

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Wednesday February 12, 2014**

I. Call meeting to order:

Chairman of the Select Board Ben Smith called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

II. Consent Agenda:

A. Approve Payroll Warrant #35 in the amount of \$6,090.62.

B. Approve Accounts Payable Warrant #36 in the amount of \$217,865.42.

C. Approve Board of Assessors Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2014

Motion by Selectman Danforth to approve Consent Agenda Items A, B & C as presented, motion seconded by Selectman Pushard. Motion carried 3-0.

D. Approve Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2014

No motion made for Consent Agenda Item D.

III. Public Comment on Items not part of the Agenda:

Selectman Smith asked if anyone presents would like to address the Select Board. Resident Charles (Skip) Skehan was present and asked a question regarding the meetings held in Gardiner concerning regional sharing amongst the local municipalities. Town Manager Scott Tilton briefly discussed this issue and his thoughts on this proposal. A brief discussion followed concerning the services provided if local communities were to consolidate. No motions made by the Selectmen.

IV. Scheduled Items:

A. New Business:

1. Schedule a Board of Assessors meeting

Chairman Smith suggested the Selectmen meet for Budget Workshops on the Wednesdays they are free from the regular scheduled Select Board Meetings. Selectmen Pushard & Danforth were in agreement to the suggestion. No motion was necessary.

2. Presentation by Town Manager of the proposed 2014 – 15 Municipal Budget

Manager Tilton reviewed the proposed budget. A few of the items discussed were:

- A 1.5% increase in cost of living allowance for the salary of the Town Manager, Town Clerk, CEO Officer and part-time office clerk positions. Due to this increase there will be an increase in benefits cost.
- No change in Charitable Donations from last year's budget.
- Roads Budget has gone down.
- Manager Tilton will be proposing the hiring of a Roads Supervisor at the cost of \$18,761 which includes \$11,000 for the purchase of a vehicle for their use.

Selectman Smith said there would be further opportunity to discuss the proposed budget with the public. Selectman Smith did mention and thanked the Town Manager for presenting the proposed budget ahead of their scheduled deadline.

IV. Scheduled Items:

B. Old Business:

1. Review and act upon requests for tax abatement

Selectman Smith said that Assessor's Agent Robbins presented the board in writing with her recommendations for tax abatements.

Motion by Selectman Danforth to approve abatements for Bancroft Holding of \$233.74 – Account #1449, Darrek Dube of \$218.96 – Account #22, Jason Keithly of \$26.97– Account #1262 & Jason Keithly of \$568.52 - Account #644 as referenced on the summary provided by Assessor's Agent Robbins, motion seconded by Selectman Pushard. Motion carried 3-0.

2. Review and act upon a supplemental tax assessment

The supplemental item is for GE who has property in town and the valuation is in need of an adjustment that will increase the property value and tax revenue. No discussion.

Motion by Selectman Danforth to do a assess a supplemental tax for the personal property account of GE - Account #204 for the recommended value of \$277,738.00. Motion seconded by Chairman Smith, a brief discussion followed. Motion carried 3-0.

V. Legal:

A. Review and act upon granting an easement to the cell tower lease.

The Selectmen reviewed their opinions on granting the easement. Discussion followed. No motions were made or necessary. The Selectmen agreed to move this discussion to the next Selectmen Meeting.

B. Review the list of positions requiring election at annual town meeting

At the recommendation of the Town Manager, the Selectmen decided to table this discussion until a later time.

C. Review and act upon a CDBG Loan Request to help purchase a mobile home

Manager Tilton reviewed this item with the Selectmen. He stated the CDBG account currently has approximately \$26,000 in available funds. Chelsea resident, Barbara Grondin, has made a request for a loan to purchase a used mobile home. The resident's current home is in very poor condition and her request is for a \$10,000 loan. Discussion followed. Selectman Smith suggested that Ms. Grondin get more information on the cost to purchase and set up the mobile home before the Selectmen make any decision on the approval of a CDBG loan.

D. Review and approve the Kennebec Valley Humane Society 2014-15 Sheltering Contract

The Town Manager reviewed the information on this item with the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Smith moved to approve the contract with the KV Humane Society, motion seconded by Selectman Pushard. Motion carried 3-0.

VI. Written Communication:

A. Read the letter from the Capital Area CA\$H Coalition concerning free tax return preparation help

Chairman Smith stated this item was information only. Manger Tilton provided a brief summary on the services this organization provides. No motion necessary.

B. Read the notice from AARP of Tax-Aide Program concerning free tax return preparation help

Again it was noted that this item is for informational purposes only. No motion necessary.

Written Communication:

- C. Read the letter from CMP notifying Chelsea of CMP'S plan to use of herbicides to control brush along the transmission line right of ways
The Selectmen briefly reviewed this item. This discussion is for informational purposes only. No motions were made or necessary.
- D. Review the latest High School Bus transportation invoice
Manager Tilton said the invoices were from November and December. A brief discussion followed. No motions were made or necessary.
- E. Review the invitation to a meeting in Washington Maine with the Washington Selectmen and members of the Maine Legislature
A brief discussion followed. The Selectmen made no decision on this item and no motions were made.
- F. Read letter from Time Warner dated February 4, 2014 notifying Chelsea Selectmen of subscriber rate increase
Chairman Smith said this item was for informational purposes only. No motions were made or necessary.
- G. Read the monthly letter from Time Warner dated February 5, 2014 informing the Selectmen of cable service related issues
Chairman Smith said this was a programing notice and there were no changes in the services provided by the cable company. No motions made by the Selectmen on this item.

VII. Verbal Communication:

- A. Town Manager Report
 - Roads have been posted.
 - Revenue sharing was briefly discussed. It was noted that there would possibly be some cuts to the amount Chelsea receives annually from the State of Maine.
- B. Chelsea's RSU #12 Representative
 - RSU Board Member Barbara Skehan was present to give a brief update to the Select Board on the budget discussions. She stated some job positions are being combined to save money. A brief discussion followed.

Verbal Communication:

C. Board of Selectmen/Assessors

- Selectman Pushard said he had received a complaint on the Animal Control Officer. There were a couple of dogs running loose in a neighborhood in Chelsea and the person who made the complaint felt the Animal Control Officer could have done more to locate the proper owners because the dogs lived in that area.
- In case there were any complaints Selectman Pushard said the roads had been well sanded after the recent storms.

VIII. Adjournment:

Motion by Selectman Pushard to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded by Selectman Danforth. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Approved by the Chelsea Board of Selectmen on June 25, 2014

Benjamin Smith – Chair

Richard Danforth Vice-Chair

Michael Pushard