

# Minutes

## Selectmen's Meeting

### February 4, 2020

#### Opening:

Meeting opened at 6:30p.m.

People present were:

Selectmen: Daniel McCormick, Tony Avila, Penny Picard Sampson

Employee: Kari Hunt

Guest: Blaine Parsons, Melissa Sanborn, Pat Haley, Ed Indelicato, Matt Picard, Andy Reed, Larry King, Tyler Curtis, Rachael Weaver

#### Public Feedback: NONE

**Minutes:** Minutes from January 21st were reviewed and accepted. Minutes from January 30th were reviewed and accepted.

#### Treasurer:

- Warrants were reviewed and signed.
- Budget Committee Meeting February 11, 2020 at 6:30pm at the Community Center. Meeting is open to the public.
- Nomination papers will be available for School Board Director on February 6th.

#### Old Business:

- Dan contacted Proseal. They are going to work on cutting the bill down, but will allow the town to make installments over the course of three years. The error was may by Proseal when they mistakenly seal cracked all the roads instead of what was listed in the signed contract.

#### New Business:

- Penny moved to table the Fire Department and executive session until Blaine was able to attend later in the evening. Dan 2nd the motion. Motion carried.
- Quitclaim deed was signed for the Smith property on the Albion Road.
- Bump signs should be put up on Hunter Rd. Dan and/or Tony will take a look at the Stevens/Rich Road. Wesley Road is starting to crack where it was paved this past summer. Dan needs to order 8 tons of calcium for the upcoming year.
- Liquor license signed.
- CMP Pole permits signed.
- Penny made a motion to appoint Crystal Nicolas as Sexton for the Town of Unity. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Penny made a motion to recess the Selectmen's meeting and wait until Blaine arrives. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried. Recess at 7:00pm.
- Penny made a motion to end recess at 7:20pm and return to the Selectmen's Meeting. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Dan made a motion to enter into executive session pursuant 22 MRSa subsection 4306 to discuss a personnel matter. Penny seconded the motion. Blaine requested for the meeting to be public and not enter into executive session. Selectmen approve the request, Dan made a motion to end the executive session. Penny seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Selectmen have reviewed Fire Chiefs job descriptions from other towns and formed a job description for the Unity Fire Chief. It was handed to Blaine to review. Blaine would like to review it before anything is made final.

Dan read aloud a written warning to Blaine Parsons, Unity Fire Chief from the Unity Selectmen. Blaine asked what was written in his Firefighter report that was insubordinate. Dan stated that one of the items was the pay for Melissa. Blaine told Dan and Tony it was for administrative pay, then in the letter stated it was for firefighter pay. Melissa was asked if she has Basic Fire School training. She does not, but does not need it for scene support, completing paperwork etc. She has taken BLS training which is a required training. Dan said that the Selectmen has a check for Melissa, they are paying her for the 148 hours, less the \$500 that was already paid to her for the duties as administrative assistant to the Fire Chief. Blaine stated that he doesn't oversee Melissa, the Assistant Fire Chiefs has taken on the responsibility. Tony met with the Assistant Fire Chiefs Pat Haley and Jim Porter, Tony asked them what she had for hours for Admin, Firefighter and which fires she was present at, the Assistants didn't know. Assistant Fire Chief Pat Haley speaks on behalf of Melissa to explain some of the tasks she does, for example,, mandatory filing, completing paperwork, scene support, running errand, etc.... Blaine asked the Selectmen what they think he does. Dan said that he was unsure. Blaine mentioned a few tasks he does, reviewing all paperwork, letters, supervising the firefighters and working a pilot intern program with college students, etc... Selectmen added that Blaine continues to spend over \$500 without notifying the Selectmen first. Blaine said he didn't agree with the \$500 spending authorization. Minutes from July 17, 2018 states that Blaine and Selectmen agree with \$500, and that the Fire Department just had to notify the Selectmen, by phone, or email.

Dan made a motion to pay Melissa. Penny seconded the motion. Penny said it was the advice of the lawyer to pay Melissa the \$1776 less the \$500 for the administration Assistant to the Fire Chief which was raised at town meeting. Blaine disagreed with the recommendation from the lawyer to pay the 148 less the \$500 stipend for admin. Selectmen reminded Blaine that the admin assistant position was a temporary position to get caught up on years of paperwork. Dan asked why we have three fire chiefs that are paid a stipend, plus hourly pay for firefighter calls and still need an admin assistant. Selectmen voted unanimously to pay Melissa.

