

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 1997

Attending: Bob Fay, Chair; Dennis Abbott; Dale Witman; Pat Sicard. Guests: Neil Courtney; Jason L'Heureux; Ralph Stanley.

7:00 p.m. Neil Courtney gave an update on the progress of the Fire Department study, and gave an overview of the "plan for the Fire Department to enter the next century". He highlighted areas of concern regarding the facility; management and structure; and equipment. Although stating that the department functions "reasonably well", he proposes that the department become part of the municipality. The Selectmen supported the idea, and voiced their sensitivity to the issue of the Town overseeing the department and the impact and acceptance related to the fire department staff and volunteers. Neil stated the fire department personnel seemed to favor the idea at present, and that a joint meeting was the next step. The Selectmen agreed, and Neil will contact Pat Sicard to set that up. Pat will talk with Ginny Pare to set some dates, and target sometime soon after the next Fire Department meeting with Neil on February 3, 1997.

7:45 p.m. Ralph Stanley, Code Enforcement Officer entered the meeting to discuss the fee restructuring process that he had presented in November, and the Selectmen have been reviewing. Before that discussion, however, Ralph presented a consent decree for the Selectmen's consideration. The landowner in Lake Arrowhead had a survey done when he purchased the property in 1989 with no problem. However, he is selling the property and ready to close, when the current survey highlighted a setback problem. The situation was discussed, with Dale Witman making the motion to sign the consent, seconded by Bob Fay. The vote was unanimous to sign the consent.

8:15 p.m. Ralph began the discussion of the fee restructuring, giving additional data on fees charged by other towns, and a chart that explained fee changes; some were higher and some had either been eliminated or lowered. Part of the restructuring was having the Selectmen oversee the setting and monitoring of fees. Currently fees are called out under section 12.01 and changes would be considered a zoning ordinance change, requiring Town Meeting process. The Selectmen requested that the proposal go before the Planning Board for their input, with a public hearing scheduled, before it appears on the warrant. Dennis Abbott made the motion, seconded by Dale Witman. All in favor.

John Gale entered the meeting to ask the Selectmen for information for the Finance Committee that was then in session. Since the meeting was in progress, he stated he would return, and Pat offered to set time aside on the following day.

Bob Gobiell entered the meeting to request that the Selectmen review and sign the contract for the Old Home Days fireworks. The Committee had just concluded their meeting, and the contract needed signatures immediately. The Selectmen reviewed the contract, from Atlas Advanced Pyrotechnics, Inc. for \$5000.00, and Bob Fay signed as Board Chair.

9:15 p.m. The Board then went into Executive Session, with the motion made by Dennis Abbott, seconded by Dale Witman, all in favor, to discuss a personnel issue.

9:45 p.m. The Executive session ended and Dale Witman stated that the Selectmen must set a time for a final review of their budget recommendations, and this will be put on the agenda for the next meeting. He suggested adding another special selectmen's meeting to just review the budget, but due to time constraints, it was agreed to address the budget as part of a regular Tuesday meeting. Additionally, Dale began the discussion of performance reviews, and all agreed that Pat would do them for the non-elected staff members, with the Selectmen performing the Code Enforcement Officer's evaluation. Dale express concern about the position this may put Pat in, but with years of experience performing personnel-related functions, she had no problem with the decision. Pat stated that Selectmen's input was important when reviewing performance, and Dennis noted that regular personnel evaluations is not part of the current process, and may take some time for people to get used to them.

10:15 p.m. A motion was made by Dennis to adjourn the meeting; second by Bob Fay. All in favor.

Approved on: 1/28/97

Board of Selectmen:

Bob Fay, Dennis Abbott, Dale A. Witman