



Town of Amherst, NH
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Barbara Landry Meeting Room
2 Main Street
Monday, March 9, 2015

I. Public Session

Chairman Dwight Brew called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Attendees: Chairman Dwight Brew, Vice Chairman Mike Akillian, Selectmen John D'Angelo, Brad Galinson, and Tom Grella. Also present: Town Administrator, Jim O'Mara, and Suzanne Beauchesne taking minutes.

II. Pledge of Allegiance – Outgoing Board members, Vice Chairman Akillian and Selectman Brad Galinson, led the pledge.

III. Citizen Forum

Linda Kaiser came forward to state that she had received a letter from Daniel Construction to survey her property on Manchester Street. Bruce Berry, Director of Public Works, stated that he had initiated the request to protect Ms. Kaiser's interest. Four other properties will also be surveyed.

Ms. Kaiser provided the Board with a long list of Kinder-Morgan pipeline accidents.

IV. Town Administrator

a. Finance Software

Town Administrator, Jim O'Mara, asked the Board to reconsider its vote to award the Finance Software bid to Tyler Technologies and instead award the bid to Springbrook Software that made a stronger presentation and came in at a much lower price. In addition every department head and user felt the Springbrook software was superior. Tyler Technologies is geared to school finances.

Selectman Grella moved to reconsider the Board's May 12, 2014 award to Tyler Technologies. Seconded by Selectman D'Angelo. Vote 5-0

Vice Chairman Akillian moved to rescind the Board's motion of May 12, 2014 awarding the Finance Software bid to Tyler Technologies. Seconded by Selectman D'Angelo. Vote 5-0

Vice Chairman Akillian moved to award the Finance Software bid to Springbrook Software at a price of \$379,365 over a five-year period (\$56,845 one-time cost and \$322,520 SAAS or \$59,545 annually), and authorize Town Administrator, Jim O'Mara, to expend an encumbrance not to exceed \$169,859. Seconded by Selectman D'Angelo. Vote 5-0

b. DPW Management & Operation Study Bid

Administrator O'Mara presented bid proposals for a DPW Management & Operation Study received from Municipal Resources, Inc, and Matrix Consulting Group. Selectman Brad Galinson moved to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Matrix Consulting Group, at a cost of \$24,500. Selectman Grella seconded. Vote 5-0

Administrator O'Mara mentioned that the work is to begin on April 1st and conclude before the fiscal year begins.

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53 **c. DPW Ground Scale Bid**
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55 Administrator O'Mara presented bid proposals for a DPW Above-Ground Scale. Selectman Galinson
56 moved to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Northeast Scale Company of Hooksett at a cost of \$45,550.
57 Seconded by Selectman Grella. Vote 5-0
58

59 Administrator O'Mara noted that while a second bidder, Fairbanks Scales of Bellingham, MA, provided a
60 better and longer warranty; it was felt that due to travel time, Fairbanks would be less responsive than
61 Northeast Scale Company. Northeast Scale currently services Amherst's existing scales.
62

63 Chairman Brew noted that Warrant Article 33 appropriating \$70,000 for the purchase of a commercial scale
64 and enclosure was approved by the voters in 2013.
65

66 **d. Recreation Department – Baboosic Lake Summer Equipment Bid**
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68 Administrator O'Mara stated that the Parks and Recreation Department was looking to enhance its offerings
69 at the Baboosic Lake Town Beach by renting boats to users of the beach. Director Craig Fraley would like
70 to purchase six kayaks and six paddle boards, which he expects will generate approximately \$17,500 in
71 rental income over the 12-week summer season. The upfront expense of this initiative will be paid out of
72 the 02 Recreation Revolving account.
73

74 Selectman Galinson moved to award the purchase of six kayaks and six paddle boards at a cost of \$8,820 to
75 Bemister's Pool and Patio, which has locations in Salem, Hampton, and Hudson and was the lowest bidder.
76 Seconded by Selectman Grella. Vote 5-0
77

78 **e. Souhegan Regional Landfill District (SRLD) Appointment**
79

80 Administrator O'Mara mentioned that the notice seeking to fill a vacancy on the Souhegan Regional
81 Landfill District produced no responses. Selectman D'Angelo moved to appoint Steve Morgan to fill the
82 balance (2 years) of the three-year term. Seconded by Selectman Galinson. Vote 5-0
83

84 **f. Fire Department – New Hire**
85

86 Selectman D'Angelo moved to hire John Bowler as an on-call firefighter. Seconded by Vice Chairman
87 Akillian. Vote 5-0
88

89 **g. Annual Town Report**
90

91 Administrator O'Mara provided the newly printed 2014 Town Report, copies of which are available at the
92 Town Clerk's office, the library, Mike's Auto, and Moulton's Market and will be available at the polls.
93

94 **h. Voter's Guide**
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96 Administrator O'Mara provided a copy of the Voters' Guide which all residents received last week.
97

98 **V. Pipeline Update**
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100 Selectman D'Angelo reported that Kinder-Morgan has agreed to meet with Amherst residents on Monday,
101 March 23rd at the Souhegan High School Theatre. The Pipeline Task Force (PTF) has met and will again
102 meet on Thursday (March 12th) to develop questions that may be asked at the Open Forum. Selectman

D'Angelo also mentioned that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has sent Kinder-Morgan a letter stating they must identify an alternative route that is less invasive. Selectman D'Angelo has initiated discussion with the towns of Milford and Merrimack concerning alternate routes.