Selectmen were asked about the washer/extractor. Blaine commented that the Selectmen were costing the taxpayers more money by not getting the washer/extractor. Tony disagreed and corrected Blaine that it was Blaine that was costing taxpayers more money. Blaine originally submitted the bill for the washer at the price of \$5,400. The Selectmen did cancel the washer/extractor due to funding and no authorization to purchase it. Tony got a price for the washer/extractor online for \$4,399. Blaine did submit a new quote for \$5,200 which will be an article at the town meeting.

Currently the Fire Department has two trucks that are out of commission, ladder truck and tanker 3. The ladder truck has been out of service since July 2019 and tanker 3 just went in for service because the tank was leaking again. This problem has been suspected for several weeks. Blaine mentioned a new crack has formed right over the cracked that was fixed 8 +/- months ago. The tank was originally installed with a lifetime warranty. Warranty is questionable moving forward. Blaine is working to see if the tank will be covered under warranty. Blaine expressed a future plan to consolidate trucks, which in the long run would save money. Blaine said that when the ISO (insurance rating) was done the town was rated at 9.1-9.2, which is not a good rating for the town, Blaine worked with the insurance inspector and was able to get in ISO rate down to 8.4+/- based on the equipment and lake access they have.

Larry King wanted to know why the ladder was sitting. It was an asset to the taxpayers and that truck should be up and running. How much is it going to cost to fix? Do we know what is wrong with it? Dan stated it could cost anywhere from \$5,000 - \$20,000, and once fixed it would have to have a UL ladder test at the sum of \$5,000 (this is required by law). In November/December Selectmen inquired about taking it to C & S. F.D. wanted to know where the funds to fix it were going to come from. Selectmen said the funds would come from the fire department's budget. Blaine disagreed and stated it was not in their budget. Public expressed the pros and cons of the old truck vs new truck. Blaine said Unity Fire Department may have an opportunity to get the ladder truck from Winslow Fire Department, (they are replacing their truck). The ladder truck from Winslow is not a guarantee and if given the opportunity to get it, it would be summer/fall of 2020 before it would be in our possession. Blaine was asked if the town even needs a ladder truck and Blaine said Yes, there are businesses in town and ladder truck is essential. In

addition to maintenance of the fire trucks Blaine added that some filters on the trucks have not been changed since 2013.

Andy Reed suggested that the Budget Committee, Fire Department and EDC have meeting to discuss ways to fix the current truck or what avenues to take to finance a new truck. Penny mentioned that the town has a lot of debt right now and some of the debit needs to be paid off before taking on any more loans. Currently the Town spends approximately \$400,000 in loan payments/year, not to mention a monthly payment to the school in the amount of \$117,000 and a county budget payment each year over \$250,000. During the budget committee meeting February 11, 2020 Andy will talk with Committee to set a meeting up to discuss Fire Truck options. This meeting will be open to the public.

Penny made a motion pursuant 22 MRSA subsection 4306 to move into executive session to discuss a legal matter. Dan seconded the motion. Motion is carried. Penny made a motion to end the executive session. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried. No action taken.

Dan asked Blaine to sign the warning as acknowledgement that he received it. Blaine wanted to know what would happen if he didn't sign it. Penny said that there were enough witnesses at the meeting that saw him receive the warning and that it would be another mark for insubordination. The Selectmen are just asking him to sign that he received the warning. Blaine signs the written warning, and comments he doesn't agree with it and is only signing it to avoid further argument.

Tony asked Blaine about the Jaws Account. Tony was confronted by a citizen who heard from a member of the fire department that the Selectmen wouldn't authorize repairs to the Jaws. Blaine said the Unity Fire Association has an account for Jaws and money set aside that if it were to break the Association could fix it. Tony asked what other towns have Jaws? Blaine said Troy, Albion, Thorndike, Freedom and Brooks, but now sure on the other outlining towns. Tony asked if the Fire Dept billed the town for the Jaws. Blaine said no. Tony asked if the Jaws of Life belonged to the town or the Association. Blaine stated as far as he knows it belongs to the Town, but didn't know when it was accepted.

**Other Business: None**

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:30 p.m.**