

**Town of Chesterfield
Board of Selectmen**

**MINUTES
February 20, 2013**

Call to Order

Chairman Elaine Levlocke called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. Others in attendance were Board member Jim Larkin and Administrator Rick Carrier. Jon McKeon will be arriving later.

Appointments

➤ 6:30 Fairbanks and Chickering

Chickering and White were present to discuss proposed Police Officers salary increases. Fairbanks arrived later. Also present were Penny Cooper, Kevin White, Dean Wright and Tom Aveni.

Chickering gave a little background on what it takes to be a police officer. He stated the PD will go against the normal tendency of flight vs. fight in the midst of a confrontation. There are 2 times the suicides for police than any other death. The divorce rate is 50% for police.

Chickering advised it cost \$93,000 to train an officer. If we don't keep the officer this is spent every 3 years. They are then trained in various specialties, making new recruits very marketable to other departments. He stated there were 26 pistol permits issued last year; 30 have been issued this year to date. Chickering stated they have to look for the future and we need to make differences now to change the trend. He suggests a pay scale halfway between Hinsdale and the State Police rates. Chickering stated that the new officer, Martens is being trained. He is looking for housing in Swanzy because he can't afford Chesterfield.

Larkin stated he would suggest a percentage of pay instead of a flat rate for on call. Chickering proposes that \$25 per on call evening (2 am – 6 am). If the officer is called out the \$25 would be dropped and a minimum of two hours call out pay (over time rate) would be paid. Levlocke stated that McKeon had expressed at previous meetings that the call out policy is the same as it was when any of the current officers was hired.

Chickering stated if we don't address the problem now we'll go into a downward spiral. There is no guarantee that more pay would make a difference but it could draw the right person that wants to get involved with the Town. Fairbanks stated there is no guarantee but it is safe to assume that if you don't pay enough you can be sure that you'll lose officers. We want to keep quality officers who would get involved with the school and the community and pay enough to give them a chance to live in Town.

The proposal is an 8 step plan with call out pay. Levlocke stated she supports this. Larkin stated he thinks it's important to get it done this year. White stated he thinks the Town would be supportive of the increases. Carrier and Chickering will meet next week to go over the figures to present an informational handout at Town Meeting.

For Signature

- Manifest #8 & 8A
- Selectmen Minutes – Feb 13th The amended minutes were signed.
- Intent to cut – Kray
- Payroll change notice – town office

For Discussion

- Longevity plan handout

The Board reviewed and will discuss next week the draft handout for Town Meeting.

- Monthly meeting email

The Board reviewed and approved the amended monthly meeting email.

- Revaluation update

Commerford, Neider and Perkins (CNP), the assessors, advised they have inspected approximately 48% of the homes. Of the 52% that have not been inspected, 2% were No Trespass, gated or refusals; 6% could not make the dates available for the interior inspections; and 44% have not responded to letters or notices left on the door.

CNP have proposed sending letters and adding 2 more dates (2 successive Saturdays) for the unavailable people. The cost for the additional letters and dates is \$960.

Larkin stated that the State allows listing house information on a web site. Carrier advised that the NHDRA oversees the revaluation process and assessing standards. Larkin will send the link to Carrier to investigate. Carrier advised that some property owners had given the information over the phone or at their door.

Levlocke moves to spend the \$960 to cover the cost of the extra letters and visit dates.

Larkin didn't second the motion so the motion died. He would like to make sure property owners are getting all options for filing information.

➤ Deputy tax collector position

Carrier advised that Pat Wirkus has resigned as deputy tax collector effective immediately. He has not had the chance to talk with Benjamin about the resignation. The position is basically 4 hours every other week or so with additional hours around tax bill season (June, July, November & December). He will follow-up with Benjamin.

➤ Town Office computer update

Carrier advised the new town clerk computer has Symantic Endpoint Protection (SEP). In answer to the Board's question about how long Girs needs the old computer for transition, she informed Carrier that she is going to keep it for the deputy. Larkin asked if the old computer is protected. Carrier was informed by Girs there is a virus protection on the old computer. Larkin ask if it is sufficient to protect the Town. Carrier wasn't sure but he was concerned. Larkin asked what it would cost to buy an additional license on SEP. Carrier suggested they wait and table this discussion for a month.

➤ Next week's manifest

The manifest will be ready for signing Tuesday afternoon. Larkin stated he would be out of Town.

➤ Selectman project list

Business Development Group – The first meeting of the group will be held Monday, March 11th at 7:00 pm at the Town Offices.

Newsletter – Larkin advised he is still waiting for more information from departments. Bevis will email his department information to Larkin tomorrow.

Transfer Station enhancement project – Larkin advised that the committee is meeting next Tuesday.

CIP – Levlocke advised they are meeting February 28th. She expects they will be completed by the end of March.

➤ Old business

Spofford Place – Carrier advised that the EPA and DES have been in contact with the town attorney to have the 2 EPA liens on Spofford Place released and recorded at the Cheshire County Registry of Deeds.

➤ Other business

1. Levlocke advised she has a copy of the Monadnock Region Community Transportation Directory for 2012. The directory lists various services available in the communities.
2. The Library Trustees met. Anderson will be contacting Bevis regarding repaving and reconfiguring the parking at the Library. The trustees had expressed concerns regarding liability over the raised curbs.

3. Carrier advised he got an email from McKeon giving 8:15 pm as his expected arrival time.
4. Carrier advised he is meeting with an energy broker next Tuesday to discuss alternative electric energy suppliers for the Town.
5. SWRPC will be having a meeting at Papagallos on March 19th.
6. Ross advised that Lazarus has sold his Spofford Lake property to Peter and Michele Michaud. The Michauds have given a deeded easement to the Spofford Fire Dept to access the dry hydrant on the shore of their property. Bevis advised the Memo of Understanding is in process and this access is of great importance to the town.

- 8:00 Nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 II (a&c)

McKeon hadn't arrived yet. The Board waited for his arrival expected to be around 8:15. Carrier and Ross left the meeting at 7:45 pm as this was the last item to be addressed.

Information

- Treasurer's report
- Code Enforcement notice
- Town website invoice – Carrier advised he wanted the Board to be aware that the Conservation Comm has apparently piggybacked onto the town's ISP provider and thus the town has received a bill for \$480 for the year which includes hosting the CC website. Last year the town's bill was under \$200 for the year.
- Equalization informational session
- Misc. correspondence & newsletters

Adjournment

With no other business to conduct, Levlocke moved to adjourn, Larkin seconded the motion which carried.

The public meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm. The non-public was still to be held. Levlocke will take the minutes for the non-public portion.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ross
Secretary

Approved by:

Jon P McKeon, Chairperson

Date

Elaine H Levlocke

Date

James M Larkin

Date