

*Town of Atkinson
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2014*

W. Baldwin opened the Regular Meeting of Monday, December 8, 2014 at 7:58pm and led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present:

W. Baldwin, Chair
P. Consentino

Others Present:

L. Artus, Resident
B. Innes, Town Administrator

Approval of Minutes:

12/1/2014 – Non-Public Meeting Minutes

P. Consentino made a motion to accept the minutes of Non-Public Meeting 12/1/2014 as submitted.

Second: W. Baldwin. 2/0/0.

12/1/2014 – Regular Meeting Minutes

P. Consentino made a motion to accept the minutes of Regular Meeting 12/1/2014 as submitted.

Second: W. Baldwin. 2/0/0.

Donations

Elder Services Donation - \$50.00

P. Consentino made a motion to accept donations to go into the Elder Services trust fund in the amount of \$50.00. Second: W. Baldwin. 2/0/0.

Veteran's Tax Credit – Surviving Spouse

Map/Lot 17/47-13 - \$500

Map/Lot	Address	Rod's Rec	\$
17/47-13	8 Belknap Drive	Grant	\$500

P. Consentino made a motion to approve a veteran's tax credit for Map 17 Lot 47-13; 8 Belknap Drive in the amount of \$500 per Rod's recommendation. Second: W. Baldwin. 2/0/0.

Appearance:

Jim Garrity – Energy Commission

Mr. Garrity appeared before the Board of Selectmen to inform residents about a change in electricity rates for Unitil customers. Effective December 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015, the fixed energy service charge will be going up from \$0.08413 per kWh to \$0.15544 per kWh. Unitil customers will see an increase of 44% on their bill due to this change. The reason for the change is due to difficulty in getting natural gas into the United States. Folks are welcome to visit the Unitil Website to search for competitive electricity suppliers. Town buildings will not see an increase because the Town of Atkinson locked into a fixed energy rate for a two year contract some time ago. Mr. Garrity gave suggestions on ways to conserve energy such as shutting down a 2nd refrigerator, turning off lights when not in a room, turning off power strips, borrowing a kilowatt meter from the library to become familiar with how many kilowatts items use. Mr. Garrity went on to give suggestions on ways to use energy more efficiently, such as using energy star appliances and LED light bulbs and stopping drafts by insulating windows, attics, and basements.

Old Business:

Project List

Mr. Consentino asked Mr. Innes to begin including the project list with the agenda each week.

New Business:

Highway Laborer – Margery Watkins

Mr. Innes asked the Board for permission to allow Margery Watkins, who is a part-time employee of the Cemetery Trustees, to work for the Highway Department during the winter for 20 hours per week until April 2015 at which time Mr. Stewart will hire someone to permanently fill the position. The Board of Selectmen approved this request, but asked that Mr. Stewart look to fill this position well in advance.

RFP for Engineering Firms

Mr. Innes explained he sent out an RFP for Engineering Firms and received seven responses. Mr. Innes will perform an analysis including reference checks over the next week and will hopefully have a recommendation at the next Selectmen's meeting.

½ Marathon in Town

Mr. Baldwin asked Mr. Innes to find out who coordinates the annual ½ Marathon that occurred recently in town because it caused a ton of traffic and was a major impact to people. Residents and Town Officials need to be notified about this type of event well in advance and a permit should always be obtained.

School Board Meeting

Leon Artus appeared before the Board of Selectmen to give a brief overview of the recent School Budget Committee held by members from Sandown on Sunday, December 7th. Mr. Consentino also attended the meeting and will work with Mr. Artus to put together a list of questions for the School Board. Mr. Innes will work on inviting them to the next scheduled Selectmen's meeting.

Budget Update

The Budget Committee would like to shave \$100,000 off the budget in order to bring it down to a 2% increase. Mr. Innes has worked with the Budget Committee to shave off about \$93,000. The Budget Committee is looking to shave off \$7,000 more. Mr. Consentino would like the Department Heads to be given the opportunity to sit with the Budget Committee to review final cuts.

Future Dates:

12/9/2014 – Senior Holiday Luncheon Community Center 12pm – 2pm (Chief Brackett will attend)

12/13/2014 – Holiday craft and food fare – Women's Civic Club – Community Center

12/24/2014 – Town Offices close at noon

12/25/2014 – Christmas Day – Town Offices Closed

1/1/2015 – New Year's Day – Town Offices Closed

1/21/2015 – First day of filing period for candidates

1/30/2015 – Last Day of filing period for candidates

1/31/2015 – Deliberative Session 10am Atkinson Academy

P. Consentino made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of December 8, 2014 at 8:43pm. Second: W. Baldwin. 2/0/0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Lueders

William Baldwin, Chair

Phil Consentino

Harold Morse