

**Town of Atkinson
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting 7:30 P.M.
Monday, March 22, 2010**

Open Regular Meeting:

Chairman W. Friel opened the Regular Meeting of the Town of Atkinson Board of Selectmen at 7:32 p.m. and led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present:

W. Friel Chairman
W. Bennett
F. Childs,

Others Present:

P. Smith, Town Administrator
P. Consentino, Police Chief
J. Sapia, President, Little League
T. Stewart, Road Agent

Approval of Minutes:

- *Regular Meeting – March 15, 2010*

The Board reviewed the minutes. Selectman Childs noted that on Page 6 the words “which is” should be crossed out and on Page 7 the heading should be “Administrator”.

Selectman Childs made a Motion to accept the Minutes for the March 15, 2010 Regular Meeting as amended. Chairman Friel seconded the Motion and the Board voted two in favor with Selectman Bennett abstaining.

- *Reorganization Meeting – March 15, 2010*

Selectman Childs made a Motion to accept the Minutes for the March 15, 2010 Reorganization Meeting as written. Chairman Friel seconded the Motion and the Board voted two in favor with Selectman Bennett abstaining.

Department Heads:

- *Mr. Philip Consentino, Police Chief* – Chairman Friel requested that Chief Consentino step before the Board. Mr. Consentino informed the Board that he had several issues to discuss as follows:

- *School Crossing Guard* - the School Crossing Guard has resigned and Mr. Consentino requested that the Board advertise for a replacement.

Chairman Friel made a Motion to authorize Chief Consentino to move forward to replace the school crossing guard. Selectman Childs seconded the Motion and the Board voted all in favor to allow Chief Consentino to move forward to replace the school crossing guard.

- *Elderly Affairs Director* – Mr. Consentino asked the Board what they planned to do. The Board discussed rather to hire him as an employee or to appoint him.

Chairman Friel made a Motion to appoint Mr. Consentino as Elderly Affairs Director starting March 9, 2010 for 60 days or until an offer is ready. Selectman Bennett seconded the Motion and the Board voted 3/0/0 in favor.

Communications Committee – The Committee working on Communications is searching for a remedy for the problems with lack of signal for Police Dispatch in certain parts of Town. The Department had purchased new microphones, but that didn't work and the microphones were sent back. Last week an officer had a call to Boulder Cove Road for an intoxicated senior and the call for back up did not go through. Someone else at the incident had to make a phone call. Selectman Bennett pointed out that the

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microphones need at least a 15 inch antenna to work and the officers asked for three inch. Mr. Consentino replied that the Committee is looking for another solution, new antennas or a new mast. The Board discussed where a mast could be placed so that the police dispatcher in Plaistow receives calls from all areas of Atkinson. The Board recommended that the Committee investigate whether the equipment could be placed at Industrial Way to cover the West side of Town. Mr. Friel inquired how many calls were received at night and Mr. Consentino replied that there was possibly one or two per week. Next, the Board inquired about the equipment currently at the Plaistow Police Station and if it could be used. Mr. Bennett informed the Board that some of this equipment was obsolete and some of the equipment currently being used is picking up the East side of Town.

- *Funds for the Elderly Affairs Vehicle* - Chief Consentino asked when the Public Hearing would be and Mr. Smith informed him that the Public Hearing would be March 29, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

- *Flaggers* – Mr. Consentino read a letter from DOT regarding flaggers and asked the Board why he had not received a copy. It was pointed out that the letter stated that flagmen or police officers could be used at the discretion of DOT. Mr. Smith informed Mr. Consentino that the letter had been signed and sent in.

- *Elderly Affairs Vehicle* – Chief Consentino asked Mr. Smith if the agreement to purchase the vehicle had been signed and Mr. Smith stated that it had not been. Mr. Consentino informed the Board that he had done a lot of research, got several quotes and got the best price; Singer Subaru was \$1500 below their cost with a three year guarantee. Mr. Consentino had agreed to place a decal on the vehicle stating that it was sponsored by Singer Subaru. The Board discussed if advertising on the vehicle was appropriate, what size the decal should be and where it should be placed. Mr. Bennett pointed out that such agreements should go through the Board. Chief Consentino stated that if the Board did not allow the advertising, then the cost of the vehicle would be higher and a public vote would be required to raise the extra funds because it would be over \$5,000.00. The Board agreed to allow the advertising if Chief Consentino could get another donation to bring the cost under \$5,000.00

- *Generator* – Mr. Consentino asked the Board if there would be enough funds to install the generator. The Board discussed the cost of installation and agreed to put together a bid to give to the Town Administrator.

Chief Consentino then thanked everyone who sent in cards while he was ill.

Selectman Childs thanked Officer Desjardins for finding the windows open at the Community Center.

Appearances: Jack Sapia, President Atkinson Little League

Mr. Sapia stepped before the Board to request that the Board approve a plan to convert one of the Little League ball fields to a 70 foot diamond so that 12 and 13 year olds could continue to play for a couple more years. Mr. Sapia gave the Board the plans for converting the ball field and stated that it was a simple transformation which could be carried out by parents of the Little Leaguers. Mr. Sapia also informed the Board that he could provide an insurance certificate for the project and a letter stating that the Atkinson Little League would take full responsibility for the project.

