

TOWN OF SEABROOK

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

DECEMBER 2, 2009

Present: Brendan Kelly
Aboul B. Khan
Robert S. Moore
Barry M. Brenner

10:00AM

Mr. Kelly opened the meeting at 10:00AM.

PUBLIC HEARING - CEMETERY FEES

Mr. Kelly opened the public hearing at 10AM (see attached notice).

Mr. Brenner explained the department heads were asked to look at areas to increase fees. The survey ranged from \$495 to over \$1500 per plot. The proposal is to increase to \$200 and then to \$400 a year from now.

Bruce Brown spoke and gave a little history on the Hillside Cemetery. He said it was privately owned and then donated to the Town. He asked the Selectmen to be reasonable with the increase.

Paula Wood questioned where the money would go or if it would have its own separate fund. Mr. Brenner explained that it is currently revenue to the Town and used to offset the tax rate and would continue this way. Mr. Brenner there is no special fund for the money that is generated.

Lou Chance said the posting did not indicate a date it was posted and asked where the numbers were. Mr. Brenner indicated it was posted in the local paper and two locations within the Town as required by statute. He said the budget for cemeteries is currently \$133K+ and the revenues are \$4K+.

Amy Perkins asked why this was not put on the ballot for the voters to vote on it. Mr. Brenner said it is not a requirement and that the Selectmen have the right to increase fees.

Lawrence Perkins said we have large businesses that absorb the costs so why do we keep charging additional fees. He said he has never seen a decrease in taxes with the increase of fees.

There was general discussion over the increase and how they came up with the figures. Mr. Kelly said this came up as they looked at the budget and how things were going to be paid for while maintaining existing level of services. He said we have used unreserved funds to offset the taxes and that is running out.

Paula Wood commented that last year no money was used from the unreserved fund balance and the year before the money was used for warrant articles. She said she pays her fair share of taxes and she doesn't get the services others get as she lives in a mobile home park. She said the health fees and transfer station fees were put on the ballot so why is this different. Mr. Brenner said the Selectmen have authority to set fees but anything could be put on the ballot.

John Starkey commented that he is not one for fees. He said taxes paid on your home can be deducted from your federal income tax whereas fees cannot.

Dorothy Chase said the revenue collected could not be used it must go to the general fund as the taxpayers fund the cemeteries so the money has to go back to them. She said the Selectmen should look at the former residents they allow to purchase plots. She also suggested they look at the warrant article that passes each year to maintain or replace monuments as we have spent over \$100K to do this.

Lou Chance asked that they table this item and hold a night meeting for further discussion.

Mr. Khan said he works for the people and he supports their position.

Mr. Moore said the money has to come from somewhere and if we are going to continue to provide the services it has to be funded. If the budget continues to fail there will be even more fees.

Amy Perkins said she would like to see the Selectmen look at reducing costs instead of increasing fees.

Paula Wood commented that the Selectmen's budget is \$65K and includes health insurance. She asked why they don't opt to not take the health insurance and put the money back into the budget.

Mr. Kelly closed the public hearing at 11:06AM.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan

To not increase the fees
for cemetery plots.

Motion failed no second.

MOTION: Brendan Kelly To increase the fee to
Second: Robert S. Moore \$200 with no increase
Opposed: Aboul B. Khan next year.
Motion passed.

MEETING - PEASE GREETERS

Harry Martel and Frank Irvin were present.

Mr. Irvin explained they are pease greeters for the troops coming in or out. He explained how they work and use the retired flags where they cut out the stars and the remaining flag (stripes & field) are held until there is a flag burning ceremony and it is disposed of properly. They are asking the Town to donate the retired flags for this purpose.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To send a memo to the
Second: Robert S. Moore department heads to send
Unanimous retired flags to this
organization.

Mr. Brenner said they have a flag to present to the organization that was flown outside the Town Hall and was given to them by Robert Stankatis.

Paula Wood mentioned there is a public hearing on Monday, December 7 at 6PM at the Library for the Cable Contract.

MONTHLY MEETING - FINANCE OFFICE MANAGER

Debra Knowles was present for her monthly report.

Ms. Knowles said the finance office is coming into its busy season that will take them through March.

Training - One employee will be finished with classes on Monday and the other employee will begin classes in February.

GASB 45 - post-employment benefits report is in but had a wrong year end date so a new report will be coming.

GASB 34 - fix assets will have a meeting on Friday and the project is coming along.

