

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JANUARY 26, 2015

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

Selectmen present: Chairman, Don Hill and Leigh Callaway.

Others present: Ken Jacques and Bob Costello.

Meeting called to order. Don reported he and Leigh spent the day at the Sullivan County Campus in Unity for a commissioners meeting where they met with managers and were given a tour of the biomass plant, the nursing home, and the jail. They both reported they were impressed with what they saw. Their website is sullivancountynh.gov for further information.

Ken Jacques stated that following the conversation from last week's budget meeting about the electrical issues at the highway garage, he reached out to Durgin and Crowell to ask how they handle issues. B. Manning and Malcolm Milne, both shared the name of the company they use and highly recommend. This is a design build company for commercial operations so not only could they develop a plan, but they could also do the work. This company has done work for many other area businesses. Leigh commented the starting point is to find out what is needed and develop a scope of work. He volunteered to contact the company.

Ken noted he would like the Selectmen's opinion regarding a vacant lot for sale on TLV Road. The lot was from a subdivision in the early 70's before the planning board came on board. The town used to maintain to Hideway, in the late 60's early 70's, lots were subdivided and the road was upgraded up to where the cul-de-sac is now. The town maintains that section of road now. All but 3 of the lots created are built on. Two of the lots have frontage on the Class VI portion of Webster Pass, one lot now owned by Roger Kidder has a house on it and has improved the Class VI road and uses it as a driveway. The other lot is vacant, and Ken's son is interested in buying it. The Class VI road just past these two lots was discontinued in 1935. There is a 37' wide strip of the vacant lot that extends to the town-maintained portion of the road, but that was intended for utilities. It was not planned to be driveway access. Ken is interested to know if there would be a problem with continuing the driveway along the Class VI road and getting a building permit. The ditch line would need to be re-established for drainage. He understands a waiver of liability is required for building on Class VI roads.

Don noted that there are plenty of instances where building, with a waiver, has been allowed on Class VI roads. He stated he can't see a reason not to accept a waiver or issue a building permit.

Bob Costello: Bob shared a copy of the communication he received regarding a request for 501 status from the Texas Criminal Justice System. Bob sends books left after the library book sale to prisons in Texas and other places. Don and Leigh agreed this requires more research. Leigh will look into this further and ask legal counsel at NHMA for an opinion.

Snowmobile Ordinance: Snowmobile use on town roads and town owned land. Motion by Leigh to accept the draft and send to town counsel for review. Motion seconded by Don and unanimously approved.

Budget & Proposed Warrant Article Review:

Sample Warrant Article A: Leigh stated the Budget Committee prefers to leave Shim, Seal and Blaktop in the Highway budget at \$80K; appropriating a warrant article for 80K from the unreserved fund balance from work not completed in 2014, instead of the former suggestion of 40K in the budget, and \$120K from the fund balance. This should leave 40K as a hedge in the electrical costs at the highway garage if necessary, or could be applied to the tax rate. Don and Leigh agreed to adjust the numbers per the Budget Committee's preference. *(Sample Article A: To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to Eighty-Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) for the purpose of paving. This sum to come from the unreserved fund balance).*

Sample Warrant Article B: Leigh reported there are different perspectives on replacing the town office/library heating systems with oil or propane. The major controversy seems to be what the fuel may be. More research will be done before a decision is made. The Board agreed to make this a non-lapsing article. *(Sample Article B: To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to Thirty-Thousand Dollars(\$30,000) For the purpose of replacing the heating system at the town office/library. This sum to come from the unreserved fund balance. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until the project is complete or by December 31, 2017 whichever comes first.*

Sample Warrant Article C: Leigh reported this article is to appropriate funds raised in 2014 to the Old Home Day Expendable Trust for 2015. The final number will be as per the Old Home Day Committee's report of income. *(Sample Article C: To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty One (\$3,961)** for deposit in the Old Home Day Expendable Trust Fund in accordance with RSA 31:19-a. This sum to come from the unreserved fund balance and represents proceeds and Donations raised in 2014 by the Old Home Day Committee).*

People Costs: Leigh reported he shared the Selectmen's unanimous decision regarding wages and people costs with the Budget Committee.

A proposal for engineering/consulting costs in the executive budget was reduced from \$13,000 to \$8,500.

Library: Leigh noted the Budget Committee made a recommendation to move the \$1,000 requested by the library for consulting to the executive engineering and consulting line. Jeff Milne has agreed to spearhead a committee to discuss building and space needs for the entire building. Don noted that the library's request for \$1,000 was specific to issues of running the library and increasing efficiency and use. He recommended leaving the \$1,000 in the library budget.

Motion made by Don to move the proposed 2015 operating budget and proposed warrant articles as amended and discussed to the budget committee for their review next week. Motion seconded by Leigh and unanimously approved.

Minutes of January 12, 2014 to include continuation to January 14, 2015: First page 3rd paragraph Don made correction as follows: *Don reported in the non-public session, compensation of specific employees was discussed. Nothing definitive has been decided but a suggestion has been for 2.5% across the board as minimum recognition of an employee's continuing service to the town. The Selectmen are studying wages of other towns comparable in size, and are trying to bring compensation-compensate for positions that fall below the average.*

Don moved to approve the minutes with the one correction. Motion seconded by Leigh and unanimously approved.

Unfinished business:

Leigh reported the new truck has arrived and was put into service on Friday. Freightliner has sent information regarding an extended warranty. That information will be e-mailed to the Selectmen. The invoices to Freightliner and Fairfield were approved.

Don and Leigh voted unanimously to reappoint Bruce Allen and Ken Jacques to the Conservation Commission for three year terms.

A check for \$500.00 was received for the recreation department in late December, but was delivered to the fire station. The check was not received at the town office until after the first of the year. In checking with the auditor's they have no problem with it being included as 2014 revenue. The check did not stipulate how the donor wished to designate the funds. Don and Leigh agreed to accept the revenue for 2014 and bump up the Warrant for the Old Home Day Expendable Trust by \$500.00**.

The Board approved an application for the use of the Fire Station by Mascoma Valley Snow Travelers for their annual fundraising event.

A check for the carpeting at the town hall has been cut but will be held until a final invoice is received.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant