

**Town of Goshen
Planning Board
Minutes of April 17, 2014**

Members Present: Doug O'Clair, Chair; Alicea Bursey, Vice-Chair; Chip Ball; George Hebert; Bruce Nadeau

Chair O'Clair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of April 3, 2014 and made corrections.

Ms. Bursey made a motion to accept the minutes of April 3, 2014 as corrected. Mr. Nadeau seconded the motion. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CIP

Fire Department

The Board met with Dan Peterson, Fire Chief. Mr. Peterson reviewed a complete list of the Fire Department's needs. He explained that some items on his list are already budgeted for, some are not. The town needs to determine if the existing fire station is worth modifying or if it should build a new building. The current site could handle a larger building. The total budget for the Fire Department is \$40,000. \$11,000 is paid for dispatch out of Keene, \$8,500 is paid for fire fighters' stipend and the Chief's pay, the remaining \$20,000 runs the department for the year, which includes building and truck maintenance, fuel costs, utilities, etc.

Mr. Nadeau pointed out that according to the State of New Hampshire's Shoreland Protection Act, there should be a 50 ft. buffer from the river. However, there are circumstances where waivers are granted.

Mr. Peterson reviewed to following needs:

BUILDING

1. Larger Doors. If there was an additional bay added onto the existing building, higher and wider doors are needed. Anytime the town buys a fire truck, it is limited on options since the truck has to be small enough to fit through the existing doors.

2. Door Openers. Having automatic door openers would be more time efficient.

3. New Doors. There is major heat loss through the existing doors.

4. Building Insulation. The heat loss is expensive. It would be best to strap the outside and use rigid foam insulation on the outside of the existing walls. The building is tight as it is, there is not room for insulation on the inside.

5. Ventilation System. The existing building is in need of a ventilation system, especially if the building is insulated.

6. New Building. When the town is ready to build a new building, the fire department volunteers will help with the construction which will reduce the cost. Probably a steel building would be most efficient and cost effective. Preferably 60 ft. x 100 ft. with a second floor for storage of equipment. If the Town prefers, the new building could be a safety complex and facilitate the Police Department as well.

Mr. Nadeau commented that the Town needs to be careful about just putting bandaids on the issues, because the underlying problems still remain.

Chair O'Clair commented that there is a balance to maintain between minimizing taxes and taking care of the infrastructure of the town. If the tax base of the Town increases, the Town will be able to implement the necessary changes.

The Board discussed options of where a new safety services building could be located in the future.

EQUIPMENT

1. Radios. Mr. Peterson recommended purchasing one new radio each year. The existing radios were obtained on a grant over 10 years ago. They are beginning to die out. It is federal standard requirement that all fire departments are equipped with radios. The cost of one new radio is approximately \$3,800. The Goshen Fire Department has 12 radios plus 2 base stations. The pagers are approximately \$600 each.

2. Vehicles. The 1968 Forestry Vehicle needs to be replaced. In another couple of years there may be enough money in the capital reserve to purchase something adequate in the vicinity of \$50,000.

3. Air Packs. The life span on an air pack is 15 years. The existing air packs are 10 years old. They will need to be replaced soon. The amount of money set aside in the PPE Capital Reserve fund should be increased so there will be enough money in there in another 5 years to replace the air packs. Mr. Peterson stated that he will pursue grants when the time comes.

4. Medical Heart Monitor. A Medical Heart Monitor would make a big difference on a rescue call. The Newport ambulance is not always available if they are out on another call.

5. Medical Utility Vehicle. The existing medical utility vehicle is currently 30 years old. That vehicle will need to be replaced at some point in the future, not sure when or what the used market will bring.

Pumpers and Trucks. Mr. Peterson stated that as long as the trust funds are maintained, those issues will take care of themselves.

Chair O'Clair stated that the Board needs to analyze the pattern of fixed vs discretionary costs over the past seven years. Each Board member was given a warrant from one of the past seven years to review and extract the data.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair O'Clair suggested to the Board that the Town should implement a new application called a Voluntary Merger of Two Lots of Record, per RSA 674:39-a. Several of the area towns already use this process, and it seems to work well for both the town and the property owner.

Mr. Nadeau made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ball seconded the motion. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting: May 1, 2014

CIP discussion: Library 7:00

Police Dept 7:45

May 15, 2014

CIP discussion: Conservation Commission 7:00

Cemetery 7:30

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Plunkett
Recording Secretary