

**Selectmen Minutes  
Town of Newburgh**

**DATE: 07-13-2015**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**   X   Leonard (Bud) Belcher,   X   Renee O`Donald,  
  X   Stanley (Skip) Smith,   X   Cynthia (Cindy) Grant (Town Manager)

**WARRANTS: PY # 43 = \$5,772.20 AP # 44 = \$4,264.45, AP # 45 = \$3,262.00**  
All warrants listed above unanimously approved.

**MINUTES:** 6-29-2015 – Minutes unanimously approved as written.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

1. Fire- Prior to this meeting, Glenn Williamson, Fire Chief, spoke with Skip Smith about having an Executive Session between the Board, Glenn and Keith Miller without the Town Manager being present. Selectman Belcher pointed out to Glenn that it is a violation to bring up personnel matters in the public forum and that if an Executive Session were to be called, as Glenn requested, that it would take a vote from the Board to make that happen.

Glenn noted that he received a letter from Cindy regarding the dry hydrant repairs. The letter was intended to assist in getting the repairs completed. Glenn was upset that the letter indicated that by not completing the project that the Fire Department acted fraudulently with the Forest Service grant. He explained that they had received 50% reimbursement for the parts that were purchased by providing receipts, which was part of the grant. The installation was a separate part of the grant. He further explained that they have not received funds for the installation portion of the grant, so therefore he feels it was not fraudulent. Glenn told the Board that he has spoken with Aaron at the Maine Forest Service about these hydrants and he stated that everything was fine. He was also upset that the DEP is involved now and that Cindy had gotten them involved as he had spoken to someone that said they were all set to go. However, now that Cindy has inquired as to the correct way to proceed, the process will have to be more extensive. He expressed his displeasure with the Town Office (Manager) having to know what was going on with all of this as it was none of their/her business. Glenn and Linda Hamilton argued that these grants are through the Auxiliary and therefore are no business of the Town. Renee noted that if that were the case, why they had to ask the Town for an additional \$11,000 to complete this project. Renee pointed out that as Selectmen; it is their responsibility to be accountable to the whole Town. Therefore, it is crucial that the Town Manager and the Board are aware of all that is happening, whether it be financial, grants, etc. because the bottom line is that the Town funds the Fire Department and people want/need to know where and how their money is spent. Every other department has to comply with that rule as well.

Cindy spoke up as well and pointed out to Glenn that he has had a problem with every person that has held the position of Town Manager. The bottom line is that every department of the Town needs to be transparent to the townspeople. She also pointed out that if something goes wrong and there is a question on anything that the Town Manager has to answer for it. Therefore, she is not willing to allow that to happen. She needs to be made aware of activities within the Town so that she can effectively do her job and report to the Board. Glenn said everything would be fine if Cindy kept out of "their business". Bud spoke up and said that that is not going to happen and that Cindy is Glenn's boss and he needs to report to her. Anything that goes on

Glenn also brought up issues with the plowing at the fire station. He feels it is not being done adequately during a storm to get the trucks out of the station to respond to calls. He said back in February there was a rescue call and the ambulance was not able to get out of the garage effectively. He then stated that he would like a release of liability for the Fire Department for the plowing, the floor drain at the fire station and wall board on the new addition and the Chapman Road property. Renee' questioned what he means by this. Glenn explained that he wants to be released from liability for these issues because he has talked to the Board/Town Manager about these issues and he is not satisfied with what has been done about them.

Glenn further explained that he doesn't feel that the floor drains are sufficient or legal. He said he did not call the State for verification. The wallboard in the back room is not, in his opinion, sufficient for a public building. Also, the Chapman Road property, Glenn had requested that the site be cleaned up within a certain time frame after the burn for safety issues. It has not yet been cleaned up, so he wants to be released from liability for anything that may happen there.

Glenn reported that the mutual aid agreement with Hermon, he has not yet done anything with that. He also reported that the leaky truck is still leaking. Truck #491 has gone for service to rectify issues for inspection.

Renee' questioned when the fire station was built. It was built in 1982. Renee' questioned when the addition was built. Glenn said he did two years ago with volunteers, but he did not put the wall board up. Renee' questioned who installed the drain originally. It was determined that it was installed when the building was built. Renee' pointed out that when the building was built, there was no water/oil separation ordinance in place. Glenn pointed out that when the repair was done that there was. However, the drain was not replaced, it was extended and repaired. Scott Preston spoke up to say that per DEP without an oil/water separator, you cannot wash vehicles in the bays because of the runoff.

Skip questioned why Glenn thinks that he would have any liability for the building. Glenn's answer was that he is the Fire Chief and Keith is Assistant Fire Chief, so anything that happens at that building is their responsibility.

Bud suggested that Cindy look into if a water/oil separator is required and get something in writing stating that it either is needed or not. Cindy said she would get in touch with the company that did the repairs. Bud noted that the South Road Station is owned by the Newburgh Volunteer Fire

Department as opposed to the Town owning it. Glenn pointed out that it is not considered a public building; it is considered a storage building so goes under other regulations.

Glenn stated that the fire department will not have time to fix the dry hydrants, so the Town can do it. He said he would oversee it. Bud questioned if Glenn and Keith were going to stay for Executive Session. A unanimous vote was made by the Board to go into Executive Session at the end of the regular meeting so that everyone else didn't have to sit and wait.

Linda reported that there were two calls in June. Both were mutual aid with Carmel.

2. Rescue-Kelly reported that there were three calls in June. She also noted that Rescue will be putting on the barbeque at Newburgh Day. Kelly reported that the dinner/silent auction brought in just over \$1,000.
3. Roads- Brent reported that on Tapley Farm that it is a 4 rod road. These records have not been updated for a very long time. The bump on the North Road will be repaired later this week. The sand/salt shed will be cleaned up this week.

Kurt is finishing up the repairs on his grader. Brent is waiting to hear back from him when he can do our grading. The culverts have been moved.

If the Chapman Road is not going to be paved this year, Brent questioned if we should go ahead and purchase the sealer for it. Prices were obtained last year. Brent thinks the amount was around \$5,500. He will get definite prices for the next meeting. Lane's crack sealed the Lindsey Road at their cost.

Roadside mowing last year was \$1,614.48. Richardson would do it for about the same price as last year. It was agreed that Brent would do the mowing for Richardson. The Board agreed this is a good idea.

Bud asked Brent about if he thought it should be spot graded or completely graded. It appears that it is just as cost effective to do the whole thing.

4. Recreation – Kelly reported that Newburgh Day is Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be a barbeque, a live band, bounce house, fireworks. The committee is looking into an archery class.
5. Library –Gary reported that Cindy picked up the new bookcases purchased from the Town of Clifton. They need to be painted and then will be put to good use.
6. Town Managers Report – Salt Bid Results, Elections conference, Bond Bank –
  - Cindy reported the salt bid for the county was awarded to New England Salt at \$65.15/ton. Cindy said this was a good price.
  - There is an elections conference to be held on September 23 and 24. Cindy requested that the office be closed for those two days so that all three office staff could attend at once. It is a combined class that covers most of the information for State elections. The Board was fine with this as long as there is plenty of notice to residents.

- The Bond Bank payment for the 2015 budget would be \$22,000. Once the approval is done, the funds come in in October. Cindy has already set up an account for the funds to go through for the Bond Bank.
- Renee' requested that Cindy contact Sewall to see where we are at with the plans.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Freedom of Access Training – Can you bring back your signed paper and the workbook- everyone has turned their information in to Cindy
2. Policies – I will be handing out the policy booklet for you to look over – Tabled until next meeting
3. Tree at Rigby Cemetery- Brent gave an update on pricing for tree removal. \$2,000 for Jay Perry and Patrick Deighan to work together. Maine Tree Service can do it for \$1,600. The Board agreed to go with Maine Tree Service. The Board stressed the importance of obtaining a certificate of insurance.
4. Plowing Bid – The budget for plowing is \$91,000 and sand is a separate line item. Kendall Davis, Wellman Paving and TGP Enterprises. All bids came in well over the budgeted amount. There was discussion about how to cover the additional cost. In order to cover the cost, the mil rate will need to be increased or the additional funds could come from overlay, or a special town meeting could be held to ask for additional funds. After much discussion, the Board hesitantly agreed to raise the mil rate to \$22 and table the decision on awarding the plow contract.
5. Tax Commitment /Mil Rate – set for\$ 22, The Board unanimously agreed and signed the commitment paperwork.
6. Salt Shed Work – Wellman's will be there tomorrow to clean up around the salt shed. There are some cracks around the shed that need repair, but there are no funds available for additional work after the salt/sand is cleared.
7. Tax Acquired Property – The Board unanimously agreed to table this topic until the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Next meeting will be Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Renee' reported that the committee set up to move the town forward. They had their first meeting which was just to get a feel for what everyone's thoughts are for moving forward. They meet again in August. There was also a discussion about hiring a marketing person to promote business in the town.

Linda questioned what the balance on the fuel fund is. Cindy will have it by the next meeting. She also questioned what the criteria was for help from this fund. The criteria for this fund is that if you do not qualify for General Assistance, you may qualify for this program. Linda said that she is sometimes asked about this and doesn't know the answers. She was told that if asked, to send them to the office to see Cindy as she handles that program. It is a very confidential program.

Renee' questioned how much money was raised at the yard sale. Linda told the Board it was none of their business. They are a non-profit organization. She explained that the auxiliary helps needy families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The funds also go to support the forestry grants as well as uniforms and hats for the crew. Bud questioned if they had ever been audited. Linda said no. The

Board thanked Linda for the information, as they had never had an explanation of where their funds go. The question arose from the secrecy that comes whenever a question is asked about the auxiliary or how much they made on any event.

Linda questioned when the next newsletter would be going out as she would like to put something in about another yard sale in the fall. Cindy informed her that the next one would be September or October.

Bud questioned what the NVFD donation fund is used for. Glen explained that it is used for supplies as needed that is not covered by the auxiliary. Cindy explained that if a donation is made for the Fire Department, as long as does not say volunteer fire department, it gets deposited into the Town account. Glenn suggested that Cindy call MMA to get clarification on the entities of the fire department and the town. Bud explained that any money that comes from taxpayers for the fire department, Cindy needs to know what is going on with the funds so that she can answer to the townspeople and our auditors.

**SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS: none**

**Bud made a motion to go to Executive Session, Renee' seconded, approved 3-0**

**Meeting was adjourned after Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.**