

**TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE
16 SCHOOL STREET
ALLENSTOWN, NH 03275**

Thomas Gilligan, Chairperson for the Board of Selectmen, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at AES then to be moved to Town Hall

Present at the meeting: Carol Merrill, Selectperson, and Roger LaFleur Selectman

Present in the audience: Residents, ATV Club Members and Non-Residents

6:30 p.m. The BOS reviewed, and signed new required documents.

One of these documents was a letter of commitment to the Merrimack County Sherriff regarding dispatch services. The letter advises the Sherriff that Allenstown would be willing and able to pay up to \$11,365.38 in total, for dispatch services from July to December 2009.

Tax abatements were also signed for the Tax assessor. Various purchase orders were also signed.

The BOS reviewed the Purchase order for flags for the Fire Department. Selectman LaFleur stated that he had spoken with the commander from the American Legion and he the Legion is willing to donate the flags to the Fire Department, State flag and one American flag.

Meeting Minutes

Selectperson Merrill made a motion to accept the minutes of the 02/09/2009 BOS meeting as written, Selectman LaFleur Merrill seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Gilligan – yes

Selectperson Merrill – yes

Selectman LaFleur - yes

Motion passed

Recess 6:47

7:00 p.m. ATVS

Per request the of a resident and Mr. Lacourse, BOS had a public discussion on the use of ATVS in Bear Brook State Park held at AES. Chairman Gilligan stated that this is a public discussion not a public hearing and this will be a one-hour discussion. BOS will then reconvene at the Town Hall to complete the BOS meeting for 2/23/09 and no further discussion of ATVS at Town Hall. Chairman Gilligan introduced resident Larry Anderson to speak; Mr. Anderson is the resident who requested the public discussion. Mr. Anderson stated that he is a member of the ATV association also vice president of the NOVA association which is New Hampshire off Highway Vehicle Association. Mr. Anderson would like to open up Bear Brook Park for off road recreation and is looking for support. Chairman Gilligan stated that the only thing the BOS can do is make recommendations for or against this idea. Chairman Gilligan advised that they would do this based on the residents of Allenstown input. Chairman Gilligan also stated that the town cannot regulate the use of any type of vehicle in Bear Brook State Park. However; the town does enforce the regulations by assisting Fish and Game with patrols on the trails..

Mr. Lacourse passed out maps to the audience showing Bear Brook State Park existing trails and proposed trails.

Mr. Armand Verville stated that he feels the town taxes will go up due to the fact that extra personal will have to be hired at the F.D. along with purchasing an SUV with other purchases for emergencies that may occur.

There was Considerable discussion expressing their concerns took place with residents both in favor and against the trails.

Police Chief Mulholland stated that there are not enough funds to patrol and keep up with the ATVS in Bear Brook State Park. Chairman Gilligan suggested that the ATV Club and citizens of the Town (both for and against) form a committee and meet quarterly to work out the differences and come up with an agreeable proposal that can be presented to the BOS and then eventually be given to the Department of Environmental services.

17 minute Recess

BOS meeting reconvenes at 8:22 p.m. at Town Hall.

In attendance Tom Irzyk, Bob Chevrette, Jeff Gryval, Jerry McKenney, Diane Demers, Chief Mulholland, Diane O'Callaghan, Sandy McKenney, Deputy Rob Martin, Cliff Jones, Cindy Baird, Bob Lee, Jason Tardiff, Penney Touchette and Sgt. Stark.

BOS and Dept heads meet to discuss their 2009 budget cut proposals of 5%

Chief Mulholland informed the BOS that the Department Heads met last week to discuss their 2009 budgets. Chief stated that one item discussed was if every department can operate with the default budget as it stands today and all are in agreement they can and to leave the default budget as it stands and how it was proposed to the voters. We will also provide the same level of service we are providing now. Chief stated that there are also additional cuts that can be made, the department heads went through the exercise and one of the biggest cut can be the fuel line the town now has set prices. Chief still has a line in his budget for a crossing guard that can be used for an emergency or where the BOS sees fit. Chief stated that with all the cuts the department heads have made there would be money in the budget for raises. The Chief also advised that the department heads were in favor of holding back any decisions on raises until October. This would save even more money for the town. Chief suggest that we leave the money in the budget then revisit the budget in October if no emergency have risen then raises could be given and prorated back to July if the BOS sees fit. Budgets should be reviewed each month. Chief asked if the 5% cut be postponed due to the fact that the BOS does not have all the data needed to make the cut. Chairman Gilligan asked if any other department head had anything to add. No other comments.

Selectman LaFleur asked what tools where used to be able to determine whether or not the last two and half month's expenditures are not going to give a bubble effect to the default budget numbers. Chief stated that we manage our budgets on a regular basis and know where we are at any time and we should be held accountable.

Discussion took place in regards to employee's compensation and all departments working together as a team.

Selectman LaFleur made a motion to table for further discussion and future consideration.

Selectperson Merrill seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Gilligan – no

Selectperson Merrill – yes

Selectman LaFleur – yes

Motion passed

Purchase Order

BOS reviewed and signed a purchase order for \$255.00 for a new pump on the 2001 sander.

Webster Street and Whitten Street.

BOS Road Agent and Chief discussed complaints of speeding on Webster Street. The Radar trailer will be set up on Webster Street once it comes back from the shop (it is currently being worked on) This is currently slated for the week of 3/9. The Chief and Road Agent will work together on analysis and meet back with the Selectmen on May 4th with the data. In the interim the Chief said that they would step up patrols on Webster Street and have a police cruiser patrol the street.

Grants

Chairman Gilligan stated that the Town received both grants for the Dec. 2008 ice storm and the Tropical Storm Hannah event. Amount awarded for the ice storm \$16,633.78 and for Hannah \$4,568.38.

Dispatch Services

BOS signed a letter of intent to contract dispatch services with the Merrimack County Sheriffs Department. Allentown will pay \$11,365.38 in total for dispatch service from July to December 2009.

Fire Chief

Chairman Gilligan stated that the candidate that was chosen for the Fire Chief regrettably refused the position based on what the Town offered. The candidate is looking for a mileage reimbursement or a town car and for the Town to up his stipend. BOS will go into non-public for further discussion.

Non Public Meeting RSA 91-A

Chairman Gilligan made a motion to go into Non Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (a) at 9:30 p.m. Selectman LaFleur seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

- Chairman Gilligan – yes
- Selectperson Merrill – yes
- Selectman LaFleur – yes

Motion passed

Chairman Gilligan made a motion to leave Non Public Session at 10:14 p.m. Selectperson Merrill seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

- Chairman Gilligan – yes
- Selectperson Merrill – yes
- Selectman LaFleur – yes

Motion passed

Non Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (a) with Police Chief

10:14 Chairman Gilligan made a motion to go into Non Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (a) at p.m. Selectperson Merrill seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

- Chairman Gilligan – yes
- Selectperson Merrill – yes

Selectman LaFleur – yes
Motion passed

Chairman Gilligan made a motion to leave Non Public Session at 10:52 p.m. Selectman LaFleur seconded.

Roll Call Vote:
Chairman Gilligan – yes
Selectperson Merrill – yes
Selectman LaFleur – yes
Motion passed

ADJOURN

Chairman Gilligan made a motion to adjourn at 10:54 p.m. Selectman LaFleur seconded.

Roll Call Vote:
Chairman Gilligan – yes
Selectperson Merrill - yes
Selectman LaFleur – yes
Motion passed

Thomas R. Gilligan/Chairman

Carol M. Merrill/Selectperson

Roger LaFleur/Selectman

