

*Town of Atkinson
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
April 28, 2014*

MINUTES

Open Meeting:

Chairman W. Baldwin opened the Regular Meeting of the Atkinson Board of Selectmen at 7:04 PM on Monday, April 28, 2014, in the Atkinson Town Hall.

Members Present:

W. Baldwin, Chairman
P. Consentino
H. Morse

Others Present:

L. Artus, 114 Maple Avenue
Chief A. Brackett, Atkinson Police Department
S. Carroll, Budget Committee
Principal K. Dayotis, Atkinson Academy

Non-Public Session:

H. Morse made a motion to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 (j), to consider confidential information. Second: P. Consentino. Vote: W. Baldwin – yes, P. Consentino – yes, H. Morse – yes.

H. Morse made a motion to go into a Non-Public Session under RSA 91:A:3 II. (b) to discuss hiring a public employee. Second: P. Consentino. Vote: W. Baldwin – yes, P. Consentino – yes, H. Morse – yes.

Return to Regular Meeting:

Chairman W. Baldwin led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:33 PM.

H. Morse made a motion to hire a fifth full-time Police Officer, Paige Booth, to begin her probationary period on Monday, May 5, 2014 at the rate of \$20.18 per hour. Ms Booth will attend the New Hampshire Police Academy for six weeks beginning Monday, May 19. Second: P. Consentino. Vote: 3/0/0.

Approval of Minutes:

H. Morse made a motion to accept the minutes of April 21, 2014, as amended. Second: W. Baldwin. Vote: 3/0/0.

Appearance:

Atkinson Academy Principal K. Dayotis thanked Chief Brackett for the outstanding job Officer N. Lyons did presenting the DARE program to fifth grade students. She noted that Officer Lyons developed a rapport with the children, both on a group and individual basis, which has had a positive impact on the students' understanding of the problems and pitfalls associated with drugs and alcohol.

Old Business:

➤ *Police Department Mobile Radios*

Chief A. Brackett told the Board that 2-Way Communication Service, Inc. did not bid on the new radios for the Police Department, because 2-Way didn't carry Kenwood radios. He added that, while Motorola radios, carried by 2-Way Communication were good radios, they changed the units every couple of years, and parts for the older radios were no longer available. Chief Brackett has had experience with Kenwood radios, which were as good as Motorola, and less expensive.

H. Morse made a motion to accept the bid of \$4,442.60 from Wright Communications, 711 Riverwood Drive, Pembroke, NH 03275, to purchase and install two Kenwood TKS5710(H)/5810(H) mobile radios, with a two-year warranty on parts and labor. Second: P. Consentino. Vote: 3/0/0.

➤ *Animals in Town Facilities*

Budget Committee member S. Carroll said she has been bringing her dog to Budget Committee meetings for over three years as needed, as a result of permission given by a former selectman. She believes that her dog should be "grandfathered" to be allowed to come to meeting, and that the protest against her bringing her dog is a "vendetta" against the way she has voted as a member of the Budget Committee.

W. Baldwin explained that the Town Administrator has been asked to do research and to formulate an appropriate policy for animals in town buildings. He noted that the policy would apply to everyone, not just a single individual.

B. Baldwin said he expects the Selectmen will have a policy within a month, and in the meantime, H. Morse said it was okay for Ms Carroll to bring her dog to meetings.

➤ *Police and Elder Services' Matters:*

H. Morse noted that Resident L. Artus had raised the question concerning a 2005 order by Judge McHugh that P. Consentino was not to have any involvement in Police or Elder Services' matters. Mr. Artus wanted to know how that order would affect Mr. Consentino's duties as Selectman. Mr. Morse responded that it was Town Counsel's opinion that, since Mr. Consentino was no longer Police Chief, the order did not apply. Similarly, since Mr. Consentino was no longer the Director of Elder Services, the order no longer applied there either. Having been elected to his current position on the Board of Selectmen, apart from either previous position, the Board agrees with the opinion of Town Counsel, that Mr. Consentino has the obligation to act on the prudential affairs of the Town of Atkinson except where there is a personal (familial) or financial conflict of interest.

