

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
December 30, 2014

Present: David Fullerton, Chairman; Wendy Brien-Baker, Selectman; Alan Urquhart, Selectman; Laura Buono, Town Administrator.

Chairman Fullerton opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and asked for all in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

In Attendance: Allan Kingsbury, Sue Kingsbury, Matt Sampson, Tammy McClure, Arlene Johnson, Rosemary Urquhart, Raymond Barker, Ben Ainsle, Phil Daley, Robin Sweetser, Marie Mogoviero, Russell Galpin, Peter Brigham, Bob Woolner, John Segedy, Mike Pon, Leigh Bosse, Dana Brien.

1. OPEN SESSION

Chief David Roarick – Chief Roarick asked to speak with the Selectmen with regard to the K9 Program. The Chief notified the Selectmen that K9 Fanto is at the point of retirement since he is 9 years old. Chief Roarick said they have run the program for 7 successful years now however, K9 Fanto has severe arthritis in 5 of his vertebrae which means he is in some pain. K9 Fanto originally cost \$5,900 which was paid for by the Police Association and each year the cost has been \$1,300 which is unprecedented when you look at what other departments pay. He said the low cost is because of Sgt. Hodgden who does fundraising, etc. Chief Roarick said in continuing on with a new K9, the insurance it through our Property Liability Company same as with K9 Fanto, medical expenses would continue to be free and is provided by Henniker Veterinary Hospital. The food is also free if we choose to use the food the vet provides and noted that over the last couple of years, K9 Fanto has been given a different food in order to prolong his service. The Chief said over the last 6.5 years of running the program, they have invested time in K9 Fanto and Sgt. Hodgden. Sgt. Hodgden has become a professional and personal trainer and is a top notch trainer. His services are in demand professionally as well as outside the profession. Chief Roarick feels the \$1,300 is offset by the savings the K9 brings to the town. Chief Rorick said it saves time and money to use a K9 in the case of a missing person since a K9 can find the person quicker and without using additional staff. This also includes drugs and bad guys who take off running. Chief Roarick also believes the K9 saves in potential liability because people tend to comply more with officer instructions with a K9 there and said if the K9 isn't there, they tend to have an attitude. Chief Roarick said they have a new dog in mind to replace K9 Fanto. The new K9 will cost \$5,000 and is 15 months old and comes from Northeast K9 in Massachusetts. Chief Roarick noted that the cost is at a savings because of the relationships that the K9 handler (Sgt. Hodgden) has with others in the field. Chief Roarick said they will be able to have the new dog patrol ready in June and drug certified by the fall. The plan is to allow K9 Fanto to retire in June. Chief Roarick feels they should continue the program and said it has proved to be a great resource as well as saved money. Chief Roarick said K9 Fanto has been a great PR tool and has attended a lot of events and is requested on a regular basis. He said they do about a half dozen charity public relations showings a year, etc. Selectman Brien-Baker asked how old K9 Fanto was when he was purchased and was told that he was 2 years old at that time. Selectman Urquhart said the new dog would still have to be certified. Chief Roarick said yes but now we have a certified trainer (Sgt. Hodgden) so there wouldn't be a cost involved other than the certificate fee of approximately \$100. Selectman Urquhart asked if they have statistics on K9 Fanto's accomplishments. Chief Roarick said yes, and said for example, he has been credited in finding 1.1 kilos of marijuana, a couple ounces of cocaine, has found heroin. K9 Fanto has also located two lost people and someone who had overdosed on medication. Chief Roarick said the K9 can be used in the school to help search for drugs and can help other schools

