

## **Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**

**March 8, 1999**

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:10 PM by Chairman Strong.

### **PRESENT:**

Harold Strong – Chairman  
Lois Briere – Selectman  
Susan Clay – Selectman  
Burton Reynolds – Town Administrator

### **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

None

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of 3/1/99 were approved as written ( Susan Clay abstained – not at 3/1 meeting )

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1) The Board made decisions on another group of abatement requests which Avitar had re-inspected and our Town Assessor, George Hildum, had reviewed.
- 2) By the March 1 deadline, 94 abatement requests were received. The tax rate was set allowing for 61,000 in overlay which translates into 2M in assessed valuation. We are far from that at this point. Whether we come close will depend on the results of a closer look at the view factors in the Kennedy Drive and Ridgeview Lane areas.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) Bob Todd asked the Board for approval to have the O'Rourke lot ( by the ballfield) looked at with an eye toward having the lot thinned. This is owned by the Town and the Forestry Committee gets ½ of any yield tax. Approval was granted and Burton is to write to the Forestry Committee so advising.
- 2) Chairman Strong noted that the Snowmobile Club is looking to use some trails in this area and Janet Nixon has asked that abutters be notified should the Selectmen hold a hearing on the issue. The Board agreed that they would.

- 3) Revisions were approved for two operating budget categories. "Elections" was increased \$2,000 to pay for new voting booths. Six new ones replace six very old ones, there is one new handicap booth, and three additional ones. We now have 15 booths and meet State requirements to have one booth for every 150 voters based on the number of voters at the last Presidential election. \$4,226 was added to the "Assessing" budget to pay for more hours for George Hildum. These are related to the decision to have him review Avitars abatement work so an independent judgement is part of the process.
- 4) Burton is not planning to attend the Comp Funds conference. Besides being costly and over several days, there was not much being offered in term of sessions he found of value. He will be going to a one day free workshop in Merrimack on April 9 that covers a number of insurance, loss prevention, and labor issues.
- 5) The Board completed the 6 month employee evaluation process for the Town Administrator position by voting to remove Burton from probationary status and amending his status to regular full time employee. The motion was made by Susan Clay, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lois Briere, all approved. This change will take place with no increase in pay. The current rate is Step 1 ( \$37,886).
- 6) The remainder of the meeting was taken up with details relating to Town Meeting preparation.
- 7) Based on her rotation on the Planning Board, Selectmen Briere expressed concern over how late the info generally is made available to members. There was discussion about how much members seem to rely on Planning Coordinator Claire Dodge, and the importance of members taking the time to learn their roles and to be informed on issues before the Board independent of the Coordinator's opinions.

Motion to adjourn at 10PM by Susan Clay, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lois Briere, all approved.

Burton Reynolds  
Town Administrator