

*Town of Atkinson
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2011*

W. Friel opened the Regular Meeting of Monday, October 3, 2011 at 7:33pm in the Atkinson Town Hall and led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present:

F. Childs, Jr
W. Friel, Chairman

Others Present:

T. Barbera, Candidate
P. Consentino, Police Chief, Atkinson Police Department
R. Fournier, Candidate
D. Paquette, Candidate
C. Schuster, Candidate
B. Snicer, Administrative Assistant
P. Sullivan, Candidate

Approval of Minutes:

F. Childs made a motion to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting September 19, 2011 as submitted. Second: W. Friel. 2/0/0.

F. Childs made a motion to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting September 26, 2011 as submitted. Second: W. Friel. 2/0/0.

Open Bid:

Gasoline and Diesel Fuel

Mr. Friel announced the results of the gasoline and diesel fuel bids. One bid has been received from Steve Murphy of Skelley Mobil.

F. Childs made a motion to take the proposal from Skelley Mobil under advisement. Second: W. Friel. 2/0/0.

Department Heads:

Police Department, Phil Consentino, Chief

Chief Consentino appeared before the Board of Selectmen to introduce three police officers per last week's authorization to hire 2 full-time officers and 2 part-time officers. The Chief presented Nicholas Fiset to fill one of the full-time positions. The Chief is still working on filling the other full-time position.

F. Childs made a motion to appoint Nicholas Fiset as a full-time officer. Second: W. Friel. 2/0/0.

Chief Consentino also presented Sergeant Scott Anderson and Detective/Sergeant Caggiano as candidates for the two part-time positions.

W. Friel made a motion to authorize Chief Consentino to go forward with the hiring process of Sergeant Scott Anderson and Detective/Sergeant Caggiano. Second: F. Childs. 2/0/0.

Meet the Candidates for Selectmen:

Todd Barbera

Mr. Barbera appeared before the Board of Selectmen as one of the candidates to fill the remaining term of Mr. Bennett. Mr. Barbera believes he is the best fit for this position because he knows the RSA's, does what they say, and wants what is best for the Town of Atkinson. Mr. Barbera serves as Chairman of the Technology Committee as well as the Budget Committee. He is actively involved in the Town and feels he has the energy, knowledge and commitment level to do the job.

Questions/Answers

1. *Would you feel comfortable going against the other two Selectmen if your opinion differed?* Response: If guided by an RSA or Ordinance and if my opinion seemed best for the Town, then yes I would feel comfortable standing my ground. There will be times when we disagree. I'm going to be fair-minded. As long as we stick to the issues and keep a respectful atmosphere, things should be fine.
2. *Where do you stand with Conservation?* Response: The Conservation Committee is a valuable committee and we cannot trample on the wetlands nor take chances with our water supplies. Atkinson's water should be protected.
3. *How do you feel about the state of our emergency communications?* Response: Have not seen the recommendations..wants to protect offices in a cost effective manner. Find alternatives to address issues.
4. *How do you feel about being unpopular?* Response: Town Officials will be criticized – hopefully people with reserve criticism.

Raymond Fournier

Mr. Fournier explained he was a Selectman about 30 years ago. He is now retired and has the time to dedicate to the job.

Questions/Answers

1. *Would you feel comfortable going against the other two Selectmen if your opinion differed?* Response: Yes – I definitely feel comfortable voicing my opinion.
2. *Where do you stand with water supply and other conservation issues?* Response: I think it's important – there is a limited supply – need to maintain for people who live in town.
3. *How do you feel about the state of our emergency communications?* Response: I believe there are solutions to that.
4. *How do you feel about being unpopular?* Response: I have has been unpopular in the past.
5. *Budgets?* Response: Not familiar with the current budget.

David Paquette

Mr. Paquette explained he is a long-time Atkinson resident who has sat on the Budget Committee for the past 9 years. He feels he is well-versed in the budget process as he knows the process and all the forms. He has reviewed many RSA's and only wants to serve for the remainder of Mr. Bennett's term and is not interested in running again.

Questions/Answers

1. *Would you feel comfortable going against the other two Selectmen if your opinion differed?* Response: If anyone has watched the Budget Committee meetings, you know I can do that.

2. *Where do you stand with Conservation?* Response: Important issue – would have to investigate the issues, but supports the conservation committee.
3. *How do you feel about the state of our emergency communications?* Response: So far the options brought up have been far too expensive for the town and believes there are cheaper alternatives. One is less communication – every town has dead spots – need to live with something less than absolute best.
4. *Commitment Level?* Response: Knows the commitment – has no hidden agenda and not interested in running beyond the 5-month commitment. Feels he can help the town with the Budget Committee.
5. *How do you feel about being unpopular?* Response: Something he can live with.

Paul Sullivan

Mr. Sullivan explained he has lived in Atkinson since 1988 and served as a Selectman between 2006 and 2009. He did not run again because he had limited time, but now since he is retired, he has much more time to offer. He has also served as an EMT and firefighter for the last 17 years. He has also served on the Budget Committee for 3 years.

Questions/Answers

1. *Would you feel comfortable going against the other two Selectmen if your opinion differed?* Response: Comfortable with being outspoken.
2. *Where do you stand with water and conservation issues?* Response: Always supported Conservation Commission..worried about our water resource.
3. *How do you feel about the state of our emergency communications?* Response: We do have dead spots and it is an issue. Always felt we should have tried a couple of repeaters instead of the tower.
4. *Commitment Level?* Response: Comfortable with the commitment.
5. *How do you feel about being unpopular?* Response: Do have to have a hard shell – wants to do the right thing.

Craig Schuster

Mr. Schuster believes he is best suited for the Selectmen position due to his skill set. He is currently a certified ISO auditor. He is a problem solver. He currently oversees a manufacturing company where he has assisted in helping the company grow. He has increased the work force by 150%. He is also an Eagle Scout and serves as a Scout Leader.

Questions/Answers

1. *Would you feel comfortable going against the other two Selectmen if your opinion differed?* Response: When I know something is right, I speak my mind.
2. *Time Commitment –* Response: I do have a younger family but I want to make sure they grow up in a town they are proud of and I want to do what's best for the town.
3. *Where do you stand with water and conservation issues?* Response: It's a natural resource – important for us to have water. Preserving what belongs to us is vitally important.
4. *How do you feel about the state of our emergency communications?* Response: Would have to review the details, but believes it is good to use the other committees to come up with a good decision for the town. If we have an issue where someone might get hurt or others, then we have an obligation to protect.
5. *Commitment Level?* Response: Comfortable with the commitment.

6. *How do you feel about being unpopular?* Response: Do have to have a hard shell – wants to do the right thing.

F. Childs made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 3, 2011 at 8:23pm. Second: W. Friel. 2/0/0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Williams

Fred J. Childs, Jr

William G. Friel