in an effort to make sure our schools are clean. Chairman Fullerton asked how much training the new dog has had so far. Chief Roarick said about 3 – 4 months of obedience training and has been doing some law enforcement training as well. Chief Roarick said the new dog is even more capable of a dog than K9 Fanto was because the dog has to be matched to the handler. This dog has more drive and they feel he will be even better than K9 Fanto. Chief Roarick said the Town would sign over ownership of Fanto to Sgt. Hodgden who will keep him at his own expense. Chief Roarick's Dave said they have all the equipment needed so they wouldn't be purchasing it as they had to when the program was initially started. Ms. Buono said she would recommend taking the money from the 2014 budget since there is room in the bottom line of the entire budget even if there isn't in the Police budget. Selectman Brien-Baker agreed and said the first time around the Town got it for nothing. Selectman Brien-Baker moved to allow Chief Roarick to purchase the new K9 and to use 2014 funds to do it. Motion was seconded by Selectman Urquhart. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

2. APPOINTMENTS

Library Trustees – Robert Wollner, Chairman of the Library Trustees spoke with the Selectmen about a trustee who recently resigned and said they have a name to forward to the Selectmen for appointment (Melinda Gehris). Mr. Wollmer then stated they were presented with a check from the Clifford Blanchard revocable trust in the amount of \$500,000 and because of that, they feel they can begin work on the rest of the building that has been postponed. Mr. Wollner said they would like to digitize back issues of the news messenger and they also think it would be appropriate to work with the villager to get those digitized as well. The Selectmen reviewed cost estimates for the 2nd floor and 3rd floor repairs and increases and a discussion took place about costs associated with finishing off the third floor with town funds. The heating was also discussed. It was decided that both the Town Administrator (Laura Buono) and the Library Director (Robin Sweetser) will work together as liaisons between the two boards.

Trustee Appointment – Selectman Brien-Baker moved to appoint Melinda Gehris to the Library Trustees Board until March Town Meeting. Motion was seconded by Selectman Urquhart. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Youth Services & Recreation Budget – Peter Brigham reviewed the proposed 2015 Youth Services and Recreation Budget with the Selectmen. Mr. Brigham said the budget reflects level funding and said he can run the youth services and the recreation program, minus the summer program, within these funds. Discussed that he wants the programs such as the archery, couch to 5K, etc. to continue to be covered by program fees. Chairman Fullerton brought up the CAT (Community Action Team) program which isn't funded in the budget and said they don't have volunteers. He said he feels the program should be brought back. Mr. Brigham said the CAT program needs to be community driven and it stopped being community driven and became Youth Services driven 2-3 years into the program. Mr. Brigham said they are available and on board to facilitate and support the group but it needs to be community driven by a good handful of people. In order to be a substance abuse coalition they need dedicated people. Chairman Fullerton would like to see information to people at the schools. Mr. Brigham said they can put out a request for folks to be a part of a local coalition and said if there is interest then he is glad to meet with them. If that's the case, it would allow us to be a more attached part of a larger coalition in Merrimack County. Selectman Urquhart spoke about his thoughts about federal funds with drug abuse programs. Prevention and intervention was discussed. Mr. Brigham brought up his job description and said he would like to review it once the budgets are done and said it may make sense for him to back off of the health officer duties. Selectman Brien-Baker agreed that it is a discussion for later. Mr. Brigham also discussed the Tuesday senior shopping trips and said ridership numbers have declined substantially. The labor line for those trips has been zeroed out in the 2015 budget and said the senior drivers have volunteered to take over the Tuesday driver program and drive every other week. Mr. Brigham said he has already placed the current driver on notice. January 13th would be the first trip

with the volunteer drivers but it requires the folks to call in advance to tell them they are going that day.

