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**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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**Meeting and Public Hearing of
January 11, 2010**

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The Board of Selectmen held a meeting on Monday, January 11, 2010 at Salem Town Hall, 33 Geremonty Drive, Salem, NH.

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PRESENT: Chairman Arthur E. Barnes III, Vice-Chairman Michael J. Lyons, Secretary Elizabeth A. Roth Selectman Everett P. McBride, Selectman Patrick Hargreaves and Dr. H. E. LaBranche (Acting Town Manager)

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CALL TO ORDER

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Chairman Barnes began by calling the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He declared the public hearing open, closing it again until item 3 of the agenda. He then joined the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced the Board members and town staff.

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1. Meeting Minutes

MOTION: by Selectman Roth

Move to accept the sealed minutes of the Board of Selectmen Non-Public Session on October 26, 2009 as written

SECOND: Selectman McBride

VOTE: 5-0-0

The motion carried

MOTION: by Selectman Roth

Move to accept the sealed minutes of the Board of Selectmen Non-Public Session on January 4, 2010 as written

SECOND: Selectman McBride

Page 2, lines 9-15 – Selectman Roth clarified Selectman Hargreaves abstained from the first vote as stated in the minutes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

The motion carried

2. Chairman Comments

Chairman Barnes made no comments at this time.

3. Public Hearing – 2010 Town Meeting

Chairman Barnes re-opened the public hearing.

• ***Bond Article Bridge Replacements***

Dr. LaBranche introduced the item, noting that Ms. Savastano had provided information to the Board on this. He outlined the article numbers and what the articles were for, handing over to Mr. Puff to present the article for the bond.

1 Mr. Puff deferred to Ms. Savastano to read warrant article 10 and the background
2 information for the record. She stated the costs were eligible for 80% reimbursement
3 through the NHDOT Municipally Managed Bridge Aid Program and provided
4 information on the cost of each bridge replacement.
5

6 Mr. Puff indicated the location of the North Main Street Bridge on a map. He stated the
7 road is in fairly good condition but explained the arch and the concrete wall of the bridge
8 are in need of repair, showing photos of some of the sink holes from the 2006 flood as a
9 result of deterioration of the archway, as well as water collection. He also highlighted
10 items from the NHDOT bridge inspection report of December 2007.
11

12 Mr. Puff indicated the Emerson Way Bridge on a map (south of the N. Main Street
13 location). He also showed the structural damage which could be seen in the photo, as
14 well as photos of the hydraulic deficiencies and details from the bridge inspection report
15 indicating the bridge is on the Municipal Red List. Mr. Puff pointed out reimbursement
16 from the state is expected in 2013, and he showed the Board a breakdown of the project
17 costs which included contingency and escalation.
18

19 Responding to a query from Selectman Hargreaves, Mr. Puff explained the costs include
20 signage work for traffic control and a police detail for closure and re-opening of the
21 bridge. He then showed the costs associated with acquiring the bond.
22

23 Responding to a query from Selectman McBride, Mr. Puff reported he was expecting
24 they would be authorized to go out to bid in early March. Responding to a query from
25 Selectman Hargreaves, Mr. Puff reported he had not fully evaluated whether they will do
26 both bridges at the same time with the same contractor, but stated he is leaning towards
27 doing both with one contractor as this will offer savings. Selectman Hargreaves asked
28 where they may see changes in the flow of the Spicket River, and Mr. Puff stated there
29 will not be much change in the flow, and nothing below Town Farm Road will be
30 impacted.
31

32 Responding to a question from Selectman Lyons regarding what would appear on the
33 ballot; Ms. Savastano stated it would just be the article. Selectman Hargreaves clarified
34 reimbursement could be expected in 2015 for North Main Street. Chairman Barnes asked
35 for public input, but there was none.
36

37 **MOTION:** by Selectman Hargreaves

38 ***Move the following article to the 2010 annual Town Meeting Warrant with***
39 ***recommendation: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One***
40 ***Million Three Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$1,384,000.00) for the***
41 ***replacement of bridges at North Main Street over Widow Harris Brook and Emerson***
42 ***Way over Widow Harris Brook and to cover the costs associated with obtaining a bond***
43 ***issue, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,384,000.00 of bonds or notes***
44 ***for such purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act***
45 ***(RSA 33); and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept any and all State Aid or***
other revenue source that may become available and take any and all action necessary

1 *to carry out any vote hereunder or take any other action relative thereto. Requires 2/3*
2 *ballot vote.*

3 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

4 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

5 **The motion carried unanimously.**

6
7 • ***SRF Loan – Water Meter Replacement***

8 Ms. Savastano read Article 11 for the record, as well as the background information. She
9 presented the current water and sewer rates and the rate impact for the various options for
10 the project. Ms. Savastano clarified for Chairman Barnes that they should know by
11 March whether this project would qualify for NH revolving funds. Selectman McBride
12 talked about the timing, stressing the need to be prepared to move ahead. Selectman
13 Lyons stated the wording of the article should indicate the project qualifies for 50% loan
14 forgiveness. Ms. Savastano clarified for Selectman Hargreaves that there is no tax
15 impact for this until 2012. Selectman Hargreaves stated he wanted to ensure all the
16 information to indicate the town will save money in the long run is available for the town
17 meeting.

