

Bethlehem Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

Bethlehem Town Building Meeting Room

November 18, 2013

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

At 6:02 Chairman Blanchard opened the meeting.

Rick Alpers from Primex came before the Board to discuss the proposal for Workers' Compensation, Unemployment and Property Liability insurances. He gave some history on Primex and said they have been around for 31 years. Rick went over the figures and it worked out that Property & Liability is an increase from Property Liability Trust but the savings on Workers' Comp and Unemployment make that difference up. Selectman Laleme moved to go with Primex for all 3 insurances. Selectman Glavac seconded. Carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed the Executive, GGB, Assessing, Legal and Insurance budgets.

Building Inspector budget: The Board discussed the proposed Building Inspection budget that increased. The Board feels they need to allow for the increase and will have a better handle next year on what to budget after the new building inspector has been in the position for a time.

Debt Service: The Board discussed the Debt Service budget and asked Frank when the payoffs were on the accounts. Frank said the payoff dates are Loader – 2015, truck – next year, Town Building 2020 +, Highway Lot Restoration 2020.

TAN budget: Frank said his request is the same as last year.

The Board reviewed a sign permit from Balance. Selectman Laleme moved to approve the sign permit. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed an abatement request that was because of an interest error. Selectman Laleme moved to approve the abatement. Chairman Blanchard seconded. Carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed an agreement with Able Security for fire alarm inspections. Selectman Laleme moved to sign the agreement and to remind department heads not to sign for items that are not in their budget. Chairman Blanchard seconded. Carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed the Omni Privacy agreement. Selectman Laleme noted on page 1 it should say Town of Bethlehem and not Fire Dept. Selectman Laleme also said the time frame to

disclose a privacy situation should be less than 15 days to notify the Town. She recommended it be 7 to 10 days. Selectman Laleme moved to accept the agreement with the 2 changes. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed a request from the Bridge House. This was referred to Dawn as it was requesting funds from welfare for reimbursement. Chairman Blanchard said we are asking all agencies to submit petitioned warrant articles for requests and cannot make any exceptions.

The Board reviewed an agreement with the Dept. of Revenue for Mosaic mapping that requires the Town to sign a sharing agreement to utilize the maps. Selectman Laleme moved to approve the agreement. Selectman Glavac seconded. Carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed our 2014 Map Maintenance proposal. Selectman Laleme moved to accept the contract. Chairman Blanchard seconded. Carried 4-0.

Selectman Glavac updated the Board on the Broadband study. He said he will be filling out the survey and that Bethlehem was nominated by North Country Council and was selected. He said he will update the Board on the progress as it happens.

The Board reviewed the minutes from 11/11/13. Chairman Blanchard moved to approve the minutes as written. Selectman Laleme seconded. Carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed the tax rates and reviewed different options of using unassigned fund balance to offset the tax rate. It was noted that the Town's rate went down but due to the School's increase of nearly \$2.00 the Board wanted to utilize a portion of the unassigned fund balance to offset the overall tax rate. Chairman Blanchard moved to put \$125,000 for Overlay and use \$300,000.00 from the unassigned fund balance which leaves a tax rate of \$28.55. Selectman Laleme seconded. Selectman Fiorentino said he doesn't want \$125,000.00 in Overlay, he said he would agree to 100,000.00. It was noted that because of the Revaluation there may be an increase in abatements. Carried 3-1 (Selectman Fiorentino opposed).

The Board discussed using a firm to deliver the fire truck that was purchased in Georgia instead of sending down a couple of guys to pick it up. Chairman Blanchard moved to utilize the firm to transport the truck back to Bethlehem. Selectman Laleme seconded. Carried 4-0.

Selectman Fiorentino updated the Board on items discussed at the North Country Council meeting including Broadband and transportation.

The Board gave the ok to have Aries perform the post closure test/report on the old Prospect Street dump.

At 7:56 Chairman Blanchard moved to go into non-public session for personnel and reputation. Selectman Laleme seconded. Chairman Blanchard did roll call with all members agreeing to go into non-public session.

The Board discussed personnel. Chairman Blanchard moved to hire Dave Wiley for Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer and Health Officer as an independent contractor for up to 20 hours a week at a rate of \$20.00 an hour. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 4-0.

At 9:15 Chairman Blanchard moved to come out of non-public session. Selectman Glavac seconded. Carried 4-0.

At 9:15 Chairman Blanchard moved to adjourn. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

April Hibberd

Administrative Assistant