

Bethlehem Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Bethlehem Selectmen Office
February 9, 2015

Present: Chairperson Laleme, Selectman Blanchard, Selectman Fiorentino, Selectman Glavac.

At 6:00pm Chairperson Laleme opened the meeting.

Chairperson Laleme moved to go into non-public per 91A to discuss impending litigation and for a phone conference with the Town Attorney. Selectman Blanchard seconded. Chairperson Laleme did roll call with all members agreeing to go into non-public session.

The Board discussed impending litigation and had a phone conference with the Town Attorney.

At 7:10 chairperson Laleme moved to come out of non-public session. Selectman Blanchard seconded. Carried 4-0.

Dick Robie and Russell Mardin, Village District Commissioners came before the Board along with Michelle Moren Grey from North Country Council to discuss a CDBG Grant the District is applying for. The grant is for upgrades to the water treatment system to improve the filtration and disinfection processes at the water treatment plant as well as install new water meters at each building water service connection. The Commissioners explained to the Board that they need the Town to sponsor the Village District for this grant. Mr. Robie said the water is not meeting standards and they will be mandated to do this project. Ms. Moren Grey said it is a 3.8 million dollar project and explained this grant is for \$500,000.00. She explained there would be grant administration costs so the estimated amount going towards the project is \$475,000.00. Ms. Moren Grey said that 3 hearings would need to be held for this grant. There was discussion about there being money to offset expenses for public hearing notices and for a portion of the audit expense for the single audit. Selectman Blanchard moved to sponsor this grant. Chairperson Laleme seconded. Carried 4-0.

Chairperson Laleme said she didn't feel the process for the bank proposals was done the way it should have been done. She said the process was spread out and the banks were giving and receiving information at different times. Chairperson Laleme said the Board should have made the process better. Selectman Glavac said the Board should have sent out a grid of what we were looking for to the banks to fill in. Frank Claffey said he talked with all the banks a week before the proposal and confirmed their information was accurate. Selectman Glavac suggested putting it on a calendar and do an annual review of banking and suggested it be done again next year at budget time.

Chief Ho-Sing-Loy came before the Board to discuss grants he is applying for. He said he applies for 4 grants every year (safe commute, DWI, Speed, and bike helmets) and said the Safe Commute grant has already been approved but he now needs Board approval for the speed and DWI grants. Selectman Blanchard moved to approve the speed and DWI grants. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 4-0. Chief Ho-Sing-Loy said the grants are 100% so there is no cost to the town.

Chief Ho-Sing-Loy also discussed with the Board a request to purchase a in car video system for the new cruiser. He said the state has approved a 50% grant if the Board approves it. The cost is \$3,995.00 so the town portion is \$1,997.50. Chief Ho-Sing-Loy said he would like the Town portion to come from his Specialized Equipment Capital Reserve fund. Selectman Blanchard moved to approve the Chief's request for a 50/50 grant for the video system with the Town's portion coming from the Police Specialized Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Selectman Glavac seconded. Carried 4-0.

The Board discussed the new ambulance rates that Chief Anderson presented to the Board. There was discussion about how the rates haven't been increased in many years and how they are low compared to our billing companies other clients. Chairperson Laleme moved to accept the proposed increases as recommended by Chief Anderson. Selectman Glavac seconded. Carried 4-0.

The Board discussed the website quote and Selectman Glavac suggested the Board write down what they want and put it out to bid. Selectman Glavac will provide the list of what we are looking for. The Board said to pay our current website person up to date by prorating the yearly amount.

The Board reviewed a letter about Adair Inn obtaining a liquor license. Chairperson Laleme moved to recommend the approval for their liquor license. Selectman Blanchard seconded. Carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed the Warrant for voting day date and hours. Chairperson Laleme moved to approve the warrant for poll hours. Selectman Blanchard seconded. Carried 4-0.

The Board discussed the water spring on Gilmanton Hill Road and reviewed a letter from the Board of Selectmen from 1990 saying the taxes would be abated for the property for as long as the current owner owned the property and agreed to keep it open to the public and not to develop or change the use of the property. The Board discussed whether this is legally binding or not and decided to call NH Municipal Assoc. to get advice from them.

Chairperson Laleme said there have been three suggestions for the Town Report this year which are Alan Strell who was a Library Trustee, George Manupelli who was a Selectman, and

to put a collage of pictures of all the different events/projects the town has done with a picture of the pool on the cover. Some of the other events suggested were Old Home Day, Christmas in Bethlehem, Farmers Market, Gazebo Concerts, and the Easter egg hunt. Julian suggested getting a skating rink open sign to get people skating. Selectman Blanchard said in the last couple of years the Town has done some great things and likes the idea of having a collage of positive things that are taking place now. Selectman Fiorentino said he liked the idea of positive events but said the book is a historic document and he is leaning towards one of the 2 men. Chairperson Laleme said she wished we recognized people when they were alive so they could appreciate it. Selectman Glavac said he likes the idea of the projects collage. Selectman Blanchard moved to do a collage of positive pictures of happenings in Bethlehem for the Town Report this year. Selectman Glavac seconded. Carried 3-1 (Selectman Fiorentino seconded).

The Board reviewed the minutes from 01/19/15. Chairperson Laleme moved to approve the minutes. Selectman Blanchard seconded. Carried 3-0 (Selectman Fiorentino abstained).

The Board reviewed the minutes from 01/26/15. Chairperson Laleme moved to approve the minutes. Selectman Glavac seconded. Carried 3-0 (Selectman Fiorentino abstained).

Selectman Blanchard said the Visitor Center will be open as usual for Mass. Vacation week and the employees asked about also being open the week after for NH vacation week. Selectman Blanchard moved to have the visitor center open for NH vacation week as well. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 4-0.

At 8:10 Chairperson moved to adjourn. Selectman Blanchard seconded. Carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
April Hibberd
Administrative Assistant