

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2016 - Fuller Town Hall @ 3:30 p.m.

Selectmen present: Ladd, Davis and Macdonald: Other present: Mike Lynch, Charles Goulet, Ben Blodgett, Wayne Hall and Suzanne Goulet.

Larry started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Lynch came to sign the Road Agent Contract along with the Selectmen. There was a little discussion about the addition to the contract for the plowing of the parking lot at the Fairpoint Building and that side of the road the length of Main Street. The Contract was signed by Mike and all of the Selectmen.

Ben Blodgett came to talk to the Selectmen about the Brenda Phillips property that he purchased at auction. Ben told the Selectmen that the back taxes and the water bill presently is \$5,892.00. Ben asked the Selectmen if they would forgive the interest and some of the taxes and except a payment of \$4,000.00 and call it even. Jamie Davis recused himself from the conversation and any decisions in this matter. Ben said that the property is evaluated at \$50,000+ and he said it is not worth that, it is in poor shape. The Selectmen advised Ben to have Gary the Assessor go to look at it and Suzanne advised Ben to fill out an Abatement Form to see if he would qualify but that would only effect the 2015 Taxes and nothing else that is owed. Suzanne said that she would talk to Gary when he comes Wednesday. The Selectmen decided to table this issue until next week's meeting.

Suzanne discussed with the Selectmen a document that the office received from DRED, (EFZ) Business & Communities at the State Level for a property in Stratford and the Town would have to sign off on it. Suzanne said that it pertains to old buildings and improving them and using them for business. Clayton said that he thinks there needs to be ongoing improvements and employment. The Selectmen said that they need to get in contact with this property owner and verify what he is doing before they sign.

Suzanne also talked to the Selectmen about the AG Commission Meeting on April 11th.

There was no input from the public.

Jamie spoke about the LED Lighting and the Audit from Tanko. Jamie said that he would contact Tanko tomorrow to get more information on the redistribution of lights and if it is going to cost more to move fixtures to other poles since there are so many in clusters and some need to be moved to different poles for better coverage.

Clayton said that he contacted Garland Mill for a proposal for the Pavilion. Clayton said that we need to get as many proposals as possible but we need to be careful since we want it to look as nice as possible.

Clayton also said that he contacted JT from Land for Public Trust to see if anything is being done with the land at the Stratford Bog (Woodlife). JT said that he has already been out there and that it would be a possibility for the town and he would talk to the broker for the owners. Clayton said that Public Funding could not be one cent above assessed value. Clayton said that he will keep everyone posted.

Jamie said that he wanted to make an amendment to last weeks minutes so they reflect the breakdown of the \$2,000.00 increase in the Road's Contract with Mike Lynch.

Ladd/Davis (3/0 approved) motion to sign the Manifest and order the Treasurer to sign P/R Check # none in the amount of \$ 0 and DD P/R Checks in the amount of \$2,010.15 and A/P Checks #35143-35161 in the amount of \$83,762.25 as presented on the Agenda.

Signed Certificate of Posting/MS-636.

Signed Crane & Bell Preparation of MS-5.

Signed North Country Mutual Aid Contract.

Macdonald/Ladd (2/0 approved) motion to approve meeting minutes for 2/1/16 with amendment.

Reviewed Thank You from Dolly McPhal for her visit to talk with the Selectmen and Office Staff.

Reviewed reminder the Primary Day is Feb. 9th.

Reviewed Memo to all the Stratford Landowners concerning private septic systems to be mailed out with the PA-28s.

Macdonald/Davis (3/0 approved) motion to accept the Memo to all the Stratford Landowners concerning private septic systems to be mailed out with the PA-28s.

Reviewed CAR by Philip Bodwell from DRA.

The Selectmen asked Chief Wayne Hall to attend this meeting to discuss a written complaint that they received concerning him. The Selectmen were originally going to hold a non-public session but everything was talked about in the open meeting. The Selectmen said that they received a written complaint from a citizen against Chief Hall who had gone there since there were a couple of landowners with a boundary line dispute. The complaint stated that Chief Hall was causing trouble with the landowners telling them that the GIS Mapping system for the town was not accurate and that these two landowners have even gotten into fist fights over this whole thing. Chief Hall told the Selectmen that it was about 2 1/2 months ago and that he was called to go there because there were two landowners disagreeing on the boundary line between their properties. Chief Hall told them that this was a civil case not a legal matter and that he showed them how to get on the town's mapping site.

Chief Hall also talked to the Selectmen about the lack of progress being made by him to get back some town equipment from a former Stratford Police Officer. Chief Hall said that he has send the former Police Officer

two certified letters and they were both returned unsigned. Chief Hall said that he has since sent a certified letter to the Chief in the town where the former Stratford Police Officer is presently working and it was signed for but he hasn't heard anything from this Chief either. Chief Hall said that he contacted Standards and Training and they advised him to go to Town Council, County Attorney or contact the Town Manager from this town. The Selectmen advised Chief Hall that they would like him to start with the Town Manager and go from there. Chief Hall said that if he would be able to meet with this Town Manager he would like one of the Selectmen to go with him to represent the town. The Selectmen agreed and will wait to hear from Chief Hall. Chief Hall informed the Selectmen that Lloyd Tippitt was going to be working at the Primary until he get back from work and then he will be there until the Ballots are sealed so that he can transport them to Colebrook. Wayne did mention the deer rescue from the river this past weekend. Davis/Macdonald (3/0 approved) motion passed to adjourn meeting at 5:04 p.m.

Prepared by B. Ladd