Chairman Brew thanked the high school for allowing the use of the theatre for the open forum with Kinder Morgan, and shared a letter of invitation sent to all state and federal NH representatives. Chairman Brew stated that the Board will meet on March 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Barbara Landry Meeting Room and recess by 7:15 p.m. to allow Board members time to get to the high school to meet with Kinder Morgan at 8:00 p.m.

Chairman Brew also mentioned that the Amherst Conservation Commission has identified a piece of land they'd like to purchase that requires a public hearing be held by the Board or the Commission. In the past, such public hearings have been held jointly. All Select Board members were in support of holding the public hearing on March 23rd starting at 6:00 p.m. Town Administrator Jim O'Mara will post the hearing date and time.

VI. Right to Know Requests – None to Report

VII. Old and New Business

Vice Chairman Akillian referenced four documents sent to Board members regarding the Village Strategic Planning process which included the compiled responses to the Village survey, a compilation of citizen feedback from the public forum and house meetings, and a description of working groups. The visual preference survey was completed by 553 residents. One more house meeting is scheduled on March 17th. Five working groups have been identified to provide detailed frameworks in the areas of traffic and safety, recreation, community development, lighting and utilities, and the historic character of Amherst. Vice Chairman Akillian expects the planning committee to host another public forum in May to share its proposed plans and related costs, and make a presentation to the Board on June 8th.

Vice Chairman Akillian indicated that the success of the town's strategic planning can be attributed to the work of department heads, staff, Board members, and others, and hopes the process will continue annually, or at a minimum every other year, since "it has made a big difference".

Vice Chairman Akillian expressed his appreciation to have been able to serve the community and thanked Chairman Brew in particular for his advice, counsel and energy.

VIII. Approvals

a. 2014 Elderly/Disabled Tax Deferrals

Selectman Galinson moved to approve the 2014 Elderly/Disabled Tax Deferral application for Map 002, Lot 010-001 in the amount of \$3,403.00. Seconded by Selectman Grella. Vote 5-0

Selectman Galinson moved to approve the 2014 Elderly/Disabled Tax Deferral application for Map 007, Lot 083-021 in the amount of \$5,583.00. Seconded by Selectman Grella. Vote 5-0

Selectman Galinson moved to approve the 2014 Elderly/Disabled Tax Deferral application for Map 006, Lot 038-013 in the amount of \$3,426.00. Seconded by Selectman Grella. Vote 5-0

b. Payroll

Vice Chairman Akillian moved to approve one (1) FY15 Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$194,266.87 dated March 5, 2015, subject to review and audit. Seconded by Selectman D'Angelo. Vote 5-0

c. Accounts Payables

Vice Chairman Akillian moved to approve one (1) FY15 Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$382,515.07 dated March 10, 2015, subject to review and audit. Seconded by Selectman D'Angelo. Vote 5-0

Vice Chairman Akillian moved to approve one (1) FY15 Account Payable Manifest in the amount of \$31,067.90 dated March 2, 2015, subject to review and audit (Town Clerk Transfers to the State of NH). Seconded by Selectman D'Angelo. Vote 5-0

d. Minutes

Selectman D'Angelo moved to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of Monday, February 9, 2015. Seconded by Vice Chairman Akillian. Vote 5-0

Selectman D'Angelo moved to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of Monday, February 23, 2015. Seconded by Vice Chairman Akillian. Vote 5-0

IX. Non-Public Session

Selectman Galinson moved to enter non-public session at 7:20 p.m. pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (a) & (d). Seconded by Selectman D'Angelo. Roll Call: Akillian-yes, Brew-yes, D'Angelo-yes, Galinson-yes, Grella-yes. Vote was unanimous, 5-0

The Board and Town Administrator Jim O'Mara discussed the compensation of a public employee. Mr. D'Angelo moved to exit non-public session at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Vice Chairman Akillian. The vote was unanimous, 5-0

The Board exited non-public session at 7:50 p.m. Chairman Brew stated that in non-public session no motions were made and no votes were taken.

X. Adjourn

Vice Chairman Akillian moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Galinson. The vote was unanimous, 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.