

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**JANUARY 10, 2011**

**MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**7:00 P.M.**

*The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.*

Present: Selectmen, John Chiarella, Leigh Callaway, and Don Hill.

Others present: Bill Huntoon, Scott Gambino, Marie Newcomb, Bryan O'Day, Justin Hastings, John Trachy, Tim Julian, and Katie Richardson, Reporter for the Intertown Record.

\*Correction noted regarding December 28, 2010 minutes, John Trachy was also present.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comments:

Scott Gambino: Comment regarding Springfield Master Plan report of median and per capita household income (2000 census). Energy Audit Report used same numbers. Discussion regarding town employee wages higher than median. Selectmen discussion: Wages determined by employee longevity, performance, and comparisons of other municipalities. Reference made to Wage & Benefit Report available through the Local Government Center.

Scott Gambino: Comment: Highway department wages higher than year before, even with help shortage. Discussion followed. Town Counsel is currently working on information regarding Scott's request for information regarding town employee wages.

Scott Gambino: Question what the deadline is for petitioning an article for the town warrant. Discussion: Petitions with 25 qualified signatures due by February 1, 2011. Selectmen are not responsible for the legality of a petitioned article. Article could be disallowed by the State.

Scott Gambino: Questioned how to get cemetery maintenance back to the Cemetery Commission and not under highway department oversight. Discussion: Cemetery Commission responsible for oversight of cemeteries and budget. Seasonal work scheduled through the Highway Department.

Scheduled Appointments: None

Don noted only 6 people from Springfield (MBC Rep, School Board Rep, 2 checklist supervisors, and 2 residents), at School Board deliberative session Saturday. Selectmen continue to represent taxpayer concerns through joint board meetings, and letters, etc.

Minutes: Minutes of December 28, 29, 2010 and January 4, 2011 approved.

Old Business: Don will not be at budget meeting Tuesday night.

Highway: Leigh: Ads for highway positions being published this week. Local and online notices have been posted. Discussion: Applications are being submitted. Brad's last day January 21. Selectmen agreed to meet Monday, January 17, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. to review applications. Selectmen to determine contingency plan if the position not able to be filled immediately.

Bill Huntoon questioned proposed wages and benefits for new highway hires. Discussion: Selectmen will be making determinations through the hiring process.

Review of preliminary draft of Road Agent job description. John would like to review with Brad.

Board and Department updates:

Leigh: Conservation Commission member review of property boundaries @ NE corner of town continues.

New Business:

John to present budget tomorrow night. Discussion regarding budget appropriations and anticipated revenue. Year-end processes in progress. Final 2010 bills to be paid this week. Don noted, as an individual, wants to make it clear would like to find a way to make this year's budget lower than last years. Discussion followed regarding appropriations to meet the needs of the town, anticipated revenue, while not creating difficulties due to budgetary or revenue shortfalls.

Correspondence:

GIS mapping project through UNH project grant. Assessing data and copies of the tax maps will be sent.

Online course @ LGC "Preparing for a Successful Town Meeting".

Sullivan County Solid Waste Leadership meeting.

Signatures: Letter to Unifirst approved and signed.

Miscellaneous Business: Selectmen to request representative from LGC to present a public forum regarding the Right to Know Law.

John Trachy commented that for several meetings the public is either not able or uncomfortable meeting in the Selectman's office, and wondered whether the Board would consider moving downstairs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Roberts,

Administrative Assistant