

TOWN of OAKHAM

Board of Selectmen

REGULAR SESSION

January 10, 2011

Present:

Clayton E. Rice, Chairman (absent)

Eliot G. Starbard, Vice Chairman

Dennis M. Bergin Jr., Clerk

Lucy Tessnau, Ellie Downer, Barre Gazette, Thomas McCaffrey, Sherry Bergin, Paul Rochette, Donna Sands, Jon Boucher, John Barringer and Ken Nelson

Recording: Catherine Amidio

Mr. Starbard called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Motions

- Mr. Starbard made a motion to appoint Catherine Amidio as a **Matron for the Police Department**. Mr. Bergin seconded, motion carries.
- Mr. Starbard made a motion to sign a **Thank you letter**. Mr. Bergin seconded, motion carries.

Misc

- * The 3rd payment of \$26,261.75 for the Oakham Center School Roof project is due and will be submitted for payment on the next warrant. Eliot Starbard said the board is still waiting for verification that the punch-list has been completed.
- * A section of the Oakham Center School Boiler cracked on December 17, 2010. The total cost of the repair is \$5,300.00 and has been submitted to the insurance company for reimbursement. The town will be responsible for the \$1,000.00 deductible.
- * John Barringer explained the process of appointing a QRSD School Committee member. The position will be advertised on the website, as well as the cable channel. The appointment would be valid until the May election.
- * Finance Committee member Donna Sands is concerned that the payroll portion of the police department budget will soon be in a deficit. Mrs. Sands suggested that the police chief, board of selectmen and finance committee meet to discuss.
- * The administrative assistant informed the board that the office supply account is depleted and there is only \$800.00 left in the legal expense account. Donna Sands said finance would transfer \$2000.00 from the reserve fund for office supplies.
- * The board discussed the posting of a fulltime police chief. Mr. Starbard felt the police department is running smoothly and would like to hold off posting the position for another 5-6 months at which time they will revisit. Donna Sands asked the board if this decision is in the best interest of the town. Mr. Starbard responded by saying the department is running fine as is, and all shifts are being covered. Jon Boucher said he is concerned with liability issues and asked how we could go

from having a department with a full-time police chief and 2 full-time officers, to a part-time police chief and 1 full-time officer. Donna Sands said she always felt it was Mr. Starbard's intention to have a part-time police chief. Mr. Starbard stated "I've never said that to anyone". Ms. Sands also said she is concerned because the interim police chief does not have academy training. Regionalizing the police department with another town was briefly discussed. Mrs. Sands asked the board if they would meet with finance and the interim police chief to discuss all options before making a decision in regards to running the police department with a part-time chief.

- * The board briefly discussed an Alden Fund request. Mr. Bergin is not in favor of the request. Mr. Starbard would like to speak with the party who made the request before making a decision.
- * Fire Chief Thomas McCaffrey informed the board of selectmen that his building maintenance account is depleted due to several necessary repairs to the building. The garage doors needed to be repaired as well as the diesel pump and the chimney for the furnace.
- * The board of selectmen prepared the FY2012 budget.
- * Resident Ken Nelson voiced his concerns over the usage of salt on the roads and how this would potentially contaminate the wells in town.

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Bergin made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. Mr. Starbard seconded, motion carries.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the board of selectmen will be held on January 24, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.