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Town of Danville
Board of Selectmen
January 3, 2011
7:00 pm

Selectmen Present: Shawn O'Neil-Chairman, Russ Pouliot-Vice Chairman, Chris Giordano, Annemarie Inman, Mark Ethridge

Others present: Carsten Springer, Chip Current, Janet Denison-Selectman's clerk

Chairman O'Neil opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the troops who put themselves in harms way. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Delegate Session

- Citizen Petition:

Carsten Springer introduced the topic of his proposed citizen petition warrant. He wanted to present this to the Board of Selectmen to get their comments. He explained the situation that prompted his desire to move forward with this: His property, a well-maintained tree farm, is in both Danville and Fremont. Recent changes in Fremont reduced the value of his property significantly. He said these same changes are being instigated in Danville.

There was a discussion about different meetings with Julie LaBranche of RPC and the drive for designating prime wetlands. Carsten explained that when an area is designated as prime wetland, the buffer increases from 75' to 200'. Carsten said he's not able to properly manage his tree farm because of the more stringent restrictions. He said the original impetus for assigning certain areas as prime was well-intended, but the law needs to be re-examined since this can make property values decline. With a decline in property values, the tax burden increases for all tax payers in that municipality. Carsten said this is especially important in Danville, as property tax is the main contributor of town funds.

Carsten further explained that proper notification was not given for meetings and hearings regarding the proposed changes to his property.

The proposed citizen's petition was discussed. If the Selectmen decided to put it forward as a Warrant Article, it would not require the signatures of 25 registered voters. Two edits were made to the wording of the petition.

It was also decided to invite Julie LaBranche to a Selectmen's meeting.

Selectman Giordano moved and Selectman Ethridge seconded a **motion to move forward with the warrant article from Carsten Springer, as amended.** The motion **passed.**

II. Budget Updates

Selectman Pouliot moved and Selectman Inman seconded a **motion to approve the 2011 Police Department budget, #4210.10, in the amount of \$392,239.** The motion **passed.**

Selectman Pouliot moved and Selectman Inman seconded a **motion to approve the 2011 Highway Department budget, #4312.50, in the amount of \$138,500.** The motion **passed.**

Selectman Pouliot commented on this Board's fiscal responsibility. He stated that in the last three years, the town's portion of the taxes has only increased or decreased \$.01. The other portions of the taxes are not under the towns' control.

Chairman O'Neil reported that the default budget, which includes Sandown Road, is \$2,491,111. The operating budget from Budget Committee as it stands today is \$2,524,743.

Selectman Giordano moved and Selectmen Ethridge seconded a **motion to approve a default budget of \$2,491,111**. The motion **passed** unanimously.

III. Warrant Articles

Chairman O'Neil explained that the Budget Committee said that the dollar amounts requested in the Police and Fire Departments' Warrant Articles are too high and should be \$20,000 each. The Board discussed this and agreed that the respective \$40k and \$50k amounts are a truer reflection of the needs of Danville; these dollar amounts also coincide with the Master Plan and will be more fiscally responsible when the need arises to purchase new equipment for the benefit of the residents. Selectman Pouliot pointed out that the town is so far behind in the Capital Improvement Plan, prudent planning is required to put real numbers in front of the town; this shows the real need of the community.

There was a discussion of the advisory article regarding the recycle collection. Selectman Giordano moved and Selectman Pouliot seconded a **motion to move forward with Warrant Article 2011-14a, Trash/Recycle Advisory**. The motion **passed**.

IV. Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were discussed briefly. Some edits were made. Selectman Ethridge moved and Selectman Giordano seconded a **motion to approve the December 27, 2010 minutes as amended**. The motion **passed**.

V. Other Business

Barry Hantman will be asked if he can moderate Candidate's Night, February 28th.

VI. Announcements

Committee/Commission Positions open:

- Heritage Commission: 1 two-year opening; 2 three-year openings
- Recreation: 2 openings
- Planning Board: 1 opening, 2 alternates
- Budget Committee: 1 opening
- Website: 1 opening

Voting is March 8th. Candidate's Night will be February 28th at 7:00pm.

At 8:39pm Selectman Pouliot moved and Selectman Inman seconded a **motion to adjourn**. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet S. Denison
Selectmen's Clerk