18
19 Chairman Barnes quoted a line from the DES memo of August 11, 2009 and stressed the
20 town cannot currently account for 24-26% of the water from the treatment plant. He
21 stressed this fact needs to be given to the voters. He then asked for public input, and
22 seeing none he closed the public hearing on this article.

23
24 **MOTION:** by Selectman McBride

25 *To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million Two*
26 *Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$2,298,550.00) for the*
27 *purpose of replacing all of the residential water meters in the town and installing*
28 *automated equipment on existing commercial meters, and to authorize the issuance of*
29 *not more than \$2,298,550.00 of notes from the State of New Hampshire Revolving*
30 *Funds for such purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance*
31 *Act (RSA 33); and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept any and all State Aid*
32 *or other revenue source that may become available and take any and all action*
33 *necessary to carry out any vote hereunder or take any other action relative thereto.*
34 *Passage of this article will make article 20 null and void and is contingent upon*
35 *qualifying for State of New Hampshire Revolving Funds. Requires 2/3 ballot vote.*

36 **SECOND:** Selectman Hargreaves

37 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

38 **The motion carried unanimously.**

39
40 Chairman Barnes closed the public hearing.

41
42 • ***Article 2 (Petitioned article)***

43 Dr. LaBranche explained the purpose of this was to provide an exemption for the
44 disabled similar to others for the blind and veterans in accordance with the statutes. He
45 explained how the disabled would qualify, and clarified this was a petition article which
46 will be on the ballot.

1 Selectman McBride stated he will vote 'no' on this. Responding to a query from
2 Selectman Hargreaves regarding the total amount of exemptions in the budget, Ms.
3 Savastano explained they amount to \$900,000 plus eligibility for this exemption. Ms.
4 Savastano confirmed for Selectman Lyons that war credits had decreased slightly this
5 year. There was a discussion regarding the impact of exemptions on the tax rate and Dr.
6 LaBranche clarified it would amount to \$67 on a \$300,000 home overall. Selectman
7 Lyons asked whether under the statutes there is any other expansion to this, and Dr.
8 LaBranche stated he was unsure. There was a discussion about the fact the statute
9 controls the amount. Ms. Savastano provided the revenue sharing figures for 2009 and
10 2010, and it was pointed out the town will lose another half million dollars in 2010.
11 Selectman Roth stated she was also not in favor of this article and spoke about the
12 wording of it. She clarified what she thought could be the impact of the application of
13 this exemption. Selectman Hargreaves asked for clarification of whether this constituted
14 'double dipping'. Selectman Lyons stated there should be a way for the town to provide
15 a figure for the total amount of exemptions they are able to make, and there was further
16 discussion.

17 **MOTION:** by Selectman McBride

18 *Move that the Board of Selectmen does hereby move Article 2 to the warrant without*
19 *recommendation*

20 **SECOND:** Selectman Lyons

21 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

22 **The motion carried unanimously.**

23
24 Dr. LaBranche recommended the Board table Article 13 for SPAA indefinitely pointing
25 out SPAA has decided to reconsider their vote, rejecting the fact finders report.

26 **MOTION:** by Selectman Hargreaves

27 *Move that the Board of Selectmen does hereby agree to table Article 13 indefinitely*

28 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

29 Selectman Roth clarified as a point of order that this article will never be reconsidered.

30 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

31 **The motion carried unanimously.**

32 33 **4. Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreements**

34 • *Salem Police Relief Union*

35 Dr. LaBranche introduced the item; explaining this was a request for formal ratification,
36 and stated the union representative (Sgt. Michael Kelly) was in attendance to answer
37 questions. He explained this is a one year contract with a zero per cent increase in
38 salaries, and he outlined the changes in language. He stated he applauded the leadership
39 of the union representatives.

40 **MOTION:** by Selectman McBride

41 *Move that the Board of Selectmen does hereby accept and ratify the Salem Police*
42 *Relief Union 2010 contract as proposed*

43 **SECOND:** Selectman Roth

44 Chairman Barnes expressed his personal thanks to the Police Union.

45 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

46 **The motion carried unanimously.**

1 • ***Professional Firefighters of Salem Union***

2 Dr. LaBranche reported the union had agreed to a two year contract with a zero salary
3 increase. He talked about the changes in language and a disenrollment incentive as well
4 as other changes in the contract. Dr. LaBranche commended the union representative for
5 his part in the negotiations.

