

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – March 24, 2015**

**MINUTES:**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were First Selectman Donald Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Mark Hemenway.

**DELEGATIONS:** No delegations were present.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2015 meeting.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the following tax credits and refunds:

\$ 16.21	Peter Boyer	refund
\$ 68.75	David Matava	refund
\$ 7.66	Lisa Thomas	refund
\$ 9.50	Kathleen Adams	refund

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen reviewed the updated budget for FY 2015/2016. There were no proposed changes to the Capital Budget, so that was not considered during the discussion

**MOTION:** On a motion made by Ray Pech, seconded by Don Stein, and passed by a 2 to 1 vote (Don Stein/Ray Pech – yes, Mark Hemenway – no), the updated ‘15/’16 General Government budget of \$2,070,536 (5.71%) was approved for submittal to the Board of Finance. Also included in this motion was an increase in the Recreation Transfer line from \$7,500 to \$9,500, in recognition of the increased workload for the Recreation Director.

This budget includes the full cost for the Resident State Trooper, as discussed in the March 10, 2015 meeting. If the cost basis for the Trooper were unchanged, the General Government budget increase would be 2.82%. Mark Hemenway and Ray Pech reiterated their support for the position, but Mark voted against the motion based on the cost, and Ray supported it in order to pass the full amount for the Board of Finance to consider as part of their deliberations. Don Stein informed the Selectmen that he had testified to the Legislature against this change in cost share and that he had committed to the Board of Finance that he would aggressively pursue other police coverage options, including a regional approach or purchasing services from another Town over the next year, if required to bring the costs to a more reasonable level.

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen reviewed the request by the Recreation Director to increase the position’s salary based on workload resulting from increased administrative responsibilities and increased demand for programs by the residents. After discussing this request, the Selectmen decided to raise the salary by \$2,000 and to inform the Rec Director that they would review the salary again next year in a continuing effort to make the salary and responsibilities more equal.

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen reviewed options for replacing the Building Official. The advertisement on the State website has not generated any interest, probably due to the part time nature of the position coupled with the modest salary. There was also interest expressed by the

Cornwall Building Official to set up an arrangement with the Town similar to the arrangement he has with other Towns, whereby he collects all of the fees and refunds 10% of fees collected back to the Town. This does not appear to be cost effective at this time, so the Selectmen felt that a significant increase in the salary offered may be necessary. Don Stein also said that there is interest in regionalizing this function and he would pursue that option.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to add the following items to the agenda:

- Update to the 5-year Capital Improvement Program
- Appointment of an alternate to the Economic Development Commission

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to delete the funds for a new, wide copier for the Town Clerk's office, and to add a line item for a Rotating Grapple for the Town's Excavator (\$25,000). The copier was not eligible for the use of LOCIP funds and the old copier was able to be repaired, so this line was not needed. The grapple was requested by the Highway Foreman to expedite certain tasks which the Town is undertaking with the excavator that was purchased a couple of years ago.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway, and passed unanimously to appoint Robert Pulford as an Alternate to the Economic Development Commission for a term from March 25, 2014 to December 31, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein  
First Selectman

Note: The Selectmen will cancel the meeting on April 14, and will hold a special meeting on April 10 at 10:00AM to review budget inputs from the Board of Finance plus regular agenda items. They will also hold their regular meeting on April 28.