Welfare and Senior Services Budget – Dana Brien presented her proposed 2015 operating budget for Welfare and Senior Services. Selectman Brien-Baker mentioned that the welfare budget was over \$300,000 years ago and has since gone down considerably and gave kudos to Ms. Brien for that. Dana Brien brought up the seniors line of the operating budget and said she had anticipated placing the \$5,000 in the 2015 budget with up to \$2,500 in revenues allowed to be spent however, the Greater Hillsborough Senior Services would like to propose a donation from the town to their association in the amount of \$10,000. Arlene Johnson asked if she could speak on this subject. She said she was asked to give the presentation because Pat Matheson is ill. Ms. Johnson handed out a letter from GHSS president requesting \$8,000 to be placed under “Health Agencies & Programs” of the Hillsborough Operating Budget. Russ Galpin pointed out that if the money is given to the GHSS, there will not be any town accounting of these funds. This was discussed as well as the original intent of forming the Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) a couple of years ago. At the conclusion, Ms. Buono noted that the Selectmen would have to make a decision as to how they would like to fund senior activities and present it in that manner (Supporting the GHSS request, funding the SAC in the budget, or having the GHSS as a separate warrant article). The Selectmen will make that decision at a later meeting.

Willis Merrill – Mr. Merrill came before the Board to find out what has been found with regard to the 1912 road that runs through the property that Family Dollar has been built on. Ms. Buono explained that based on a discussion with Town Counsel, the Selectmen may choose to leave the road as is, or recommend that it be discontinued if it has not already been discontinued. Ms. Buono said staff members have reviewed Town Reports up to the year 2000 and they have not found that the road has been discontinued. Ms. Buono said at this time, the road has reverted to the status of a Class VI road. The Selectmen briefly discussed this and questioned why none of the actual abutters to the road were attending. Mr. Merrill said his sister-in-law is very old and her husband has health problems. Ms. Buono said that she had actually come in and spoken to one of the staff members and said she wasn't sure what the issue was. Mr. Achille's attorney had come in previously (November) and taken a copy of the Family Dollar's plans. The Selectmen asked Ms. Buono to contact the abutters and discuss the situation with them in order to get their input and/or concerns.

3. SELECTMEN BUSINESS

Zoning Board of Adjustment – Ms. Buono informed the Selectmen that the motion for rehearing on the Manning Case is scheduled for Monday, January 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Police Department Building Repairs – Ms. Buono said there were a couple of repairs to the police department building that was going to be charged against the Buildings and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund but since there is money available in the bottom line of the entire 2014 budget, she asked the Selectmen's permission to charge those items to the operating budget. Ms. Buono said by doing this, the police department budget will appear as if it is overspent but the Selectmen will have to remember the reason behind it. The Selectmen agreed to have these items charged to the operating budget instead of the capital reserve fund.

Solar Lease Agreement – Ms. Buono said the lease agreement for the solar array has been going back and forth between attorneys and is almost to completion. Ms. Buono asked if the Selectmen would approve the Chairman signing the agreement once the town attorney is satisfied with the contract wording. Selectman Brien-Baker moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the lease agreement under these terms. The motion was seconded by Selectman Urquhart. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

4. LIAISON REPORTS

There were no Liaison Reports.

5. MANIFEST MOTION

Chairman Fullerton moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 7861 - 7922 a/k/a Vouchers 50 & 51 in the amount of \$145,158.31 (includes 123 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 10940 - 11001 a/k/a Voucher 36 in the amount of \$63,436.29. Motion was seconded by Selectman Urquhart. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Fullerton moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 16, 2014 as written. Motion was seconded by Selectman Brien-Baker. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Segedy – Mr. Segedy said he would rather see the police dog trained for explosives rather than drugs due to what you read in the news. He said that before tonight’s meeting he had been told that Peter’s presentation would include the summer program. The Selectmen told him that program would be discussed when the Parks Board comes in. Mr. Segedy gave his opinion with regard to the ROW issue that Mr. Merrill has and suggested that perhaps Family Dollar can pay for the ROW for Mr. Merrill through his sister-in-laws property.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Brien-Baker moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Urquhart. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A true record.

Laura Buono
Town Administrator

Approved by:
Hillsborough Board of Selectmen

Date: _____

David N. Fullerton, Chairman

Wendy Brien-Baker, Selectman

Alan Urquhart, Selectman