

TOWN OF RICHMOND
NEW HAMPSHIRE
Office of Selectmen



January 30, 2017 Meeting

Selectmen present: Christin Daugherty, Kathryn McWhirk and Carol Jameson
Absent:

Meeting opened at 5:30pm

*****Administrators Report**

Only missing a few reports from departments for the Annual Report.

Verifying if the proposed amendment to the Veterans Tax Credit and the Elderly Exemption need to be a ballot vote. Hope to have answer for Wednesday's work session.

Road Agent submitted request for Warrant Articles for road improvement/upgrade.

*****Approve Manifest**

McWhirk moved; Daugherty 2nd; the Board voted to approve the manifest dated Jan. 30, 2017 for week of Jan. 24 – Jan. 30, 2017, in the amount of \$27,124.75 for accounts payable/payroll.

*****Selectmen**

Daugherty moved; Jameson 2nd; the Board voted to approve the revised abatement for M405 L039 as recommended by the Town's assessing firm, Avitar Associates of NE, Inc. Wood to forward approved abatement to the Tax Collector.

Daugherty moved; Jameson 2nd; the Board voted to approve the minutes from the 1/26/17 meeting.

Letter – NHDES, reference acknowledgement receipt for "Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notifications" form for M403 L12 and M404 Ls 3 & 4 – read.

Letter – NHDES, reference Approval for Construction of Individual Sewage Disposal System M408 L068– read.

Letter – NHDES, reference Approval for Construction of Individual Sewage Disposal System M408 L049– read.

Letter – Southwest Region Planning Commission, reference NH 2019-2028 Ten Year Plan, Transportation Improvement Projects – read.

Daugherty moved; Jameson 2nd; the Board approved the building permit application for M201 L036. Application was reviewed and approved by the ZCO.

Daugherty moved; Jameson 2nd; the Board approved the building permit application for M408 L068. Application was reviewed and approved by the ZCO.

Jameson updated the Board on the Telephone Building. The Heritage Commission has replaced the roof and the remaining repair would require approximately \$1500. The Heritage Commission is requesting the town add for \$1500.00 for repairs to the Old Telephone Building. Members discussed either adding to the General Government Bldgs. Operating budget or a separate warrant article. Jameson added that she would not recommend leaving any town building to rot, especially one with some historic value. Jameson recused herself from discussion. Remaining Board members to discuss issue on Wednesday during work session.

Daugherty shared info researched on budgets that have requested an increase to wages. Discussion to continue during Wednesday’s work session.

Public Appointments

Richard Drew met with the Board, reference process for an individual to meet with the ZBA. This is in relation to M402 L057 and their driveway application and wetlands.

Jim McConnell, Anne Cartwright and Joe Cartwright met with the Board, reference Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and Federal Land acquisitions (RSA 121). Cartwright reviewed what the Fish and Wildlife Service plans to do within the next 10 years. Fish and Wildlife Service may be contacting land owners in Richmond to purchase their land, especially land within the focus area of the plan. This will affect the abutting landowners if owner sells land. Acquired land would be removed from tax rolls and the payment of property taxes would be shifted to become the responsibility of fewer residents. Fish and Wildlife Service’s goal is to acquire 1.9 million acres in the State. This could have a major impact on Richmond. There are 77 tax parcels in Richmond that are within the proposed Silvio Conte CFA watershed, targeted for purchase as part of the Conservation Focus Area. There are many additional parcels (hundreds) within the Conservation Partnership Area that could also be targeted for purchase by the Federal Government. If the Town votes, per RSA 121:4, to not allow acquisitions this may stop the Refuge from acquiring land in Richmond.

121:4 Procedure. – *At least 14 days before the land use board shall take action upon any proposed acquisition of land in any town or city, it shall, by letter addressed to the board of selectmen in such town, or to the board of mayor and aldermen in such city, advise it of the*

proposed acquisitions. At the request of the selectmen in such town or the board of mayor and aldermen in such city where the purchase of such land is contemplated, the land use board shall grant a public hearing in such town or city, or at some other convenient place. Provided, however, that no land shall be acquired under the provisions of this chapter until the acquisition of the same shall be approved by a majority of the voters present and voting at a regular or special town meeting in towns, or by a majority vote of the board of mayor and aldermen in cities.

Source. 1935, 74:4. RL 3:4.

Anne Cartwright offered the Warrant Article that Alstead put on their warrant:

Article 19: Silvio O Conte Wildlife Refuge

The US Fish and Wildlife Service boundary for the Silvio O. Conte Wildlife Refuge includes the entire watershed of the Connecticut River. The US Fish and Wildlife Service's current goal includes 25% of the privately owned acreage in Alstead. Do you oppose this plan by US Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire this portion of the property tax base of the town of Alstead? Majority vote required. This Article is recommended (3-0) by the Selectboard. This Article is not recommended (0-4-5) by the Alstead Advisory Budget Committee.

Daugherty inquired what would be the best way and best resources to pass this information on to our residents. McConnell offered any assistance the Town needs he will be happy to help.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm