

Bethlehem Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Bethlehem Selectmen Office
January 4, 2016

Present: Acting Chairman Glavac, Selectman Blanchard, Selectman Laleme.

Acting Chairman Glavac opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

Kim Cowles came before the Board asking for support for a CIRD grant. She explained they would like to create a trail system from Franconia to Profile and Bethlehem to Profile as part of this and also said they would focus on economic development. Ms. Cowles explained that she needs 4 letters of support for the grant applicant process and said there would not be any financial obligations for the Town of Bethlehem. Selectman Laleme asked if it entailed affordable housing and pointed out that the Board would not sign the one for AHEAD because the Master Plan was not complete yet. Acting Chairman Glavac said this one is broader and goes along with what the Town wants. He asked Mrs. Cowles to keep the Board updated on the process. Selectman Laleme moved to support the CIRD grant. Acting Chairman Glavac seconded. Carried 3-0.

Rhienna Miscio, Bill Keiler, and Nick Storella came before the Board to discuss the proposed skate park. They explained that the White Mountain School donated a half pipe and said they were looking to use 100 feet by 100 feet of the rink. They said they would make a cinder block wall so there can still be an ice rink on the other end of it. Mr. Keiler said they are not looking for money and said there is no rise in cost of insurance if they put up a sign that says ride at your own risk. Selectman Laleme asked what happens in the future if repairs are needed. Mr. Storella said they will create an association to look after and maintain it. Acting Chairman Glavac asked Mrs. Miscio what her opinion was and was she prepared to budget for it and manage it. Mrs. Miscio said Lincoln is doing a similar thing with a committee and will run it if it is what the people want. There was discussion about helmet use and Mr. Storella said the signs they saw other communities use say helmet required for ages under 12 years old and said they will probably do the same. Acting Chairman Glavac asked if the rink would need to be repaved and Mr. Keiler said it is ok as is but they may need to seal some cracks. Mr. Storella pointed out that it will not be just for skateboarders but also scooters, bmx bikes, rollerblading, etc. Acting Chairman Glavac said Mrs. Miscio will need to oversee it, the cost and the maintenance. Selectman Laleme moved to allow Skate Park (100 ft x 100 ft) to be built within the Ice Rink with money raised by volunteers and manned by volunteers. Acting Chairman Glavac seconded. Chris McGrath said this has been discussed for 3 years and it has been said that there will be a warrant article for this so the Town can vote. Acting Chairman Glavac said there wasn't a plan then and there was a question of the cost of insurance which is now answered. Julian Czarny said there is a vehicle entry port on one end to snow plow the rink and a hydrant on the other end to flood the rink. They will look into that to determine which end is better to put it. Frank Claffey said the Building Inspector should check the wall after it is built. The Board

agreed. There was discussion about noise and said that it wouldn't be any noisier then what it is now from people already using the park and the basketball courts. Carried 3-0.

Steve Dignazio came before the Board and explained they will be doing an expansion of the theater next year and will be applying for a CDFA grant and is asking the Board to sign the CDFA grant saying the Board supports it. Acting Chairman Glavac asked if it would be open year round and Mr. Dignazio said not at this point because they would need a heating system and said there are not enough customers to do that yet but hopefully in the future. Selectman Blanchard moved to sign the letter of support. Selectman Laleme seconded. Carried 3-0.

The Board reviewed the list of potential warrant articles. Selectman Laleme said the Capital Reserve request for a Fire Truck will be zero this year because of needing an ambulance.

The Board discussed whether or not to do a Warrant Article for GIS mapping again or not. Selectman Laleme said it would be beneficial for the growth of the town and said most town's have it. Acting Chairman Glavac said he agrees it would help with growth. There was discussion about educating the public on this and including it in the mailer. Don Lavoie said it would be a huge value to town staff.

The Board discussed a Capital Reserve for tech/computers needs for the future and decided this would be a good idea and would need to put in about \$8000.00 a year for 5 years.

The Board discussed the need for a Capital Reserve for a Transfer Station for when the landfill closes and need to prepare for that. Selectman Laleme said they should have a committee of Board members to look into it and said she would work with someone to determine the figure needed. Selectman Blanchard said he would work with her on that. Don Lavoie asked if the Town voted to close the Capital Reserve for a Transfer Station and was told yes.

Don Lavoie came before the Board to discuss the fees for the management company for the trust fund accounts. He provided a sample warrant article. He suggested the Town attorney review the warrant article. Mr. Lavoie said with the new management company they could earn over \$10,000.00 over fees. There was discussion about what happens if the warrant article (that allows the fees for the management company be taken off the top of the money earned) doesn't pass and Mr. Lavoie said the Town may want have to budget for it. Frank Claffey said the school should be billed directly for their portion and that the Town should not have to pay their portion. Mr. Lavoie said to take it out the money sent to them. Frank also pointed out the transfer fee is \$18.00 with this company instead of \$5.00. Mr. Lavoie said the trustee's could do it for \$5.00 but need accountant or banker to do it. He said the fees would only have to come out of the budget if the warrant article fails.

The Board discussed changing the term for Road Agent from 2 years to 3 years. Selectman Laleme said it has also been appointed before instead of elected and said Brett Jackson has been both. Mr. Jackson was asked why the change and he said for someone new 2 years is not enough of an impact. Acting Chairman Glavac said he would like to see it an appointed

position. Dick Robie said he likes the town being able to have a vote. Selectman Laleme said they could say that about all department heads. Rita Farrell said people can see what the Road Agent does and judge quality of work. She said she thinks it should be elected. Mr. Jackson said a 3 year term is the most it can be. Selectman Blanchard said he would like to know Mr. Jackson's thoughts but 2 years has worked well so keep it at 2.

At 6:55 Acting Chairman Glavac moved to go into non-public session per RSA 91 A for matters of personnel. Selectman Laleme seconded. Acting Chairman Glavac did roll call and all members agreed to go into non-public session.

The Board discussed the policy on criminal background checks. Selectman Blanchard moved to change the policy to require all new hires to have a criminal background check paid by Town out of Dept. budget upon job offer and if anything comes back on report they cannot begin work until the Board of Selectmen reviews results. Acting Chairman Glavac seconded. Carried 3-0.

Acting Chairman Glavac moved to approve a new hire for the Fire Dept. (McCarson). Selectman Blanchard seconded. Carried 3-0.

Acting Chairman Glavac moved to approve a new hire for the Fire Dept. (Noyes). Selectman Blanchard seconded. Carried 3-0.

At 7:23 Selectman Blanchard moved to come out of non-public. Acting Chairman Glavac seconded. Acting Chairman Glavac did roll call with all members agreeing to come out of non-public session.

At 7:23 Acting Chairman Glavac moved to adjourn. Selectman Blanchard seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
April Hibberd
Administrative Assistant