

# TOWN OF DANBURY - Board of Selectmen

## Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday , December 21, 2016 6pm

**Members Present:** Jessica Hatch, Chair  
Lyn England  
James Phelps  
**Administrative Assistant:** Karen Padgett  
**Appointments:** **Chief Suckling** - between 6:15 and 6:30

### Checks/Applications/Signatures

- **Payroll and Accounts Payable Manifests** were signed.
- November Bank Reconciliations were reviewed and signed
- Jim Phelps made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/7/16. Jessica Hatch noted that the time that the meeting was adjourned was incorrect. Jessica made a motion to approve the **minutes** of 12/7/2016 as amended(meeting adjourned at 10pm) seconded by Jim Phelps. Motion carried 3-0.
- Jim Phelps made a motion to approve a driveway permit for D Scanlan on Wiggin Road, seconded by Lyn England. Motion carried. This is a temporary driveway for logging purposes.
- Two Intent to Cuts were submitted:  
Harvey 411-073 Littlefield Rd - Jim made a motion to approve the Intent, seconded by Lyn. Motion passed.  
Macuch 413-001 Waukeena Lake Rd - Jim made a motion to approve and sign, seconded by Jessica. Motion passed.

### Old Business:

- Tricia Taylor, Tax Collector, reviewed the tax deeding list with the board. These properties are scheduled to be deeded to the town by the end of the year. Jim Phelps made the motion to have the Tax Collector execute the tax deeds for the properties on the list, seconded by Jessica Hatch. Motion passed 3-0.
- An estimate to replace the lights in the main building(not the office) of the highway garage came in for \$3500. The current lights are very inefficient. Jim will ask to have a contract drawn and funds from this year's General Government Buildings budget will be used to do the work.
- An estimate was also received for the painting of the Town Hall for \$4200. This will be included in the budget for next year. Jim came up with an list of potential repairs for government buildings for 2017. Fire hydrant servicing \$800, furnace cleaning \$500. Re-siding the fire station \$10,000. Also, the handicap entrance to the town hall needs to be rebuilt. The Board agreed to order insulation from Belletete's for the attic up over the Selectmen's office as the roof is not insulated.
- The Road Agent submitted the list of needed repairs for the town bridges. This is the list that was requested in the spring. Jessica asked if Jim had gotten any more information about the Zaccaria bridge. He met with an engineer (who did not charge anything) who believes the erosion is a function of the water pulling away the bank when the water goes down. The engineer thinks putting in a bigger cross pipe in the town road would reduce the erosion in the river bank. That would be the least expensive option and worth trying. Road Agent Huntoon also submitted a quote for a bridge replacement on Walker Brook Road. There was discussion about what bridge it was for and that remained unclear as there are several bridges over Walker Brook. Jim feels strongly that the town should start the process of getting into the state bridge fund program. It is a long process, but the state pays 80% of the engineering and construction costs. Karen will get more information on the process from the state.
- Jim updated the Board on the last Planning Board meeting. The Planning Board took under consideration instituting a fee for the voluntary merger of lots. They plan to review and revise their entire fee structure. On the use of the Ragged Mountain road improvement fund for paving Ragged Mountain Road next year, RMR's attorney doesn't feel a public hearing is needed, but the Planning Board attorney feels a public hearing is required. Gary Donoghue turned it over to the attorneys to work it out. The feeling is that the expenditure of the funds is between the BOS and Ragged. The Planning Board is supportive of expending the funds.

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- Disposition of the old fire truck was discussed. Lyn suggested putting it out for bid or sending it to the White Farm auction. Jessica mentioned again there is a website that buys used fire trucks . Jim feels that it could bring \$25,000 on Craigslist if it is marketed as a repurposed truck. The cab and chassis would cost \$75,000 to buy it new. He knows of someone who repurposed a fire truck into a dump truck. It would need a new drive shaft. Jessica wondered if the Fire Department could use the old truck instead of the forest fire vehicle. Jim stated that the forest fire truck can go places a regular fire truck couldn't. No decisions were made. The fire truck will be discussed at the next meeting.
- There has been no formal response to the request for Doug Colby to clean up the hazardous burned out property on High Street. The letter, written on 10/13/16, stated that a written response or plan is required within 60 days. He responded verbally to the Administrative Assistant at the beginning of December, stating that he would begin clean up in two weeks. A letter will be sent to the town attorney requesting input.

## New Business:

- Meeting and advertising dates for the upcoming town and budget meetings were set. The budget committee public hearing is set for 1/12/17.  
7PM TOWN BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING Thursday 1-12-17@ TOWN HALL  
FILING PERIOD TO RUN FOR LOCAL OFFICE Wednesday 1-25-17 through Friday 2-3-17  
SCHOOL 1 ST DELIBERATIVE SESSION @ NRHS Saturday 2-4-17@ 10AM  
TOWN 1ST DELIBERATIVE SESSION @TOWN HALL Tuesday 2-7-17@ 7PM  
BALLOT VOTING FOR TOWN & SCHOOL Tuesday 3-14-17 11 AM - 7 PM @Town Hall
- The Board received a letter from Library Trustee, Linda Higbee, concerned for the safety of library patrons who, because there is no official parking for the library, have to cross the road in the dark or in icy conditions. She asked if it would be possible for the police officer on duty to have a presence near the library during open hours to slow down the traffic. Additionally, if the library were to hold a special event, would it be possible to have a police detail. If so, would this expense be covered by the town or the library budget. The Board instructed Karen to forward the letter to the Police Chief and have him contact the Library Trustees on this issue.
- The final equalization numbers for 2016 have been received from the Department of Revenue. The median ratio is 99.6%

A call was received by Lyn during the meeting from a home owner concerned that a well is being drilled too close to the property line. Jim stated that the law is that a well needs to be 75 feet from the property line. If a well is closer . It will not prevent the abutter from doing anything with his own property.

Jessica expressed concern about some sharp curve signs that have been removed on US Route 4, the bridge going over the rail trail. Also, in the S curves on NH Route 104. Karen will contact the state to address this issue.

## BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

The Board reviewed the current profit and loss. Andy Phelps still needs to be paid for his cemetery sexton salary. The accounting for the purchase for the fire truck was discussed.

The DCC submitted it's profit and loss for 2016 to show how the town appropriated money is spent. It was agreed that for this year the Board is willing to support the DCC request for the 2017 budget. Potential warrant articles will be discussed at the next meeting.

## VISITORS

**Chief Suckling** came in to submit a purchase order for \$ 600 for ballistic helmets. Jim made a motion to approve the purchase order for 2 ballistic helmets, seconded by Jessica. Motion carried.

**Fire Chief Austin** and **Kyle Levesque** came into meet with the Selectboard. Chief Austin submitted purchase orders for radio equipment for \$312 and hoses, nozzles and an adapter for \$1850.

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The Fire Department received information from Doug Colby that he is working with an engineer and that all he needs is a waiver from the Chief for the gas pumps to get up and running. Upon further investigation with the State, Kyle determined that any waivers for NFPA (National Fire Protection Agency) requirements have to come from the state. He probably also needs approval from DES and DOT. The town and the fire department has nothing to do with it.

### **FYI**

- The School District payment Dec - June 2017 \$114,497 lower compared to Dec - June 2016 \$117, 478
- FairPoint announcement sold to Consolidated Communications
- DES Request for more information - dredge and fill operation Danbury Country Store
- 2017 State Education Tax Warrant is \$244,761. This will be used to calculate the locally assessed state education rate in the fall of 2017.
- Letter sent to Dumont re: building permit needed

At 8:10 Lyn England made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jessica Hatch. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant