

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JUNE 23, 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: Mike Lawlor, Ed Belfield, Tom Duling and Bill Huntoon.

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

Sullivan County Commissioners Jeff Barrette and Ben Nelson were present. Ben noted, Jessie Levine, a Springfield Resident, is their new County Manager.

The biomass heat facility at the county complex went online in December last year and they have already seen a cost savings of \$100K over what would have been spent in fuel costs. It is projected that fuel costs savings are covering the cost of the bond for the project. Currently, they are contracted with HHP for the fuel chips.

The budget has been finished and there will be no county tax increase this year. Employee healthcare coverage has been changed to a higher deductible plan, and the county has started a health reimbursement account to assist employees. The county has about 300 employees. The offset of healthcare costs helps in dealing with escalating costs from NH Retirement.

There is continued progress being made in the nursing home toward making costs associated with running the facility as low cost to tax payers as possible. Concern noted that continued Medicare and Medicaid "savings" however, means cuts to programs.

They have applied for a rural business enterprise grant which would enable them to do a feasibility study of making existing land and office space at the county complex available to local business enterprises.

The new wing of the correctional facility is open and hard data of the program's success shows a 21% recidivism rate versus comparisons to other similar county facilities. (Belknap 45%).

There has been a major review and steps toward upgrading computers, programs, and networking within the county.

The Commissioners invited the Board and the public to attend their meetings. They meet at 3:00 p.m. the 1st Monday of the month in Newport and the 3rd Monday of the Month in Unity.

Minutes of June 9th, 2014: Correction to Page 2: Signatures: ~~A couple~~ Two abatement ~~recommendations~~ requests by Natural Dharma Fellowship and Fairpoint. Leigh moves to follow the recommendation of George Hildum and deny the request, second by George an all in favor. Leigh moved to approve as amended, seconded by George and unanimously approved.

Leigh reviewed the unfinished business and project lists and a spreadsheet he developed regarding budget status and guesstimate for remainder of year expenditures as a budgeting tool for the Selectmen:

- A new time clock has been purchased for the highway department.
- Two invoices from custodian. Labor and expendables will be separated.
- Website development is ready to move into Phase II. Leigh will put together list of who will have town e-mail
- Review of prior heating costs show average fuel costs averaged \$3.51 per gallon.

Don commended Leigh for putting together the budget expenditures and projections. The Selectmen are aware the budget is going to be tight for the next six months due to changes that were made.

Unfinished Business:

Leigh reported he has spoken to Pete about putting the culvert across the wetlands. Pete had indicated he will schedule according to road projects, available time, and money.

Lawn mower: Bid received from Bill Huntoon for \$100.00 for the two old riding mowers. Pete had indicated Frank had expressed an interest in having them. Don noted at the last meeting the Selectmen indicated that as much as they would like to be able to give them to Frank, they felt they could not do so, and indicated that anyone with interest should contact the Selectmen. Sometime after that meeting Pete had indicated that Frank had offered \$25.00. The Board agreed it did not make sense to spend money to advertise. Leigh moved to accept the bid of \$100.00 from Bill Huntoon for the two riding mowers. Motion was seconded by George and unanimously approved.

Leigh noted he should be hearing about the moose plate grant soon. The painting of the town hall may begin as early as August 1st. Bill Huntoon stated he will see to getting his job done before the painting starts. The bid package had indicated September 19th as a deadline for both. It would be helpful if future bids staggered completion dates of different projects. Don stated he thought the date was for both as it was possible that one person would bid on both portions of the project.

Janet reported she spoke to LGC Liability Trust and they would need to have a rental agreement in place in order for liability coverage for the operator and equipment to be effective if Durgin & Crowell “donates” the use of their excavator for replacing the culvert on Fisher Corner Road.

Board and Department Updates:

Planning Board:

Don reported the Planning Board continued to have conversations about the mapping and vernal pools.

Wonderwell is present and is making progress but won't have a firm to help them with their Site Plan until July and will then be working on the plan and hope to have it for the Planning Board in September or October.

A Representative from LSPA spoke about trying to get towns in the Lake Sunapee Watershed to have similar ordinances for compliance purposes. A case was quoted from another town where the

Selectmen had no choice but to order a Cease and Desist order. Don noted he shared his concerns with Wonderwell representatives regarding the retreat has been operating for 2 ½ years now, and though this is their busy time and they would like to work on their site plan during slower time, there are still many safety issues to consider.

