

**Town of Chelsea
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Chelsea Town Office
6:30PM, April 23, 2014**

Selectmen present: Benjamin Smith, Richard Danforth and Michael Pushard

Others present: Scott Tilton, Kathy and Richard Stanley, Sharon Burns, Lee and Bob Burns, Paula Hutton, Barbara and Charles Skehan, Ted Gardner, Sandi Leotsakos, Judy Williams, Scott Arnold and Richard Condon.

I. Call Public Hearing to order:

Chairman Smith called the Public hearing to hear public comment on the proposed Street Excavation Ordinance to order at 6:31PM. Mrs. Skehan asked what had changed since the previous Public Hearing on this proposed ordinance. Chairman Smith explained the length of time that a contractor or utility would be responsible for any repairs as a result of an excavation was increased to 180 days

A motion was made by Mr. Danforth and seconded by Mr. Pushard to adjourn the public hearing. Mr. Smith declared the hearing adjourned at 6:32PM.

I. Call regular meeting to order:

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:33PM by Chairman Smith.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Mr. Danforth that was seconded by Mr. Pushard to approve the consent agenda as read:

- A. Approve Accounts Payable Warrant #48 in the amount of \$ 50,902.06
- B. Approve Payroll Warrant #49 in the amount of \$ 6,129.39
- D. Approve the Minutes of the January 29, 2014 Board of Selectmen Meeting.
- E. Approve the Minutes of the April 9, 2014 Board of Selectmen Meeting.

The vote to approve items on the consent agenda was unanimous.

III. Public Comments:

Barbara Skehan – requested that a better job be done in keeping the website updated with the dates and times the Assessor Agent is at the Town Office

Richard Condon – requested clarification that the \$3000 personal property reporting requirement was per item not per account. Mr. Smith stated that the reporting requirement was per item.

IV. Scheduled Items –

A. New Business:

1. Review and discuss status of Tax Acquired Property

The Treasurer reviewed with the Selectmen the current status of properties acquired by the Town. A more updated list along with disposal recommendations will be presented to the Selectmen at a later date.

No action was taken.

2. Review and discuss making repairs to the deep ditches on Hallowell and Cony Roads.

Mr. Pushard presented this item to the other Selectmen and residents in attendance. He expressed concern at how terrible looking and unsafe sections of ditches on Cony and Hallowell Road are. He requested that the Road Advisory Committee review this concern and make a recommendation to the Road Commissioner

No action was taken.

3. Review and discuss the status and plan concerning the maintenance of private cemeteries.

Currently and for as long as anyone can remember Chelsea has been paying for the maintenance of a few private cemeteries. The Selectmen requested the Town Manager review this issue further before taking formal action at a later date.

B. Old Business:

1. Discuss and review the Town Manager's Plan to rebid the Maintenance of Cemeteries and Grounds

The Town Manager updated the Selectmen on the need to put the Cemetery and Grounds mowing and maintenance back out to bid. The request for bids have been returned. The Town Manager is in discussions with the low bidder to contract for their services.

No action was taken.

2. Discuss collection of overdue 2014 Personal Property Taxes

The tax collector explained that to date there were several outstanding personal property accounts. The Tax Collector explained that he would have to collect the taxes by doing a UCC Filing with the Secretary of State or taking action in Small Claims Court. The consensus was that the Collector use the cheapest collection method possible.

No formal action was taken.

3. Review and decide upon harvesting wood from the Salt/Sand Shed Property

The Selectmen reviewed their interest in selective harvesting the wood at the Salt Sand Shed property. There is still sufficient need in conducting harvesting operations. The Selectmen asked the Town Manager to speak with Scott Arnold and get a revised contract with updated wood prices for possible action at the May 14, 2014 meeting.

4. Review and discuss the status of the Chelsea Cares Fund

The Town Manager provided the Selectmen with an end of the application period accounting of the funds used as well as the ending balance in the Chelsea Cares Fund. This past winter the fund assisted one family. The ending balance is \$2,019.79 which will be left in the Account for use next heating season.

No action was taken.

V. Legal:

A. Request(s) to purchase recently tax acquired property back from the Town.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed with the former owner a proposal to purchase their tax acquired property back from the town in two or three substantial payments.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith that was seconded by Mr. Danforth to execute and convey by Quit Claim Deed property back to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley (Map Lot) upon payment of property taxes through the 2014-15 tax year.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

B. Adopt the Resolution to FEMA requesting a policy change.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a resolution that other communities have adopted requesting that FEMA change the policy regarding disaster expenses related to snow storms in the northern United States not being eligible for a disaster declaration. This Policy was what FEMA used to deny the request for disaster assistance for the ice storm on December 26, 2013.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Pushard to adopt the resolution.

The vote on the motion was 2 – 1 (Danforth) – 0. Motion passed.

C. Review and approve the Certification of the Street Excavation Ordinance for Town Meeting.

The need to have an Ordinance regulating the excavation of Chelsea streets was discussed.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Danforth to certify the Street Excavation Ordinance to the Town Clerk for vote at the June 12 Annual Town Meeting.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

D. Review and approve the July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 Dispatch Services Agreement (PSAP)

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the Emergency Dispatch Service Agreement with the State of Maine for July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

A motion was made by Mr. Pushard and seconded by Mr. Danforth to enter into a one year agreement with the State of Maine for dispatching services.
The vote on the motion was unanimous.

VI. Written Communication:

- A. The Board of Selectmen reviewed a letter from Fair Point Communication
- B. The Board of Selectmen reviewed a letter from Maine DHHS regarding Chelsea's new GA Threshold
- C. The Board of Selectmen reviewed a letter from Maine Natural Gas
- D. The Board of Selectmen reviewed a letter from Time Warner Cable dated April 16, 2014
- E. The Board of Selectmen reviewed the March 11, 2014 Planning Board Minutes

VII. Verbal Communication:

A. Town Manager: None

B. RSU #12 Representative Report:

Barbara Skehan, Chelsea RSU 12 BOD, reported to the Selectmen that plans for a before and after school childcare program were being prepared. She informed the Board of Selectmen that the next Board of Directors meeting was May 8, 2014 and that the RSU 12 Budget vote would be Tuesday May 20 at 6:30PM at the Whitefield School.

C. Chelsea Boards, Committee and Department Reports:

The Board of Selectmen were given written reports from the Code Enforcement Officer, Town Clerk and Fire Chief

D. Board of Selectmen/Assessors:

Selectmen Danforth did not have any new information to report.

Selectmen Smith did not have any new information to report.

Selectmen Pushard reported that he thought the effort to regionalize smaller towns in our area was a good idea.

VIII. Executive Session: None

IX. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Pushard and seconded by Mr. Danforth to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30PM

Approved by the Chelsea Board of Selectmen on May 14, 2014

Benjamin Smith

Michael Pushard

Richard Danforth