the motion. Discussion: There is much discussion on this motion, such as where the monies are going to come from to fund this position. Gus is adamantly against taking money from another department. They discuss the benefit expense, and that is basically a wash because there is twenty thousand for health benefits in the tc/tc budget. With Jim receiving single benefits and the deputy family, it comes to around \$20,000.00. After discussing the budget more, it seems that the tc/ tc budget may be short \$12,000.00 for the full time deputy position. *The motion is called and carries with Gus voting No.*

Jim also discusses with the board his intention to use the State of NH administrative complaint form when people pass bad checks. In the past, the police department has always tried to collect the bad checks. By using this form, the State sends a notice to the people that their car registration will be revoked if they don't pay their NSF check. Jim has already used this form once and the person came in within fourteen days and paid what she owed. Jim is telling the board this because he wants to keep them informed. He would like to have an "open door" policy with the board so they can feel comfortable finding out anything they would like to know from his department. Jim is concerned about not receiving a "recommittal warrant" when he took office. This is a warrant for the amount of the outstanding taxes owed to the town when Jim took office and Joyce left. Jim asked the auditors and they said not to worry about it, but he is concerned and is asking the board to provide him with one. The board discusses this and John will call the auditor and have a recommittal warrant prepared for Jim.

A recess is called at 12:10 pm

The meeting is called back to order at 12:20 pm

2nd Order of Business: Comcast Cable representative Lisa Birmingham

Comcast acquired Adelphia Cable, which was the town’s current cable provider, last spring and it is time to renew the contract between the Town of Winchester and Comcast Cable Company.

The Board of Selectmen and Ms. Birmingham have met three previous times to go over the contract carefully and to negotiate different aspects of the contract. Ms. Birmingham is at the meeting with a final draft of the contract for the board to review. The board reviews the proposed contract and is satisfied with it. Sherm makes *motion* to accept the draft # 2 as is until a legal opinion is given by the town attorney. Gus seconds it. *Motion carries*. Sherm makes a *motion* to extend the current contract until May 7 and to authorize John to sign it. Gus seconds it. *Motion carries*.

3rd Order of Business: Any other Business that may come before the Board

The board did not sign the MS-2 at the last meeting. They had some questions about the warrant for the truck payment. The payment amount is also in the budget and the board thinks it should be removed from there. Sandra Rourke from the DRA is saying the amount cannot be removed from the budget. The board and the town’s attorney disagree with her, but the board leaves the amount in the budget. Sherm makes a *motion* to sign the MS-2 and freeze the expenditure of that truck payment line item in the 2007-2008 budget. Gus seconds it. *Motion carries*.

4th Order of Business: Adjournment

Ted makes a motion to adjourn

Sherm seconds it

Motion carries unanimously

Meeting is adjourned at 1:35 pm

March 28, 2007 BOS Minutes approved by:

Date Signed:

Theodore Whippie, Chairman

Gerald Hastings, Selectman

Kenneth Berthiaume, Selectman

Sherman Tedford, Selectman

Gustave Ruth, Selectman

R. Fraser 03/29/07

