

**Selectmen Minutes
Town of Newburgh**

DATE: 12-15-2014

CALL TO ORDER: 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Chairman, X Leonard (Bud) Belcher, X Scott Preston,
 X Stanley (Skip) Smith, X Cynthia (Cindy) Grant (Town Manager)
Glenn Williamson, Kelly Hamilton, Brent Burgess, Brian Carlisle, Gary Woolson, Keith Miller,
Mark Lamberton, Kendall Davis

WARRANTS: AP #89 = \$113,764.04, PY # 90 = \$3,535.23 AP #91 = \$17,993.45
Bud motioned to accept all three warrants, Scott seconded, accepted 3-0

MINUTES: 11-3-2014, 12-1-2014 – Bud motioned to accept both sets of minutes as written, Scott seconded, approved 3-0

Meet with Budget Committee – Bud thanked all members of the Budget Committee for their time and efforts in getting the Budget together for 2015. Kelly explained that the budget is for 18 months. The figures have not increased much from last year. Minor adjustments were made in utilities due to imminent increases in fees. The road budget was slightly decreased. Kelly explained that the budget has actually gone down for the past three years, but due to the school budget increasing each year, we have had to increase that portion each year. Each department has made annual cuts, but there really is not much left to cut. Estimates were done for the school budget as the actual numbers are not available until June. The Budget Committee agreed to take \$55,000 from fund balance and increase the mill rate slightly to cover this budget. The new mill rate will be \$21.70. This is due to the 18 month budget. The actual increase went from \$14.30 to \$14.50 for a year.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. Fire- Glen noted that the house at the end of the Chapman Road has been burned. Glen said that he has seen people on the property where it was still smoldering. He said there was a kid there and he kicked him out as it is dangerous to be there. He said that he recommends putting up signs and tape to notify people to stay off the property. Cindy said she will put up the posts and hazard tape. He also noted that the hole needs to be filled in enough so that it is not a danger. The Board asked Kendall to take care of filling in the hole. He said he could get to it within a couple of weeks. It was noted that the road opened back up before 8. They notified Len Price that the road was opened back up and should not affect his business.

Glen also brought up the fact that Brent needs a radio. He was given one to use from the office, but those were specifically designated to be used by the shelter. Glen said that he does not have an extra one from the Fire Department. It was discussed and agreed that an additional radio would be purchased from road funds for Brent.

Glen also questioned what will be done about plowing at the fire station. An arrangement can be made with Allen Ross to do the fire station to keep it cleaned out during a storm so that the trucks can get out at all times. Kendall would be willing to clean out the fire pond if needed during the storm. Otherwise, he cleans it all up after the roads are done. Glen would like Western Avenue, South Station and the fire pond kept up with during the storms. Cindy informed the Board that it

would cost \$100 per storm to take care of these three locations through Allen Ross. After discussion the Board agreed 3-0 to contract this out to Allen Ross for the remainder of this winter.

2. Rescue- No calls
3. Roads- Brent reported that Patrick has been busy cutting brush throughout town. There have been complaints about ruts in the Mudgett Road. Brent went and took pictures and checked it, but there really is nothing that can be done at this point. The salt and sand has melted and then the ice has built up along the edges. Bud questioned if maybe it would be feasible to have a load of sand without salt in it to use on the dirt roads. Kendall explained that on the Mudgett Road, when leaving the salt shed, there is salt and sand on the tires and chains, which makes a mess starting out on the Mudgett Road. Kendall then discussed the Dahlia Farm Road and how bad and dangerous it is. He suggested that it be sloped differently so that the plow truck can get better traction. Bud informed Kendall that he needs to be out on the roads ahead of the school busses. Kendall said he is doing the best he can do. Bud said it is imperative that he be out ahead of the busses. Scott reiterated the need to have the roads clear for the busses. Brent wanted clarification on whether he should be out each time there is a question on Kendall going out. Brent was informed that he should be out checking the roads and if needed, call Kendall to go out. Basically, it is common sense.
4. Recreation – nothing
5. Library –Gary would like to change the Board from 5 members to 7 members. The Board recommended that they stick with 5 active members and 2 alternates. Cindy informed the Board that the Library Committee is working on a new set of bylaws and once that is completed, they will bring it to the Board for approval.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sign Managers Contract – Tabled not done yet

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Timber Harvesting Town Property- Tabled no new info
2. Pole Permit for Unitel- Through a grant, Unitel is upgrading poles, this needs Board approval. The Board agreed and approved 3-0
3. Office Closing end of year and holidays –Cindy proposed that the Town Office be closed on 12/24 at noon, closed December 25th and 26th. The office will be closed January 1st for the holiday and January 2nd, the office will be closed, but Cindy and Gina will work that day to close out the fiscal year.
4. Auditor Letter – **informational only**. Ken Foster wanted to let the Board know that Newburgh was chosen to be part of his firm's audit. Everything looked good.
5. Cindy informed the Board that property and casualty insurance, because not enough funds were raised, \$1,694.50 needed to be paid out of overlay to cover the cost.
6. Cindy shared a letter from the Town lawyer, Ed Bearor regarding the lease with RSU #22. Cindy informed the Board that before the contract can be signed, it needs to go to the Town for a vote. An article will need to be added for the Town Meeting. Cindy will get copies of the new lease for the Board.
7. Cindy requested that her accrued vacation time be paid out instead of losing the vacation time as stated in the contract. Bud motioned that Cindy be paid for her 73 hours of vacation time, Scott seconded, approved 3-0.

8. Kelly was asked to inform the Board that it was not the Fire Department that requested a new addition to replace the modular now being used for training space. There was discussion about options if the modular were sold and removed. Scott questioned why the business meetings couldn't be held at the Town Office building. There was discussion about how to better utilize the space that is at the existing fire station. There appears to be a lot of space that is not being utilized to the fullest benefit. There has been talk about if the modular were removed, building an addition onto the existing fire station. However, it would be difficult to ask the Town to fund an addition that would meet the requests of the Fire Department. There was a discussion about the need for locked storage.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: It was brought to the Board's attention that Newburgh has an ordinance that herbicides cannot be used within the Town. If herbicides were used, it would cut down a lot of the brush cutting needed. Cindy will look into this.

Brent brought up that he has vacation time that he will lose as well as Cindy. The Board agreed to either roll it over or pay it out. Brent chose to get the payout. The Board agreed.

There was a brief discussion about a retirement community to bring in income to the Town. Cindy did some research and found that an over 55 community could raise a lot of revenue for the Town.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

ADJOURN: 7:38 p.m.