

*Town of Atkinson
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2012*

W. Friel opened the Regular Meeting of Monday, March 12, 2012 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
C. Schuster

Others Present:

B. Innes, Town Administrator
M. Morin, Atkinson Resident
T. Stewart, Road Agent
T. Tibo, Tibo Construction

Approval of Minutes:

3/15/12 – Regular Meeting

F. Childs made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Meeting 3/15/12 as submitted. Second: C. Schuster. 3/0/0.

Assessing:

Elderly Exemption – Lot 000010-000007-00067A 40 Overlook Drive

Elderly Exemption – Lot 000019-000002-00004 9 Amberwood Drive

F. Childs made a motion to grant Elderly Exemptions to the owners of the above lots (40 Overlook Drive and 9 Amberwood Drive). Second: C. Schuster. 3/0/0.

Appearances:

Michael Morin – Involuntarily-Merged Lots

Mr. Morin appeared before the Board of Selectmen to talk about the restoration of involuntarily merged lots. Mr. Tibo from Tibo Construction accompanied Mr. Morin to review the history (since 1985) of the lots in question (lots 92, 93, and 94). Mr. Tibo and Mr. Morin requested that the Selectmen consider the separating the involuntarily merged lots. The Selectmen will review the case and respond to Mr. Morin with their decision.

Old Business:

Salary Increase for the Fire Chief

Mr. Innes explained there had been a non-public meeting earlier in the night to discuss this matter with the Fire Chief.

C. Schuster made a motion to increase the Fire Chief's rate of pay by \$3.00 per hour and increase the stipend to \$10,000. Second: F. Childs. 3/0/0.

W. Friel made a motion to adopt the Atkinson Department Pay Matrix dated 2012 submitted by the Fire Chief. Second: F. Childs. 3/0/0.

Salary Increase for the Road Agent

Mr. Stewart appeared before the Board of Selectmen to present a matrix of his salary structure as well as request an increase in hours from 30 to 35 which would increase his pay by a total of \$6,000. Discussion occurred concerning the income Mr. Stewart receives from renting his equipment to the Town. Mr. Stewart explained the amount varies from year to year depending on the need. Mr. Stewart also explained his net income is significantly different from his gross income because of the cost of maintenance and fuel for his trucks. For

instance, last year Mr. Stewart had a gross income of \$85,000 yet had a net income of \$35,000. Discussion also occurred regarding Mr. Stewart becoming a full-time employee which he would like the Board to consider for next year. Mr. Innes will set up a meeting between Mr. Stewart the Board of Selectmen around the 3rd week of April to further discuss a full-time Highway Agent.

C. Schuster made a motion to give Mr. Stewart a raise of \$6,000 from \$35,000 to \$41,300 which would also increase the Road Agent's base hours from 30 to 35, subject to the proposed Operating Budget passing at Town Meeting. Second: W. Friel. 2/0/1. Mr. Childs voted against this motion as he feels it would be beneficial to the town for this position to become full-time sooner rather than later.

Plow Gas Rates

Mr. Stewart passed around a matrix of Plow Rates compared to the surrounding towns. Mr. Stewart explained the current cost of diesel fuel is up to \$4.50 per gallon yet he is only approved for \$2.85 per gallon as per the last review back in 2008.

W. Friel made a motion to increase the truck rate for 7 items on the list submitted by Mr. Stewart by \$5.00 per truck and revisit the issue on September 15th. Second: C. Schuster. 2/0/1. Mr. Childs voted against the motion.

Gas Spreader Rack

Mr. Innes explained a bid has recently gone out to strengthen the sander racks in the garage per a recent audit from the Department of Labor, in which the racks were to be rated and upgraded if necessary. There were two quotes received, one from Richard's Steel & Iron, Inc. and the other from Ward Fabrication, Inc.. Mr. Stewart is comfortable with both bidders. Mr. Innes made a recommendation to take the low bid from Richard's Steel & Iron in the amount of \$2,580.

W. Friel made a motion to award the bid to retrofit the inside sander racks to Richard's Steel & Iron, Inc in the amount of \$2,580. The outside racks will be dismantled and the other sanders should be put on blocks outside. Second: F. Childs. 2/0/1. Mr. Schuster abstained from the motion.

New Business:

Fred's Birthday

Mr. Innes announced it was Mr. Child's birthday and invited residents to come and have a piece of cake.

Police Department/Director of Elderly Affairs Flyers

Mr. Innes announced there were flyers sent out last week by the Police Department and Director of Elderly Affairs and would like to make it clear to residents the Board of Selectmen did not authorize these flyers to be sent out.

Plow Complaint on Pine Knoll Drive

Mr. Innes and Mr. Stewart will be visiting Mr. Torosian at some point next week.

COLA Raise for 2012

Mr. Schuster inquired about the 2012 COLA raise approved by the Board of Selectmen in the amount of 1.5% for hourly workers and the status of when it will be implemented. Discussion occurred concerning whether or not the Budget Committee put the amount in the proposed budget to be voted on Tuesday, March 13th. If the Budget Committee did not put the amount forth, the money will need to be found elsewhere in the budget.

Selectmen 5-Year Plan

Mr. Schuster explained he would like to see a 5-year Plan developed for the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Innes will do some preliminary work on the subject and schedule a workshop to occur in late April. Mr. Childs suggested putting a small Capital Reserve Fund in place which should be submitted as a warrant article next year.

Thank you to those whose terms are ending and best of luck to all of the candidates

Mr. Friel thanked all those whose terms are ending and wished the best of luck to all candidates.

Future Agenda:

3/13/12 – Town Meeting (Voting) at the Atkinson Community Center 7:30am – 8:00pm

4/4/12 – A rep from Congressman Bass’ office at Town Hall from 9:00am – 10:00am

F. Childs made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 12, 2012 at 8:46pm and to go into a non-public session to discuss two issues: RSA 91-A:3 II (Adversely Affect a Reputation) and RSA 91-A:3 II (Preparation for Emergency Function). Roll Call Vote: W. Friel, Yes; F. Childs, Yes, C. Schuster, Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Lueders

William Friel, Chairman

Fred Childs, Jr

Craig Schuster