Mr. Stewart requested from the audience that the Town Engineer look at the plans. The Board looked at the Plan and agreed to allow the Little League to convert the ball field to a 70 foot diamond.

Town Administrator's Report: Mr. Smith gave his report to the Board.

Expense Approval - Mr. Smith requested that mandated expense approval for Department Heads by the Town Administrator be increased from \$100 to \$500 with expenses over \$1500 brought to their Board Liaison. The Board requested Mr. Smith send a notice to all Department Heads stating which Selectman is their Board Liaison.

Chairman Friel made a Motion that mandated expenses over \$500.00 are approved by the Town Administrator, expenses over \$1500 be approved by the Department Board of Selectmen Liaison and expenses over \$3,000 must be approved by the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Bennett seconded the Motion and the Board voted 3/0/0 in favor.

Deputy Town Clerk –The Town Clerk requested that the Deputy Town Clerk be given more hours to cover for the Town Clerk in case she was absent or ill. Chairman Friel requested that the request be set aside until Mr. Bennett had a chance to review it and that the item be put on the Agenda for the following week.

Appointed Positions - The Board requested volunteers from the community to fill Board and Committee positions. Selectman Childs informed the audience that notices had been sent out to all Department Heads for a list of volunteers and that appointees needed to fill out appointment slips. Appointment slips can be obtained at the Board of Selectmen's office.

Report of Appropriations – Mr. Smith requested that the Board sign the Report of Appropriations. Selectman Bennett requested that it be set aside until he had had a chance to review it.

Personnel – Mr. Smith requested that a letter be taken from the personnel file since the six month expiration period had ended. The Board discussed if a vote was needed and agreed that in the future Mr. Smith should give the Board a letter stating that all conditions had been met

Selectman Bennett made a Motion that in the future Mr. Smith would inform the Board in writing that all conditions for personnel actions had been met and that would be sufficient. Chairman Childs seconded the Motion and the Board voted 3/0/0 in favor.

Chairman Friel asked if Mr. Smith had anything else for the Board and Mr. Smith replied that he did not.

Old Business:

- *Renumbering* – The Board decided that Mr. Friel should write a letter in response to the letter from residents regarding street renumbering.

New Business:

- *Proposal Defining Vehicle Purchase* – Already discussed.

- *Stantec Notice to Proceed* –A proposal for \$1500 to address issues with culverts and give preliminary recommendations.

Chairman Friel made a Motion to approve the \$1500 agreement for Stantec to proceed. Mr. Childs seconded the Motion and the Board voted 3/0/0 in favor.

Mr. Friel asked Mr. Smith for the letter and Mr. Bennett pointed out that the Board had just moved that any expenses under \$1500 could be handled by the T.A.

Cemetery - Selectman Childs informed the Board that the cemetery would be opening on April 1, 2010 and requested that residents remove any Christmas decorations that they wished to keep from the graves.

Bids for Painting Traffic Lines – Chairman Friel opened the bids, there were three bids and Chairman Friel read them for the audience. They were as follows:

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Company	Contact	\$
HiWay Safety Systems, Inc 9 Rockview Way Rockland, MA 02370	(781) 982-9229	\$9,352.99
Markings, Inc. 30 Riverside Drive Pembroke, MA 02359	Stephen R. Stella (781) 826-51713	\$12,860.37
Seal-Tec Asphalt Coatings, Inc. 3 Sanborn Road Londonderry, NH 03053	Scott B. Mason (603) 437-5133	\$7,908.78

The Board agreed to give the bids to the Road Agent for his review and recommendations.

Correspondence:

- *Letter from Representative Sapareto* - thanking the Board for their letter of March 12, 2010 opposing tolls on Interstate 93.
- *Letter from Inspectional Services regarding a Guest House/Rooming House* – no response received.

Other Business:

- *Atkinson Academy Community Water System* – The Board discussed if there was such a franchise and recommended that the Secretary of State and School Principal be contacted for more information.
- *Follow-Up regarding Area Selectman's Meeting* – Selectman Childs and Chairman Friel agreed that the meeting was very helpful.

Future Agenda

4/18 – Code Red Demonstration at 10:00 am Town Hall – The Board requested that Mr. Smith give them more information at the next meeting.

5/8 – Haz-Mat Day – Hosted by the Town of Plaistow. Residents can dispose of hazardous material.

5/8 – Opening Day Atkinson Little League – Chairman Friel asked if that was also the date for the Fishing Derby. Chairman Childs informed the Board that he believed the opening day for the Little League was 5/2 and the Fishing Derby was 5/8. Mr. Friel asked for confirmation and inquired as to the date of the Easter Egg Hunt. Mr. Childs informed him that he would have the information next week.

6/29 – Area Selectmen's Meeting Newton Town Hall (7 pm)

6/29 – Public Hearing at Atkinson Town Hall – Approval of funds for Elderly Affairs Vehicle. Date should be 3/29 at 7pm

Chairman Friel asked if there was any more business for the Board. There was no more business.

Chairman Friel made a Motion to adjourn the March 22, 2010 Meeting of the Town of Atkinson Board of Selectmen at 8:53 p.m. Selectman Fred Childs seconded the Motion and the Board voted 3/0/0 in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Wemmelmann

William G. Friel

Fred J. Childs, Jr.

William M. Bennett