



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BOARD of SELECTMEN
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*Minutes
Board of Selectmen
Monday, November 28, 2011*

Selectmen Tad Putney, Jack Flanagan, Darrell Philpot and Karl Dowling were present.

Also present were Helen Ballou, Ann Somers, Loring Webster, Buddy Dougherty, Betty Hall and Hattie Bernstein.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Police

Darrell said he received an email regarding the 12 hour shifts or 84 hours in a two week period police officers are working and being paid for 80 hours. **Darrell** said he contacted Dave Connell at LGC and was told it's not allowed. We have to remedy the situation by paying them at 84 hours or they can come back to us for back wages. **Tad** said before the negotiations started for a new police contract he contacted the attorney at Devine Millimet who said they're being treated as salaried employees and overtime starts after 84 hours. The attorney said we are not violating any laws. **Tad** said if you talk to two attorneys you can get two different answers. He suggested that he and **Darrell** call Devine. **Jack** noted that the 84 hours was done at the request of the police officers.

Road Agent

Dennis Skey said a month ago there was a discussion with the road agent about his schedule on when things get done. He said Averill Road was recently paved on two separate days and the section in front of his house was not paved. He wants to know how the work orders are laid out. **Dennis** said the road agent paved a portion of his business with the left over asphalt. **Helen** suggested that **Dennis** should contact Jerry directly about Averill Road. **Tad** agreed. **Karl** said he noticed that the section wasn't paved. **Dennis** said roads are the 2nd highest department but there's no documentation in the town hall. **Tad** reminded **Dennis** that Jerry said space is needed in the town hall if the road agents records are to be stored here. **Tad** said he doesn't feel it's right to throw out accusations on television without first talking to Jerry. **Dennis** said the invoices should be on line.

Conservation Commission

Buddy Dougherty said Jay Chrystal was asked to come into the selectmen's meeting to discuss the conservation commission's strategic land purchasing plan. He said **Darrell** shouldn't have had a debate on what's included in their 25% goal. **Darrell** said he wanted to know whether Lake Potanipo and Melendy Pond were included in their percentage. **Buddy** said any conservation land saves us money because there are no buildings or schools to be built. He said he feels **Darrell** wants to reduce the land use change tax going to land acquisition. **Tad** said last week's meeting was to see where we are in the goal of 25%.

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Darrell moved, seconded by Jack to approve the public session minutes of November 21st. Voted yes 4-0.

Darrell moved, seconded by Jack to approve the 3 sets of non public session minutes of November 21st. Voted yes 4-0.

Warrants

The Selectmen signed Warrant #65 in the amount of \$854,007.31, payroll in the amount of \$41,926.46 and annual stipends in the amount of \$24,350.

Glacial Energy

John Novak of Glacial Energy was present to say they are a licensed wholesaler of power. They operate in all deregulated states. John said they buy direct and sell direct. You buy only what is used. Contracts are not necessary. **Tad** said the town is part of Nashua Regional Planning Commission. They consist of 13 towns and cities and are looking at buying power. **John** said they have customers in Milford and Fitchburg Academy.

PSNH

Elizabeth LaRocca and Jennifer Turner were present along with **Wes Whittier**. Elizabeth has been with PSNH for 30 years and Jennifer for 23 years. **Elizabeth** said the last few years have been an anomaly for weather. She said Brookline has 2,000 customers who lost power in the October 29th storm. Milford has 20,000 customers and 17,700 were without power. She said the problem was with the trees and 84% of NH is treed. Elizabeth said 322,000 customers out of 500,000 lost power. She said the 2008 ice storm was a \$75 million dollar storm. When asked about putting the cables underground, she said it would cost billions of dollars. She said the important thing is for people to call PSNH when their power goes out. It gives PSNH a sense of the magnitude of outages. **Karl** asked if we can hold PSNH responsible and charge them a penalty for every day over one day that the power is out. **Elizabeth** said the problem is the trees, which is not in their control. After the 2008 storm they did extensive trimming of trees along Route 13 and 130. They send letters to homeowners asking permission to cut limbs near the wires. They don't always get the okay. **Tad** noted Old Milford Road from the Route 13 end regularly gets hit with power outages and asked what can be done. **Elizabeth** said she would have the enhanced tree trimming department look into it. **Wes** said another issue was that two of the Fair Point poles were dated 1947. **Jennifer** said the poles in Brookline are owned by Fair Point. She said people need to be aware PSNH starts with a cut and run, which means they go around and cut and move the wires off the roads so the roads can be cleared and then comes back to restore the power. She said Brookline did very well with clearing the roads. Jennifer said all the crews commented on how well they were treated in Brookline with all the meals provided. She said after the wires are removed from the roads the next step is getting power back into the schools.

PSNH committed to get information to the Board on: a proposed approach to trimming back portions of Old Milford Road and a contact name at Fair Point so we could initiate a quality review of the utility poles currently in service around town.

Police – Shank

The selectmen approved a response to Nicole Shank's letter regarding two videos she received.

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Roads – Adamyk Homes

An email was received from Dave Silvestri on Bennett Road asking about winter maintenance and whether there are plans for the top coat on the road. **Tad** said he will call him to let him know the judge has given permission for the town to maintain the road. We are also taking steps to try to get a top coat applied in 2012.

Roads – Letters of Credit

The selectmen reviewed the letters of credit from Merrimack County Savings Bank. They automatically renew unless the bank notifies us 30 days prior to the expiration date that they don't plan to renew the bonds.

Health Insurance

The selectmen again discussed options for health insurance for the employees. As the selectmen are in negotiations with the police union for a new contract, only the non union employees are affected. **Tad** said he feels it's time the employee pays a portion of the premium. Tad will try to get someone from the Health Trust to come to a special meeting this Friday at 3:30 pm with more options.

Non Public Session

Tad moved, seconded by Karl to go into non public session under RSA 91-A:2, II (a) collective bargaining and RSA 91-A:3, II, (c) reputation. Voted yes 4-0.

On returning to public session, ***Tad moved, seconded by Karl to seal the minutes. Voted yes 4-0.***

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Since Christmas and New Years fall on a Sunday and the holidays are celebrated on Monday, the selectmen will meet on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. There will be no meeting the week of December 26th.

Minutes submitted by Rena Duncklee.

Tad Putney

Jack B. Flanagan

Darrell Philpot

Karl D. Dowling