2008 Audit - she has a draft and will need to make some adjustments but it should go fairly quick.

Mr. Brenner commented about the tax rate not being set due to the special meeting by the school. He said the meeting is scheduled for this evening and due to this the tax rate has not

been able to be set in a timely manner. The tax bills will now be due in January. This will affect some homeowners with mortgages if their bills are not paid by December 31 in order to take the federal income tax credit. Those taxpayers may want to contact their mortgage holder to be sure it is paid by December 31. He anticipates the bills will go out by mid-December.

MONTHLY MEETING - FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jeff Brown was present for his monthly report.

EMT Recertification Practical Exam - has just been completed.

Emergency Management - he is working with the department to update the plans. Next year is the drills year and graded exercise. Last training with Seabrook State was completed on November 20.

Toy Bank - is being held and boxes and flyers have been distributed throughout the Town.

XMAS Trees - just a reminder to water your tree if it is real to prevent fires.

PREVIOUS MINUTES - OCTOBER 22 PUBLIC, OCTOBER 23 PUBLIC, OCTOBER 26 PUBLIC, NOVEMBER 4 PUBLIC & NON-PUBLIC, NOVEMBER 16 PUBLIC & NON-PUBLIC AND NOVEMBER 18 PUBLIC

MOTION:	Robert S. Moore	To adopt the minutes of
Second:	Brendan Kelly	10/22 public, 10/23
		public, 10/26 public,
		11/4 public & non-public
		11/16 public & non-
		public and 11/18 public.

Abstain: Aboul B. Khan on 10/22 minutes only.

PREVIOUSLY SIGNED PERMITS

Mr. Kelly read the list of previously signed permits into the record (see attached).

MOTION:	Robert S. Moore	To approve the permits.
Second:	Aboul B. Khan	
Unanimous		

WATER WARRANT - \$60

MOTION:	Robert S. Moore	To approve and sign the
Second:	Aboul B. Khan	warrant.
Unanimous		

SEWER SERVIC APPLICATION

Jim Lyons - 14 Almena Way - \$100

MOTION: Robert S. Moore
Second: Aboul B. Khan
Unanimous

To approve and sign the
sewer application.

QUITCLAIM DEEDS - HILLSIDE CEMETERY

Brice Potvin - 4 plots
Kimberly Welch - 4 plots
Shelley Cox - 4 plots
Herbert & Ella Fowler - 2 plots
Paul Cronin - 1 plot
Alexander Beal - 2 plots
Liza Feliciano - 4 plots
John Feliciano - 2 plots
Ann Marie & Floriano Morgado - 2 plots
Courtney Janvrin - 4 plots
Mariah Kimball - 4 plots
Morgan Janvrin - 4 plots
Kevin & Melissa Janvrin - 4 plots
Curtis & April Slayton - 4 plots
Valeria Brown - 4 plots
Beverly Perkins - 4 plots
Deborah Souther - 4 plots
Harold Eaton - 4 plots
Jesse Fowler - 4 plots

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan
Second: Robert S. Moore
Unanimous

To approve and sign all
quitclaim deeds.

NEW BUSINESS LICENSE

Radio Shack #01-1013 - 380 Lafayette Road

MOTION: Robert S. Moore
Second: Aboul B. Khan
Unanimous

To approve and sign the
new business license.

SOUTHEAST WATERSHED ALLIANCE & APPOINTMENT

Mr. Brenner explained there was an initial informational meeting and they have invited the Town to become a member. He spoke with Sue Foote who recommends the Town join and she offered to be the Town's representative.

MOTION: Robert S. Moore
Second: Aboul B. Khan
Unanimous

To join the Southeast
Watershed Alliance and
to appoint Sue Foote as

the Town's rep.

HOLIDAY PARTY - TOWN HALL

MOTION: Robert S. Moore
Second: Aboul B. Khan
Unanimous

To approve the Town Hall
closing at 12PM for its
Holiday Party.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan
Second: Robert S. Moore
Unanimous

To go into non-public
session at 11:50AM under
RSA 91-A:3, II, legal.

Roll call:

Mr. Kelly - yes
Mr. Khan - yes
Mr. Moore - yes

Board reconvened in public session at 12:14PM.

MOTION: Brendan Kelly
Second: Robert S. Moore
Unanimous

To adjourn the meeting
at 12:14PM.

Meeting adjourned at 12:14PM.
Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor.

Approved and endorsed:

Robert S. Moore, Clerk

Date: _____