

Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting
7:00 pm
Town Offices
Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Present: Chair, Pam Marsh, Vice Chair, Kathy Barrett, Roger Boise, Kathleen Ready, Treasurer, Barb Torian and Clerk, Pam Kingman

Absent: Charlie Roy

Visitors: Shawn Oxford from Bristol Financial, Auditors, Iva Menard and Angie Dunbar

AGENDA RESULTS:

VISITORS BUSINESS:

1. Shawn Oxford from Bristol Financial gave a presentation on health insurance plans for 2013. He made a chart showing comparisons to the current plan (BC/BS) and MVP. The Selectboard thanked Shawn for his time. Health insurance will be discussed at an upcoming budget meeting.
2. Auditors – Iva Menard and Angie Dunbar: With Anne Perkins resigning there are now only two Auditors. Pam Marsh asked the Auditors what their position is on the possibility of putting a ballot item on the Warning for Town Meeting eliminating the elected Auditors. Iva and Angie wondered about being “Auditor Assistants” to Tom Telling. Mr. Telling conducts our outside audits, but these are currently not done at the time the Town Report needs to be assembled. Barb Torian said she likes having the Town Auditors, she feels it gives the townspeople peace of mind that someone else is looking at the books. She said because Mr. Telling’s audit format does not match the town report, she said she could add a piece on the general ledger to compare audit numbers. Pam Marsh added it is not the statutory duty of the Auditors to put the town report together; we could put together a volunteer or paid committee to do that. Angie said she is happy to do whatever the Selectboard decides is best, and whatever saves the town money. Iva agrees. Ultimately it is the voter’s decision as to whether the town has elected Auditors or not. Iva has a phone call in to Tom Telling to find out if we can change the yearly time frame of the outside audit to coincide with when the Town Report goes out. Pam Kingman mailed out volunteer applications to some folks who showed an interest in the position, one of them being Polly Darnell.

Kathleen Ready made a motion to appoint Polly Darnell to fill the Auditor position left open by Anne Perkins. Motion seconded by Pam Marsh. 4 yes / 0 no

TOWN OFFICE BUSINESS:

1. Kathleen Ready made a motion to approve a Town Hall application for Ashley Bessette. She would like to hold an open gym on December 31, 2012. This is a free event for preschool and Elementary school children, parents are required to stay with their kids for the duration. The event will be held in the gym from 9 am – noon. Motion seconded by Kathy Barrett. 4 yes / 0 no
2. Kathleen Ready made a motion to appoint Suzy Roorda as New Haven's Green Up Coordinator for 2013, seconded by Kathy Barrett. 4 yes / 0 no
3. Linda Sleeper had inquired about continuing to shovel the walkways in and around the town office. The Selectboard agreed to have Linda continue, and to add shoveling out the ACTR bus shelter.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Roger Boise made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 11/17/12, in the amount of \$3,307.38, seconded by Kathy Barrett. 4 yes / 0 no
2. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 11/24/12, in the amount of \$ 3,290.33, seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 0 no
3. Kathleen Ready made a motion to approve pay orders for the week ending 11/27/12, in the amount of \$19,770.73, seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 0 no
4. Sleeper Note – The remaining balance on the Note is \$20,000, the interest is \$833.75. Pam Marsh made a motion to pay off the Note this year, totaling \$20,833.75, seconded by Kathy Barrett. 4 yes / 0 no
5. Barb Torian asked the Selectboard if they wanted to have the extra lighting put in the Library this year. This had been discussed at a previous meeting, and was decided if there was enough money in the budget it could be done in 2012. The Selectboard agreed to have this project done this year (costing about \$800).

ROAD COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

1. **Roads update:** The road crew has been doing ditch work along Field Days Road.
Katie and Roger will be meeting with some town representatives to discuss Cobble Road on December 14th.
2. **Equipment Update:** Roger is still searching for a used truck.
Roger took the old dump body in for scrap metal which was worth \$543.

3. The Selectboard signed off on the completion form for North St. in order to receive grant money.
4. Roger and Katie have been working on the road budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Farnsworth update: Town Attorney Cindy Hill forwarded the Default Judgment from Environmental Court, meaning Roger Farnsworth failed to respond to the lawsuit regarding his abandoned property. The Town attorney now must prepare a summary of the Town's expenses, and fines, which the court will consider at a future hearing. The Selectboard previously approved assessing the standard \$100/day zoning violation fine, roughly in the summer of 2011. However, it's unlikely that Mr. Farnsworth can pay any fine. Discussed what the Town would do if we were awarded the property, and how much cost we would incur if we had to demolish the house.
2. Discussed paying volunteers such as members of the DRB and Planning Commission. How can that be limited? We appreciate the work of all the Town's many volunteers, and feel that recognition such as we did this year at Chocolate Delight Night is appropriate. However, the Selectboard members present all agreed that paying members of the DRB and Planning Commission would be a slippery slope, and not wise when we're concerned about keeping the budget from rising unnecessarily.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. January Meeting schedule – The first Tuesday in January falls on New Year's Day. The Selectboard will meet on the following Tuesdays in January: 8th, 15th and 22nd.
2. John Madden Correspondence Re: VT Gas Pipeline – This can be discussed further at the upcoming public informational meeting on Dec. 10, 2012.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Kathleen Ready made a motion to approve the minutes from October 16, 2012, seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 0 no
2. Kathleen Ready made a motion to approve the minutes from November 13, 2012, seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 0 no

Adjourn: 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman


Approved:



Chair, Pam Marsh



Vice – Chair, Kathy Barrett



Roger Boise



Kathleen Ready