6 **MOTION:** by Selectman McBride

7 ***Move that the Board of Selectmen does hereby accept and ratify the Professional***
8 ***Firefighters of Salem Union contract as proposed***

9 **SECOND:** Selectman Hargreaves

10 Selectman McBride clarified that an HMO had been added to this contract.

11 Chairman Barnes expressed his personal thanks and thanks on behalf of the Board to the
12 union.

13 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

14 **The motion carried unanimously.**

15
16 • ***State Employees Association Local Union***

17 Dr. LaBranche outlined the details of the changes which had been agreed to in the
18 contract.

19 **MOTION:** by Selectman McBride

20 ***Move that the Board of Selectmen does hereby accept and ratify the State Employees***
21 ***Association Local Union contract as proposed***

22 **SECOND:** Selectman Hargreaves

23 Chairman Barnes expressed his personal thanks and thanks on behalf of the Board to the
24 union. He also publicly thanked SPAA regarding their decision on the fact finding
25 report.

26 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

27 **The motion carried unanimously.**

28
29 Chairman Barnes announced a five minute recess to allow the Budget Committee to open
30 their public hearing. He then called the meeting to order again at 7:06 p.m.

31
32 **5. Town Manager's Report**

33 Responding to a query from Selectman McBride at the last meeting, Dr. LaBranche stated
34 the fuel for both the town generators is diesel. He confirmed they are still working on bids
35 for these.

36 Dr. LaBranche stated there have been a number of street signs which have been vandalized
37 or stolen and he asked for assistance from the public, requesting that they contact Crime
38 Line or the Salem Police Department with information.

39
40 Dr. LaBranche reported that electrical repairs are currently being carried out at the police
41 station, stating this will be an ongoing struggle until a major resolution to the problem is
42 found.

1 **6. Selectmen Reports/Correspondence**

2 Chairman Barnes introduced this item, explaining this was his first draft of a letter to
3 Commissioner Campbell at the DOT regarding toll booth installation near the
4 Salem/Methuen line. He then opened the matter up for discussion by the Board.

5 **MOTION:** by Selectman Lyons

6 *Move to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to sign the letter which was*
7 *enclosed in the Board of Selectmen packet and forward to the state*

8 **SECOND:** Selectman Hargreaves

9 **Discussion:**

10 Selectman Roth stated she had strong reservations about the wording of the letter which
11 Chairman Barnes had drafted, stating she no longer felt it was timely. She went on to say
12 she was not against tolls to pay for expansion of I-93, but was deeply concerned that the
13 Salem community had not been considered in the placing of the booths. She stated she did
14 not feel the letter was intense enough in its message regarding the impact the toll booths
15 would have on Salem, and she recommended looking at the letter again. Selectman
16 McBride agreed, pointing out this was supposed to improve safety on the highway and
17 reduce traffic congestion but he did not think the tolls would achieve that, and voiced his
18 strong feelings against the tolls at Salem. He suggested the wording of the letter should be
19 stronger. Selectman Hargreaves suggested the toll be put between exit 3 and 4 and this
20 should be put in the letter. Selectman Lyons clarified his intent that the attachment also be
21 sent with the letter. He spoke about the location making it easy to defeat the toll. Selectman
22 McBride talked about the fact that tolls at the state line in Nashua were taken down due to
23 their economic impact on Nashua. Selectman Roth agreed to attempt to re-draft the letter
24 and indicated the changes required. She agreed to circulate it the following day for review
25 of the Board.

26 **The motion and second on the floor were withdrawn.**

27
28 Selectman Hargreaves invited members of the Board of Selectmen to the next meeting of the
29 Solid Waste Committee, scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on February 9, 2010 at the DPW. He
30 reported there will be a representative from the state attending to talk about recycling.

31
32 Selectman McBride handed out information on recycling to the Board for information.

33
34 **7. Old Business Tabled/Pending**

35 There was none.

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37 • **Additions and/or Requests by Public or Board by Vote**

38 There were none.

39
40 • **Upcoming Meetings**

- 41 ○ January 25, 2010
42 ○ February 1, 2010
43 ○ February 6, 2010 (First Deliberative Session)
44 ○ February 8, 2010
45 ○ February 22, 2010

- 1 • **Upcoming Events**
- 2 See those mentioned above.

3
4 **ADJOURN**

5 **MOTION:** by Selectman Hargreaves

6 *Move to adjourn*

7 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

8 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

9 **The motion carried unanimously.**

10
11 There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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15 Notes/minutes taken by: Sandra Maxwell

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17 Approved: Board of Selectmen

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19 Date: January 25, 2010