New Business:

➤ *Mosquito Control Information:*

W. Baldwin noted that Swamp, Inc., the collection agency for Municipal Pest Control, will be laying out mosquito traps beginning in June, 2014. Those mosquitoes trapped will be analyzed at a laboratory in Connecticut, for carriers of such diseases as malaria, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus, and Municipal Pest Control will be treating breeding areas for disease-carrying mosquitoes. The Board noted that Atkinson was was on of the few area towns in which no people or animals were infected.

➤ *Sun n' Fun Pay Scales:*

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the pay rates for the Sun 'n Fun personnel for 2014, as formerly approved by the previous Board of Selectmen, the Budget Committee and Town Meeting.

H. Morse made the motion to approve the following pay rates for the 2014 summer season for Sun n' Fun:

Position	Hourly Rate	
Director	\$13.67	
Assistant Directors	\$11.56	
Senior Counselors	\$8.25	
Counselors	\$7.75	
Junior Counselors	\$7.25	

Second: W. Baldwin. Vote: 3/0/0.

➤ *Sympathy and Birthday Cards:*

P. Consentino told the Board that his private Senior Fund has been sending out sympathy cards to residents who have lost loved ones, as well as birthday cards to those on his data base. He would like to continue this practice. He estimates that the sympathy cards would cost less than \$100 per year. If the Town is willing to pay for these cards, he would sign them from the "Board of Selectmen", otherwise, he wants to continue the practice at his own expense and sign the cards from "Selectman Philip Consentino". He indicated that sending the birthday cards was a more expensive project, with over 1,400 people on his data base. B. Baldwin and H. Morse said they would take these under consideration.

In an additional note, Mr. Consentino said that there was a meeting of the private Senior Fund trustees, and there was a decision to dissolve the fund by the end of May, 2014.

➤ *Back Door Lighting:*

P. Consentino requested additional lighting by the back door to Town Hall. H. Morse explained that the outside light was on the opposite side from the door handle because the door

used to swing the other way, opening to the west. W. Baldwin said he would speak with Maintenance Supervisor to have lighting installed on the east side of the door.

Waterline Installation:

H. Morse said that the work is beginning again on the waterline on the northwest side of town. This is a priority to repair the shoulders of Island Pond Road as soon as possible, but that work cannot begin until the area dries out a bit. The waterline will then be continuing down Brookside Terrace, over Belknap Drive and onto Emery Drive.

➤ *Old Coach Road Reconstruction:*

P. Consentino reported that a resident on Old Coach Road was upset that there was drainage work done near her home, destroying plantings to which she had a sentimental attachment, on the roadside. He noted that the contractor ought to have given notice so that the homeowner could remove the plantings.

➤ *Low-Moderate Property Tax Relief:*

W. Baldwin announced that the State of New Hampshire is again sponsoring the Low-Moderate Property Tax Relief program. To be eligible, one must own property in Atkinson, and must have an Adjusted Gross Income of less than \$20,000 if Single, or \$40,000 if married. The forms are available at the Town Hall, Community Center, Library and on line at www.nh.gov.revenue.

➤ *Next Selectmen's Meeting:*

W. Baldwin announced that there will be no Selectmen's meeting on Monday, May 5, 2013. The next Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, May 12, 2014.

Future Dates:

- *4/30/2014 – Hat Decorating Party Atkinson Community Center 10 AM to 11 AM*
- *5/2/2014 – Kentucky Derby Party Atkinson Community Center 12 Noon to 2 PM*
- *5/4/2014 – Citizen of the Year Award – Martin Feuer – Congregational Church*
- *5/10/2014 – Fishing Derby Atkinson Community Center 7:30 AM to 11 AM*
- *5/10/2014 _ Household Hazardous Waste Day 9 AM to 12 Noon Plaistow Recreation Field, 51 Old County Road, Plaistow, NH*
- *5/17/2014 – Town-wide Yard Sale 8 AM to 2 PM Women's Civic Club*
- *5/17/2014 – Ham and Bean Supper – Congregational Church – 4 – 7 PM*

Adjournment:

P. Consentino made the motion to adjourn at 8:27 PM. Second: H. Morse. Vote: 3/0/0.

William M. Baldwin, Chairman

Philip V. Consentino

Harold J. Morse