Don noted the Planning Board appreciated the new wetlands mapping link. It was noted that while the new maps can be used as a tool, the tax map overlay is not an accurate reflection of the lot boundaries and is for tax purposes only and there could be issues. Leigh stated that with his GPS device he doesn't need to know what the tax map says because he can pinpoint locations with a great deal of accuracy. If the Planning Board decides to use the new maps as a tool, then he would like the Selectmen to develop an ordinance to document what procedures the Selectmen are going to follow when reviewing permits for property impacted by wetlands.

Don stated there was still a great deal of discussion around vernal pools. The Planning Board's concern is that State does not have regulations relative to vernal pools. There is also difficulty in that anyone who may be responsible for reviewing permits does not have the expertise to recognize vernal pools. If the State does not protect them, it would be difficult for the town to enforce, cause potential hardship and delays for land owners, and the town could be in a difficult position to defend their position in court. The man who gave the vernal pool presentation back in April stated this town is so conserved (50% by UVLSRPC statistics) there is no cause to worry about every vernal pool. Don stated it appears that the majority of the Planning Board is not in favor of adding vernal pools or increased setbacks to the wetlands ordinance.

George stated that consideration also needs to be made that increasing setbacks becomes a land taking and will be reflected in property values, and taxes. There are only a limited amount of prime building sites along the corridors of Town. George stated the Wetlands Subcommittee discussed the idea of having an escape clause in an ordinance that would address situations where new regulations created unbuildable lots due to vernal pools.

Don noted that the town values vernal pools and try to ensure they are protected when possible, but should be cautious about doing anything more stringent than the State.

Cemetery Trustees: Leigh reported an e-mail from a family members was received regarding a stone that is in danger of falling over. The trustees have determined it is the responsibility of the family to fix the stone when family is known or the lot is not in perpetual care.

UVLSRPC: George reported he attended the annual meeting of the planning commission. The topic was the virtual lack of growth projected for NH. The estimate is by 2040 no one is going to be moving to NH. While mortgage rates have decreased, income in NH is so low people can't afford housing or rents.

George met Representative Linda Tanner there and she brought a concern he had back in late summer of last year regarding mooring of his kayak in a beach area. She brought the concern to Senator Odell who clarified that the law was not designed for paddle boats, but was geared toward motor boats and there are three specific locations on Lake Sunapee this pertains to.

Ms. Tanner also mentioned that Senator Odell and some others are looking at the pole taxation issue and all are in agreement that something needs to be done.

Correspondence:

Request from Town Clerk to close the Town Office on Monday, July 7th, since the July 4th Holiday falls on a Friday. Leigh moved to approve, seconded by Don and unanimously approved. Leigh will let the highway and police departments know what has been decided.

Letter from American Legion thanking the "town" for the funds raised and contributed in Frank's name. It was noted the contributions were not from the "town" but from townspeople who donated to Post 40. The legion allowed Frank to direct where the donations be directed.

Natural Dharma Fellowship (Wonderwell) has answered the query sent by the Selectmen for more information relative to an abatement application.

Notice from DES regarding a wetlands crossing for S & M Forest Trust.

Signatures:

After an affirmative vote by all three the Selectmen signed the unlicensed dog warrant from the town clerk to submit to the Police Department.

Intent to Cut Timber for Sacks on Main Street (accessing through private road - Beck's Way) approved.

Recommendation from George Sansoucy to deny abatement requests for PSNH and NHEC. George moved to accept Mr. Sansoucy's recommendation, seconded by Leigh and unanimously approved.

Building permits:

Additional information was received for the request to add a 42" antenna on the tower on Oak Hill. Permit approved.

St. Angelo – Eastman Access Road – "After the Fact" permit approved for deck replacement/enlargement approved.

Northwind Security – Georges Mills Road – storage building approved.

Petrescu-Bobuc – Sanborn Hill Extension – renovations to existing house and addition of two dormers approved.

Collette – Stoney Brook Road - application for a deck – denied – too close to wetlands; not up to date septic approval.

Ladd – Twin Lake Villa Road – Renovation/expansion approved. Updated septic plan approval received.

Tom reported water testing on the beach for June was fine.

Miscellaneous Business: Leigh stated he left a notation on a couple of checks in the recent check run, for clarification of invoice status.

George noted the heavy rains have caused some run-off and erosion on the embankment at the back side of the highway garage.

Appreciation noted:

- To Dick Hendl for helping place the flags out.
- To the highway department – cemetery and lawn mowing looks great this year
- Garden Club for the “extra accents”. Plantings look great and people are noticing.

Leigh will speak to the highway department about power washing the front of the town office building to get rid of the cobwebs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts