



**Selectmen's Meeting
January 24th, 2018
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present: *Chad Hanna, Terry Lowd, Paul Yates*
Also Present: *Chris Hall (Town Administrator); David Kolodin (Chair, School Board); Paul Leeman, Jr. (Fire Chief); Chuck Hanson.*

The meeting was called to order by chair Hanna at 7.00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes were tabled until later in the Agenda, pending the arrival of Selectman Terry Lowd.

Old Business:

Land Use Ordinance changes: this item, tabled on 1/17, needs to remain on the table until 1/31 as legal feedback has suggested changes to the draft, which are still being studied.

Munro Bridge dry hydrant: a hearing at the DEP in Augusta was held on Monday, January 22, attended by CEO Joe Rose. An additional cross-section drawing was requested of engineers Gartley & Dorsky, plus a statement of need from the Fire Department. These will be reviewed at a further meeting with DEP in February. Rose is optimistic that approval will then be granted for the project.

Fire Chief: since the draft Job Description was presented on 1/17, a number of minor changes had been suggested by the Fire Department's Officers, which were incorporated in an updated draft given to Selectmen. Lowd asked for time to study the Job Description, and moved – seconded by Yates – to table this item until 7/31. Motion carried, 3 – 0.

2018 Warrant and Annual Report: Hall circulated an updated version of the draft Town Warrant. This will be voted at the 1/31 Selectmen's meeting, after reviewing the Parks Budget that night.

Hall reported that the Maine Treasurer's Office has raised the Delinquent Tax Interest Rate from 7% to 8%, and he has adjusted the draft Warrant Article accordingly.

School Budget: School Board chair David Kolodin presented a summary of the 2018-19 school department's operating Budget, as calculated by the AOS93 office, incorporating amendments discussed at the School Board on January 9th. This features a net increase of 1.8%, or \$81,602, driven by mandated increases in Special Education spending.

It was noted that in addition to this, a reduction of the carryforward from 2017-18 of \$50,000 would also need to be found by taxpayers. There may also be additional demands on taxation depending on the state funding share, which is not expected to be known until February.

It was confirmed that the parking lot paving and drainage project are proposed to be paid from surplus, and also that a down payment on a new reserve fund for purchase of the solar array would be made from surplus. There will be no action on the ballfield project this year, beyond studying options for grant funding.

Fire and Rescue Budget: Chief Paul Leeman, Jr., presented the department's proposed budget for 2018, which includes funding for a full-time Fire Chief, assuming this position is approved at Town Meeting and filled beginning in September. The budget includes new item of a \$20,000 emergency reserve funds as a contingency against major emergencies, instead of placing reserve funding in the payroll line as in the past. The draft budget shows a 5.2% overall increase, or \$11,517. Selectmen will determine the balance of funding for this between taxation, carryover or other surplus, at a later date.

From the floor, Chuck Hanson asked whether the budget reflected the expected salary for the Chief. Hall responded that the salary and benefits were still to be negotiated, though it did show a budget estimate for four months (and not three months, as incorrectly shown in the draft). It was agreed that if the article authorizing the full-time position was voted down, the Moderator would be asked to immediately recognize the Chief, who would offer an amendment deleting \$18,000 from the department's budget.

New Business:

Town Administrator Hall reported on a meeting he attended in Newcastle on January 22 for a presentation by the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority on the proposed summer passenger service to Rockland, stopping in Lincoln County in Wiscasset and Newcastle, and the draft train schedule was examined.

Hall had been asked by Mary Kate Reny and others to host a meeting of interested parties at the Town Office, which will discuss connectivity and joint marketing – seeking ways for local businesses to benefit from the service, and hopefully make the pilot program a success which would bring year-round service to the area. He will report back on any developments.

Regular Business:

Selectmen reviewed and signed the accounts payable and payroll warrants for the Town, Parks, Fire & Rescue and the Transfer Station.

Correspondence received:

- A Memorandum was received from Lincoln County Planner, Bob Faunce, regarding Winter Storm Grayson on January 4, which produced the second-highest storm surge on record in Maine. It was referred to the Planning Board.
- The latest Maine DoT work plan for Bristol was received and reviewed. It was noted that the next Routes 129/130 Corridor working group will meet at the Bristol Town Office, tentatively on February 26th; Hall indicated that his hope is that the DoT can be persuaded to allocate additional funds in 2019 to pave at least the section of Route 130 between Bristol Mills and Huddle Road in New Harbor. He noted that Damariscotta Selectmen have voted to allocate matching funds to allow MDoT to pave four-foot shoulders on the section of Route 130 as far south as the Bristol town line. DoT also showed a small increase in the Local Road Assistance grant to the Town for 2018, to \$46,496.

There were no Public Comments offered.

Notice of forthcoming public meetings:

Harbor Committee: Thursday, January 25th, 6 pm – Town Hall
Parks and Recreation Commission, Thursday, January 25th at 6 pm at the Ellingwood Information Center, including vote on their recommended 2018 budget.

Bristol Mills Dam Advisory Committee: Public Hearing and presentation of Wright-Pierce report on feasibility and costs of alternative options for the dam, Tuesday, January 30th, 6.30 pm, Bristol Consolidated School gym.

School Committee, Wednesday, February 7th, 5.30 pm – Bristol School.

Budget Committee, Monday, February 12 and Tuesday, February 13, both at 6.30 pm at the Bristol Town Hall

Selectmen, Wednesday, January 31, and also February 7th and 14th, in each case at 7 pm at the Town Hall.

It was moved by Lowd, seconded by Yates, to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 17th. Passed 3 – 0.

A motion to adjourn was proposed at 8.15 pm by Lowd, seconded by Hanna, and carried 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Hall
Town Administrator