

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

FEBRUARY 24, 2014

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

The following are to be considered draft minutes until approved by the Board at their next meeting.

Selectmen present: Don Hill, Chairman; Leigh Callaway and George McCusker.

Others present: Bryan O'Day, Cynthia Bruss, Road Agent Pete Abair, Sue Abair, Bruce Allen, John Trachy, Bill Huntoon, Tom Duling, Tim Julian, and Mike Beaulieu.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Cynthia Bruss reviewed the Conservation Commissions plan to do cutting in the Kinsley Lot next winter. Brooks Weathers, Lake Sunapee Logging will be the forester for the Town and will do the inventory and oversee all aspects of the project. His charge is 15% of revenue generated. The plan is to skid logs on interior trails keeping off the snowmobile/recreation trails. Access will be off Cemetery Road. The plan is for selective harvesting and some full tree chipping to encourage regeneration and better growth. The Board questioned if the logger will pay Brooks or does the Town. Leigh mentioned the town paid \$700.00 to install water bars when the Brooks Lot was logged a couple of years ago, and wondered if there would be the need for anything similar in this situation. The Selectmen would like information about who is responsible for paying Lake Sunapee Logging, and will need a signed contract from Brooks when he has a better the amounts of timber to be harvested.

Cynthia reported on March 19th the Conservation Commission will hold a presentation by Dave Anderson from the Society for Protection of NH Forests about vernal pools. She encourages everyone to attend and especially members of the Planning Board since they are dealing with this as part of their continued wetlands project.

Public Comments:

Bill Huntoon stated he has heard rumor that Don "caught" Pete Abair changing the oil in his own pickup at the highway garage recently, and wondered if that were true. Pete stated he was changing the oil and was using the warm garage.

Bill also asked if anyone was interested in an interview from the Intertown Record regarding the sand business. Don stated that he thought the Selectmen had said all they were going to say. Billy asked if it was "still an open issue". Don stated that it was not closed.

Minutes of February 10, 2014 and February 17, 2014: Motion by Leigh to approve both, seconded by George and unanimously approved.

Don reported at a non-public session February 17th the Board discussed rates of pay for some positions. Based on info from the LGC's wage survey done two years ago, a decision was reached to amend the Road Agent's rate by \$1.00 per hour from their earlier decision of a 3% increase for those receiving weekly paychecks. Don asked if there were other positions to consider. Hearing none from the Board he stated the wage study showed there was a large variance in the Police Chief's wages. The Sergeant's were comparable, but on the lower end of the scale. He felt the Chief's were lagging in comparison to towns of similar size. Leigh stated he would like to take a further look at how health benefits are administered by other towns for comparison. Don stated the answers to those questions are needed within the next three months. Leigh will do more research. Further discussion as tabled. Motion made by Leigh to amend the 3% increase to \$1.00 for the Road Agent, effective April 1st. The motion was seconded by Don. Leigh and Don voted in favor. George was opposed.

John Trachy noted per RSA 91-A discussion of employee wages was not a permitted reason for holding a non-public discussion. Don stated the non-public session included other conversation relative to specific employee benefits which is allowed in non-public; that is why he is now reporting the discussion that took place relative to wages in public session.

Unfinished Business:

Leigh discussed whether the Board would like to reapply for a Moose Plate Grant for funds for town hall painting. He suggests applying for the maximum of \$10,000. He is suggesting the following:

- Advertise the RFP for painting beginning Monday, March 3. There are some very specific guidelines for projects under the grant, which may prohibit bidding.
- Warrant Article for March 15th Town Meeting appropriates money for painting.
If article is not approved, project does not move forward.
- Bids due by April 14 Selectmen's meeting. If no bids received, no grant application; If a bid is approved, application is submitted.
- Work cannot begin until the grant has been awarded (August 1).
- The Grant expires August 2016.
- The Warrant Article expire December 31, 2014; if the work cannot be completed within that scope of time, due to weather or other complications, there would have to be another warrant article next year.
- A date should be chosen for project completion.
- For purposes of the painting bid and the grant writing he has a separate RFP for carpentry projects not associated with preservation of the building.
- \$10,000 of revenue is a plus; funds would go to the general fund.
- If there no one bids due to the grant guidelines new RFP's can be sent.

Board discussed at length. Don stated he sees no reason not to apply for the possibility of getting \$10,000. George stated he is not in favor of putting anything out to bid before town meeting, he is not in favor of the deadline, and we have not had good luck with grants before.

Don noted that the Town has spoken in favor of getting money when possible. Leigh stated he is concerned with the narrow window with the August 1st start date if there are weather concerns. Bill Huntoon noted that a reputable painter would not do the work if the weather is not favorable.

