

**Selectmen Minutes
Town of Newburgh**

DATE: 08-11-2015

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 5:59 p.m.

ROLL CALL: X Leonard (Bud) Belcher, X Renee O`Donald,
 X Stanley (Skip) Smith, X Cindy Grant
Renee' was absent at beginning of meeting

WARRANTS: AP # 52 =\$5,844.31 AP # 53 = \$134,547.59 – Bud motioned to accept both warrants, Skip seconded – approved 2-0

MINUTES: 8-3-2015 – Bud motioned to accept the minutes as written, Skip seconded, accepted 2-0

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sewall Co. Plan –
 - Jeff from Sewall presented the preliminary road plan to the Board. Sewall has gone over the roads with Brent twice as well as much work on his own to plan out culverts, etc. Littlefield Road, Tapley Farm Road, North Road and Mudgett Road are included in the plan. Jeff went over the preliminary plan in detail.
 - The Board was happy with the preliminary plan and will meet again when the final plan is ready.
2. Tax Acquired Property – Ken Porter was at the meeting and would like to purchase the Chapman Road property. The price would be \$2,000 with an agreement saying that that he would have two years from the time the building was burnt to rebuild on the property. Cindy provided the Board with a letter to sign stating this. He would like to pay \$1,000 tonight and the remaining \$1,000 to be paid in 30 days. Ken asked what would need to be done to build 50 feet back from the existing building. He was advised to talk to Adrian Smith on the Planning Board. Skip made a motion to sell the Chapman Road property to Ken Porter for \$2,000, Bud seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Recess to an Assessor's meeting

1. Abatements –The Board reviewed the list of abatements presented by Cindy. All Board members signed off on the listed abatements and one addition.

Reconvene - The meeting was reconvened.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS: Selectman Smith noted that personnel matters are to be discussed in Executive Session, but Chief Williamson and members of the Fire Department pushed that the Chief be able to express his feelings in a public forum. It was stated that Chief Williamson would like to explain his feelings about the job description provided to him. Again, the Selectmen stated that personnel issues are not to be discussed in a public forum, but the Chief and members insisted that he have his say.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chief Williamson spoke to say that he feels the job description provided to him was not fair. He stated that the description he was given would be equal to an \$80,000/year position. He said he does not agree with the job description. Glenn said that the stipend he is paid does not cover the job he does. There was a question from the audience why now is a job description necessary. The reason is that Glenn requested one to know what the expectations are of his position. Selectman Belcher reminded Glenn that the reason for Executive Session is that it was an opportunity to discuss and amend the job description if needed. Linda questioned what the Selectman and Town Manager's issue with the Fire Chief was. The response is that he needs to be accountable/cooperative to the Town for equipment and funds provided by the Town. The Fire Department is a part of the Town. There was further explanation about mutual respect from the Fire Department and the Town Office. Renee' explained that times have changed and that procedures are in place and need to be followed. It was agreed that the day to day operations of the fire department are Glenn's responsibility, but there are issues that come up that the Town Manager needs to be aware of. Anything that could possibly affect the Town, the Town Manager needs to be aware of.

The Board explained that times have changed and things cannot be done any longer on a handshake and the Town cannot give out gift certificates in exchange for donated work. If it is done for one, it needs to be done for all who donate their time or equipment. The Fire Department is upset that Discount Towing was not able to do the dry hydrant repairs and that the Town would not authorize a \$100 gift certificate.

There was discussion about the need for the Town Manager and the Fire Chief to mend their differences and move on. Moral is bad for both sides. It was unanimously agreed that there needs to be more discussion and cooperation between both parties.

There was a question from the audience as to why the Town Manager isn't speaking. The answer is that these issues should not be discussed during an open forum. Personnel issues legally are handled in Executive Session. Glenn was again asked if he would like to go into executive session.

The Selectmen again told Glenn that the job description was adopted but was able to be amended. This was the original purpose of this Executive Session. Once again, Glenn was asked if he wanted to go to Executive Session to discuss his job description. He agreed.

Bud made a motion to recess to go into Executive Session, Renee' seconded. All agreed 3-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Per MRSA #1 section 405-6-a Personnel matter- Job description

Meeting was reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

ADJOURN: Bud made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Renee' seconded, meeting adjourned.