

# TOWN OF LANGDON

## APPROVED SELECTBOARD MINUTES

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Selectboard Meeting called to Order at 7:03 by Chair Lou Beam.**

**Present: Lou Beam and Ron Batchelder. Bud Ross was unable to attend.**

**Minutes of the January 23rd meeting accepted as written. (2-0)**

**Lou Beam**, reviewed the Town Calendar.

Lou discussed that he had met with the Administrator for the School Board, Jim Fenn. There is a deliberative session for the school budget next Wednesday. Jim had relayed that the school tax rate for Langdon is set to go down this year \$0.64 if the budget passes; but that there are two warrant articles that if passed would decrease the reduction to \$0.15. Lou discussed that tuition costs for Langdon students are \$17,455 today but will be down to \$15,960 later this year. It was discussed that the cost to send Langdon students to Alstead schools this past year would have been \$16,953 per student but would be \$16,820 with the next budget. Lou mentioned that the equation for student tuition changes due to State subsidies and daily attendance factors.

Town Budget Hearing:

The Selectboard went over the proposed warrants and budget by each line item, offered explanations and took questions. Shelly Barnes discussed with the Selectboard that the proposed new shed for the Cemeteries may not be necessary and they asked Everett Adams if it was possible to jack up the shed and put in a cement slab. They decided it was something to be investigated and discussed.

Lou discussed the Police Budget; noting that with Ray L'abbe retiring March 1<sup>st</sup> the payroll budget was going to increase substantially. Lou mentioned that Ray had been on call 24 hours and day and was salaried- and had saved the Town quite a bit of money over the years. The Board discussed that there would be 7 day coverage by the Police Department from 6am to 10pm. The State Police would cover the 10pm to 6am shift.

The School Resource Office budget from last year only expended \$60,818 due to the fact that the officer was out on workman's comp for part of the time. Lou noted that Charlestown, Alstead and Walpole, and the Sheriff's Department had all helped out providing coverage free of charge for the end part of last year.

Lou said the Highway Department had done a great job last year with a surplus of \$24,000. The paving of Crane Brook Road is scheduled for this year and the Selectboard had thought to use \$50,000 from the fund balance to offset the money needed to be raised.

Lou gave an overview of the purpose of the fund balance. The fund balance is in place to cover Town emergencies and disasters. The Selectboard does use a portion of the balance to offset taxes if needed.

Todd Porter discussed the situation with the bridge on Hemlock Road and the work that would be done to it this year. Todd proposed that the Town would fix one side of the bridge this year, one side in 2018 and the railings in 2019. The damage done by the Timber trucks was also discussed. Todd mentioned that Hemlock Road was next in his 5 year plan for paving. It was also brought up that Holden Hill needed to be addressed.

Lou brought up the Meetinghouse renovations. He noted that with all the inside renovations complete, the next project is the clapboards. The gable side clapboards have already been replaced but the steeple and other three sides are rotting. Dennis McClary is writing a grant for the project. The Heritage Commission is hoping for LCHIP and Mooseplate to contribute to the project. The Town would not hear back about the grant until the end of the year, so the work would be scheduled for 2018. The cost for the three remaining sides and the steeple would be around \$39,000.

Lou discussed the Food Shelf donation warrant article for \$3,000. He noted that the Town of Langdon had previously donated to the Shelf by way of rent, electricity and heat. Now the Food Shelf has entered into a five year lease with the Town and will be paying their own rent and utilities. Lou mentioned that the Advisory Board had, through grants, purchased a new 12'X12' freezer for them and that the 19 freezers they had been using were gone. Helen Koss asked if the other towns contributed to the Food Shelf. It was discussed that Alstead and Charlestown help out the Shelf with building space. Acworth and Walpole have been asked to contribute.

Todd spoke to the warrant article for the building of a salt shed for \$7,800. Todd said it would be built where the old compactor was. The space already had a concrete floor and block walls so the building cost would be less. He also said that buying the salt in bulk, off season would save the Town money and he would not run out in bad weather.

Lou brought up that there were no big equipment or vehicle purchases this year, as promised. But that it was necessary to start putting money back into those capital reserve funds. He noted that the Fire Department would have enough money in its capital reserve fund by 2019 to purchase a new truck. Lou also talked to starting a new capital reserve fund for the purchase of Scott air tanks for the Fire Department in 2020. He said he would also be looking into grants to help with that purchase.

As for the expected revenues for the Town the Board discussed that the Highway Block Grant from the State, which is funded by tolls and registrations, will be going down this year. Lou spoke about needing to back to the State Legislators about money that was tagged to be redistributed to towns actually going to the towns. Lou touched on the rent from the School Board and the Food Shelf. They also discussed that the County has been very efficient keeping its budget down and using some of the fund balance that has built up.

Helen Koss addressed the Selectboard concerning difficulties she had been having with her Comcast service. Comcast had changed the local channels to local channels out of Plattburg, NY. She had done some research and asked if the Town could investigate. Lou said they would get right on it.

### **Old Business:**

1. The Board discussed that the Food Shelf roof repair was estimated at \$880 from Griffin Construction.
2. The Board discussed making a donation to the Cancer Society Fund in the memory of Betty Whipple.

**New Business:**

1. The Board discussed the timeline and requirement for the Town Meeting.
2. The Board discussed making a donation to the Cancer Society Fund in the memory of Betty Whipple.
3. The Board reviewed and signed orders.

**8:44 Move to Adjourn. (Ron,Lou)**

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Jarvis