Leigh made a motion to try for the Moose Grant; motion seconded by Don. Leigh and Don voted in favor; George opposed. Leigh stated for the record this is a narrow window and could be trouble if this summer is like last summer. Leigh asked Don and George to look over the painting RFP so it is ready to go on Monday. Bill Huntoon questioned if the bid would be advertised or sent to painting contractors. Leigh stated he recommends both but to hit the timeline this has to get moving right now. Advertising will go in the Shopper, Intertown Record and Leigh will send to the list of painters he has from the previous project.

E-mail: issues have mostly been resolved. The website is not “behaving”; the issues are being reviewed. In the meantime all minutes are available in the binder at the office. Subscribers to List Serve should still be getting town news. Leigh reported the owner of the host domain is on vacation right now, so he will follow up with the possibility of getting the .net domain and changing the website hosting through Virtual Town Hall. Don will take a look at the website sometime this week.

Board and Department Updates:

Election coverage: Polls open at 8:00 a.m. instead of 11:00 a.m. due to the State Election for Executive Councilor. George will cover 8:00 to Noon; Don will cover Noon to 4:00 ; Leigh will cover 4:00 -7:00. The Warrant was edited to correct polling hours; Warrant signed.

Tax Collector Annual Contract was renewed for Cynthia Anderson.

Accounting contract with Carol Coppola & Associates was signed. Don noted the use of a municipal accountant has been discussed and approved at a previous meeting. The accountant is scheduled for tomorrow and will assist with the preparation of financial reports required by the auditors.

Leigh mentioned the permit from DES for the wetlands crossing at the highway garage was received today. He has not reviewed it. It will be in the “red box” . Leigh wants the record to show that Jeff Evans did an exceptional job with the project and travelled to the DES at no additional expense to the Town to address questions DES had about the project.

Disposition of old computers: Hard drives are to be removed and destroyed. The components will be recycled. Don mentioned there is a church in New London that takes them for recycling once a year, and Best Buy used to. They are not available for sale.

The Town Hall will be opened early next week. The Fire Department will have their pancake breakfast there on March 9th. The Board asked if Melissa Julian would be interested in cleaning for the breakfast and town meeting, once the heat is turned back on.

Correspondence:

Certification received for Sergeant Beaulieu for completion of a Criminal Intelligence Systems Training course. Mike noted the course was a pre-requisite to a two-week course he will be taking soon.

NHDOT notice of a planned bridge replacement at Star Lake Outlet on Georges Mills Road. Survey crews will be in the area and may need to enter private property to gather data to aid in design and engineering.

NH DOT Report of the Interim Bridge Inspection of Gove Brook Culvert on George Hill Road.

Don noted the bank refused to honor the abatement check issued in 2012. It will be reviewed with the accountant as to how best to hand reissue.

Tamara Butcher's request for time off approved.

Purchase Order approved for two Police Department Toughbook Computers. Tim was able to price computers through a State bid at half the price previously quoted. The computer purchase was approved by the Board during the budgeting process. Purchase order signed by Don and Leigh. George declined.

Building Permit application for Durgin & Crowell for a 180' x 140' storage shed. Don reported the Planning Board granted approval for an amended Site Plan on Thursday night. Tom Duling has been to the site and approved the permit, pending Planning Board approval. George McCusker stated he believes Durgin & Crowell needs a Special Exception before the building permit is approved. Don stated the Planning Board specifically cited regulations and voted unanimously to approve without Special Exception. George produced a copy of an e-mail John Trachy sent to the Selectmen which was a letter a former Chairperson of the ZBA addressed to the Planning Board back in 2009.. The letter cited opinion received from LGC legal counsel. Don stated he received the letter and contacted the LGC and spoke to Attorney Sanderson today. Attorney Sanderson advised not to apply an opinion from 2009 to a 2014 situation since there could be changes in case law, state law, or local ordinances since then. Don stated he was not comfortable setting aside the unanimous opinion of the Planning Board that a Special Exception was not required in this instance or to base a denial on information from a 5 year old letter. Don moved to approve the building permit, seconded by Leigh. Don and Leigh voted in favor; George opposed.

Building Permit – Ritz – approval given to renewal a permit to raise the roof height of his residence.

Miscellaneous Business: Leigh will sign checks this week. George will do March.

Tom Duling reported he was contacted by the State regarding a septic complaint from a tenant of 2011 Bog Road. Tom visited the property, with Sergeant Beaulieu. Tennant lives in a camper - water is frozen, no toilet facilities, using buckets and garbage bags, heats with woodstove and propane heater in the bedroom. Other tenants report unsafe electrical situation and septic issues in the house as well. Tom stated he gave the person in the camper 30 days to vacate. He did not condemn the camper but due to sanitary and zoning issues gave 30 days to leave. Tom advised the property owner about the zoning violations and suggested he come to a Selectman's meeting. The owner stated he is not subject to zoning because he lived there before zoning.

Don stated the need to verify what is going on there on March 24th. Hopefully the owner will be at the next meeting, but if not, the Board will send him notice requesting his presence.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts