

Bethlehem Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

Bethlehem Town Building Meeting Room

November 4, 2013

Present: Chairman Blanchard, Selectman Fiorentino, Selectman Culver.

Excused: Selectman Glavac, Selectman Laleme.

At 6:30 Chairman Blanchard opened the meeting and announced that it is a work session.

Visitor's Center Budget: Victor Hoffman told the Board that he would like to request the same amount as last year (\$10,000.00).

Police Budget: Chief Ho-Sing-Loy reviewed the police budget with the Board. He explained how he split out the details from the grants and that he added a line for training. The Chief explained that he increased the officer salary line due to an increase of calls. He explained that he reduced the prosecutor line and animal control line. There was discussion about how his budget for this year is under so why the increase. The Chief explained that was because one of his officer's was deployed so the Town hasn't paid his salary or benefits for this year but it has to be budgeted for when he returns.

Tax Collector Budget: Mary Jackson reviewed the budget with the Board. She said she put an increase in for the deputy to increase her hours and pay slightly. She also put in an increase for the Treasurer. Mary said from 1st issue billing \$220,000.00 is unpaid.

Town Clerk Budget: Mary Jackson reviewed the budget with the Board. She said there are some increases due to there being 3 elections in 2014.

The Board discussed having a meeting specifically for Health/non-profit agencies that will be submitting a petitioned warrant article to speak about their agency. The Board agreed they will have this meeting if the agencies wish to come in but also said the time they should come is at the Deliberative session.

The Board discussed a request from Latson O'Neal for a Lot Line Adjustment. Selectman Culver moved to waive the confidentiality of the legal advice from LGC. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 3-0. The legal advice was read. Chairman Blanchard said the Board does not have the authority to do the lot line adjustment. There was discussion about it being possible with a warrant article that authorizes the Board to dispose of property as justice may require. There was also discussion about how a warrant article cannot benefit private people, how it

wouldn't be enforceable unless there was a benefit to the Town. Selectman Fiorentino said there should be some wording for situations like this and also that a public hearing would be required. Selectman Culver said the Board would still be the ones to make the decision. Julian said people need to do their due diligence on property lines, who they are doing business with etc.

The Board reviewed a Land Use Change Tax abatement request. Chairman Blanchard moved to follow the assessor's advice and deny the abatement request. Selectman Culver seconded. Carried 3-0.

The Board discussed an opportunity to look into Broadband in our area through a program with UNH. Someone would need to be the contact person for the Town. The Board said Selectman Glavac has the background on this and should be the contact person for the Town.

The Board reviewed the demand letter to the owner of the Cruft building ordering the owner to clean up the property.

Chief Ho-Sing-Loy is requesting permission from the Board to purchase 3 Taser's and take the money out of Capital Reserve Fund. Selectman Culver moved to allow the purchase of 3 Taser's to be taken out of Police Special Equipment Purchase Capital Reserve. Chairman Blanchard seconded. Rita expressed concern about the police using Taser's because they can be dangerous. Selectman Fiorentino said the officers are trained on how to use the Taser's. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Culver moved to sign the demand letter for the Cruft building. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 3-0.

The Board discussed the website agreement and said they would like an employee to be trained to add things to the website. Selectman Culver moved to sign the contract for \$700.00 which is for the rest of this year and all of next year. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 3-0.

The Board reviewed the Ambulance Privacy Agreement and tabled this until next week.

The minutes were tabled until next week.

The Board discussed the Insurance quotes for health insurance. The Board reviewed the quote from Interlocal Trust and discussed the price and the plan is better but the Town would lose the Holiday funds from LGC if we switched companies. Selectman Fiorentino said they (LGC) are raising their rates and hooking people because of the Holiday pay and the fact that you lose it if you leave. The Board tabled this until next week.

Rita Farrell asked the Board about a DES title 5 application for a permit from NCES and was questioning why the Town doesn't have a copy of this. She said the ad said they had a copy in Concord but previously they always sent a copy to the Town and wants the Board to inquire about getting a copy.

At 8:10 Chairman Blanchard moved to go into non-public session per 91a for matters of reputation and personnel. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Chairman Blanchard did roll call with all members agreeing to go into non-public session.

Chairman Blanchard moved to pay Kevin for 1 week of vacation. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Culver moved to deed the Cruft building property. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 3-0.

The Board discussed personnel matters.

At 9:20 Chairman Blanchard moved to come out of non-public session. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 3-0.

At 9:20 Chairman Blanchard moved to adjourn. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

April Hibberd

Administrative Assistant