

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

FEBRUARY 27, 2017

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 Tamara Butcher.

Others: Mike Lawlor, Tim Julian, Pete Abair, Dick Hendl, and Senator, Ruth Ward, District 8.

Don called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Ruth Ward, introduced herself. She is planning to visit each town in her district in this legislative session. She encouraged anyone with concerns to contact her.

Leigh addressed increased costs to schools and municipalities associated with decreasing and elimination of assistance by the State for mandatory contributions to the NH Retirement System. Ms. Ward replied the House and Senate are negotiating picking up a percentage of those costs, and talking about how to lessen the burden.

Don addressed House Bill 254 and 324, relative to a proposal to change the make-up of the Assessing Standards Board, eroding municipal autonomy in setting tax rates for utilities. Despite court ruling, State oversight doesn't dictate an assessment formula to use. Towns have a choice to use Department of Revenue methods or their own analysis. Towns involved in the ongoing case have spent a lot of money defending their assessment practices. A decision needs to be made and the process taken out of the court system.

REPORT from ZONING COORDINATOR: Whit Smith was unable to attend this meeting.

His written report follows:

For the Board of Selectmen meeting Monday night, February 27, 2017,
The following is a summary of permit applications and Zoning Coordinator activity.

Applications for Permits – APPROVED, pending receipt of Waiver of Liability

1. Josh McGraw, 679 Old Grafton Road; Application for a permit to build a 24' x 24' cabin. Permit application complete with drawings. Location identified. No setback encroachment. No wetlands buffer issue. Structure will be less than 35' tall. Zoning Coordinator has discussed plans with the applicant. This application was approved by email protocol, subject to applicant signing the appropriate waiver of liability because location is inaccessible for town services/safety and fire equipment. Per the Administrator, materials have been forwarded to the town's attorney and we are awaiting reply.

Applications for Permits – Pending.

2. Attiya Mirza, agent for UPLA5AC, 378 Stoney Brook Rd; Application for permit to build a 4' x 8' structure. Drawing included with application shows structure to be 100' from the road. Zoning Coordinator visited site and measured the distance from the structure to the road to be approximately 30'. Sent a letter by US Mail to Mr. Mirza acknowledging receipt of Zoning Permit Application and indicating the discrepancy regarding location. Zoning Coordinator requested intended plans for the structure (move it or file application for variance/special exception with ZBA). NO REPLY from the Applicant. No further action required at this time.

Applications for Permits – RECEIVED, but PENDING Further Action

3. Michael Hansen, 163 Hansen Road (location of property). Application to install/build a garage building. Permit application is complete with drawings. No setback encroachment. No wetlands buffer issue. Applicant did appear before the Planning Board for hearing revised site plan application. Planning Board requested clarification in several areas. No further action required at this time.

4. David Brooks – 7 Brookridge Road, Eastman. Zoning Permit Application for solar panel array – pedestal mounted. Applicant has purchased adjacent lot. Current plan is to place the panel array on the second lot, but closer than 35' to the existing lot line. Application pending merger of the two lots.

5. Mr. /Mrs. Martin regarding 12' x 20' shed constructed without zoning permit – 566 Hogg Hill Rd. Mr. Martin has stated he is waiting for snow to melt so that he can locate property pins and appropriately “stake” the area where the shed will be located. No further contact since last BOS meeting.

Other Matters.

A. Mr. Rifkin – Camp Sunapee; follow up still required

<< RWS 2/27/2017 >>

The Board reviewed recommendations from Town Counsel regarding Josh McGraw's zoning application and the Class VI Road Waiver on file. Counsel advised the waiver already recorded at the Sullivan County Registry for Josh's property meets the essential provisions of the RSA. However, recommendations by Attorney Bernie Waugh in “A Hard Road to Travel” makes reference to other items to be included in such a waiver. Counsel stated the Board of Selectmen would need to determine whether the additional information would be of benefit to the town in this instance or is the Board comfortable with the current recorded waiver.

Leigh noted the zoning application is in the hands of Whit for approval. He would like to see an updated waiver for the new dwelling. Don made a motion, to move the permit forward, a new waiver will be required. The Board will consult with Whit or Town Counsel to draft a form for

Josh to work with to protect the town and himself. The motion was seconded by Leigh and unanimously approved.

Don reported at the last Fire Department meeting he was at, the Fire Department was discussing the fuel depot that is being built on Route 4A just over the town line in the Town of Grafton. Grafton indicated, Springfield Fire would be the first responders due to their proximity to the location. SVFD is reviewing training and handling. Don noted concerns with the depot's location to the watershed of McDaniel's Marsh. Leigh questioned if the State is aware of the location. Don reported the Town of Grafton does not have zoning.

Old Business: D. Roberts Abatement Application. The denial notice will be completed and the Selectmen will stop by the office to sign. At a previous meeting, the board agreed to follow the recommendation of George Hildum.

Leigh noted, a few meetings ago, Tamara suggested a journal be kept of the day to day activities of the Highway Department, which used to be done by former Road Agents. Leigh reported that he meets with the Highway Department several times a week, and is kept up to date on what takes place. Tamara stated she would be ok with letting it go.

Leigh reported the Highway Department has been clearing and burning brush up behind the highway shed so the land can be smoothed out and drained for reclamation and possible future use. The land is wet due to skidder tracks that were never smoothed.

Don reviewed a notice from FEMA regarding discovery workshops that are being held relative to risk mapping, assessment and planning of several watersheds. Tamara will attend the workshop in Claremont on March 9th.

Town Meeting Coverage: Tuesday, March 14, meeting 11 to 7 and counting ballots.

Tamara	11 am to 4 pm
Don	4 pm to 7 pm
Leigh	All Day

Saturday, March 18, meeting starts at 9:30 a.m.

Selectmen to speak to the articles as follows:

Article 4	Fire Truck	Leigh
Article 5	Old Home Day	Tamara
Article 6	Veterans Credit	Don
Article 7	Operating Budget	to be determined

Don will chair the Safety Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station. The Board suggested holding quarterly meetings at different days or times of day to make some of the meetings more convenient for departments and employees to attend.

New Business: Tim circulated wage information regarding Special Duty arrangements. Tim noted the rates were corrected several years ago, and now need to be corrected again. He has been polling neighboring towns regarding their rates. Springfield's rates are lower than other towns. Leigh noted, for the record, details are performed in other towns, or for construction details, by an officer on their own time, not scheduled for town hours. The service is billed out for a detail rate for the officer's hours, and cruiser time, if a cruiser is used. A percentage of the charges are retained by the town to cover administrative costs. The Board is in favor of making an adjustment as per Chief Tim's recommendations. The Warrant article that created the revolving fund for this purpose, will be reviewed to check specifications relative to percentages, etc.

The Town Report material has been submitted to the printers. Town reports should be available by March 7th.

Miscellaneous Business: Leigh stated he would like to schedule a meeting with Tim Julian regarding a letter the Selectmen received from the Mascoma Valley Snow Travelers. Leigh would like to be able to send MVST a response. Tim noted he has got one confession about gates in Springfield. Since there was more damage in Grafton, he referred the case to Grafton. The Grafton Police Chief was to reach out to the snowmobile club.

Minutes: Leigh moved to approve the minutes of February 13, 2017, seconded by Tamara and unanimously approved.

At 8:00 p.m., Leigh moved, and the Board voted unanimously to enter into non-public session, per RSA 91-A: 3, Personnel. At 8:03 the Board entered back into public session, voted unanimously to seal the non-public minutes and adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant