

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

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

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

Others present: Mike Lawlor, Pete & Susan Abair, Tom Duling, Bryan O'Day, Justin Hastings and Ed Belfield.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Barbara Brill, Executive Director; Alecia Farquhar, Family Services Director; and Pamela Joslin, Transportation Director, were in attendance to review programs offered by the Community Alliance of Human Services (CAHS). CAHS is a private, non-profit (501c3) organization located in Newport, running several programs for at risk youth, adults and families. Each presented information specific to their department. There are several individuals and/or families in Springfield benefitting from services this year. Pam Joslin reported their Volunteer Driver program has been in existence since 2010 and provides transportation to medical appointments, employment, or to essential services for people who have transportation needs. Drivers volunteer and are screened and trained. Rides are arranged through CAHS ride board. Drivers are reimbursed for mileage. They are always looking for more drivers, as there has been an increased need over the time the service has been offered. Barbara Brill stated CAHS is appreciative of the Town of Springfield's annual contribution to them, and would like to ask the Selectmen to consider a contribution toward the volunteer driver program as well. Most of their funding for the transportation program is through the Department of Transportation with a 20% local match requirement. Brochures were left for the public. Information about the ride program will be posted on the Town website.

Public comments: None heard.

Unfinished Business:

The Selectmen shared the Buildings and Grounds unfinished projects list as of September 9, 2013 with those in attendance. Leigh highlighted the completed projects and reviewed unfinished projects that have been identified as a priority. Specific items discussed as follows:

7 Personnel Manual: Leigh will send Don and George the next 10 pages of the draft manual to read and review as a "to do" requirement for the September 23 Selectmen's meeting.

90 Conservation Easement: Leigh reported at last week's Conservation Commission meeting he discussed with the CC the concept of moving the conservation easement held on the highway/fire complex property to another piece of town property. His thoughts being to have the wetlands scientist look at that 1.38 acre portion of the property, as part of the wetlands study. He also followed up with legal from LGC about mechanics involved for swapping an easement. The

response from LGC was that the town cannot hold an easement on its own land and can only hold easements on land of someone else. Leigh stated the easement in question has been shown on the town land since 1996. It does not appear that this is a legal easement.

Leigh also inquired with LGC as to what, if any requirements, the town has for building or zoning permitting. The response was per RSA 674:54 there are no requirements other than a mandatory visit to the Planning Board for a non-binding consultation. Leigh stated that the Selectmen are not insensitive to the process that tax payer's must follow, and are not looking at this as a "power grab", he was simply exploring the requirements. All of the work is being explored through the committee (sand shed) with discussion taking place at public meetings with full public knowledge of what the considerations may be.

Leigh spoke with Jeff Evans, Wetlands Scientist, to get an estimate for the additional cost involved in having him look at the 1.38 acres. Jeff's cost is \$200.00. Leigh moved to expand the study to include that 1.38 acre portion of the property shown as the conservation easement, and to amend the contract with Jeff Evans accordingly. Motion seconded by George McCusker, and unanimously approved.

105 Leigh reported a representative from IBEA will be meeting with Pete on Wednesday, to begin the engineering study of the highway/fire building.

116 Heating/furnace issues for the highway/fire department. Irving is scheduled for a cleaning/annual service on September 18, 2013. Follow up after that.

165 Review Todd Longley's bid.

210 Work on windowsills at the town hall is not completed as of August 30, 2013.

211 Cost came in at \$13,400. The roof did not require as much work as they anticipated, but there was more rotted wood on the steeple, which came in at \$1200 more than the bid. Jon Poston has reviewed the work and has approved the invoice.

#355 Town office driveway paving was put out to bid. Pete received three bids ranging from \$8,900 (Twin State), \$13,885(Marceau & Sons) and \$14,500 (United). Pete reported they are all doing about the same scope of work though Twin State's bid includes removing rocks. Leigh discussed the line item of the budget to cover this. Pete's budget appears to be able to cover the cost but could make things very tight by the end of the year. Following discussion the Selectmen agreed to initially pay for this out of Pete's budget, for the time being, and then move funds around or give Pete approval for his budget accordingly, if needed later in the year. Motion made by Leigh to accept and approve the bid from Twin State for \$8,900 to pave the Town Office parking lot. Motion seconded by George and unanimously approved.

365 Painting at town office is not completed as of August 30. Sue Abair questioned what happens when contracted work has not been completed on time. Don noted that weather may have been a factor.

390 Irving cleaned and serviced the two boilers at the town office. Irving recommends that the boilers and fuel tanks be replaced. About \$800 worth of repairs are required for this heating season. Leigh stated there has been discussion about removing the fuel tanks and converting to propane. Mason Wheeler working with FW web was to provide a cost analysis for the best heating solution. George McCusker stated he would like to wait for Irving to service the highway/fire furnaces and hear their plan to fix anything over there. There is a problem with those burners. George then recommends calling Mason for his opinion and would prefer to have Mason do the work. When the Irving contract comes up for renewal, George recommends not renewing the contract but contracting services with Mason. That will allow time to get the numbers together for replacement or conversion for 2014 budget committee review. In the meantime, Mason can do any repair work that needs to be done this year. Don noted that we have been in a "holding pattern" with Irving for the past six months after they schedule cleanings and service and then do not show up. All Selectmen agreed to find out the facts for the highway/fire building furnaces after their scheduled visit next week and then verify with Mason on work their stated work to done. George McCusker will contact Mason.

Don asked Pete Abair to take a look at the electrical system at the ball field. There was a problem with some of the outlets at Old Home Day. Pete will get back to the Board or contact an electrician.

Leigh questioned if the Board felt that town counsel needed to look at the issue with the Conservation Easement. Don stated that he did not see a need. With respect to the easement and the spirit for which it was intended, the suggestion was made to swap it. Leigh raised the question of how to proceed with the legality of cancelling this easement and keeping the public informed. George stated that all of this would be what the State looks at when they are looking at the project. When it is time the voters approve the project and they will be informed and get due process at Town Meeting. Leigh stated he also spoke to Jeff Evan's raising Bryan's question regarding the mitigation at the existing sand shed site. Jeff indicated that mitigation is all part of what is "on the table" when the project goes to DES.

Other unfinished business:

Retired police cruiser: Don questioned how best to dispose of the old police cruiser. Tim has gotten one non-binding estimate for it. George questioned whether the Board should get some opinions as to what we think we can get for it. Don stated that we always think we can get more than we usually do. The Board agreed to put the sale out for closed bid. Bids will be due by 4 PM on September 26th. The Board will hold a brief meeting on the 26th. Motion made by Leigh to advertise the sale of the Crown Vic by local bid in the Eagle Times, Valley News, Kearsarge Shopper, on the marquee and through list serve. Bids are due by 4 pm on September 26th. Motion seconded by George and unanimously approved.

Emergency preparedness:

Don reminded the Board there would be a tabletop exercise of emergency responders on October 16th. The Selectmen promised Keith Cutting they would make steady progress with continued online training.

Don reported he has made a few calls to fuel dealers. One would not give him a fixed price, another would need a complete inventory of individual tanks and fuel use, and another would only lock in subject to the day's prices at a 5,000 to 6,000 use estimate. Don stated that he had a few other companies still to call.

Minutes of August 26, 2013; Motion made by Leigh to approve as written, seconded by George and unanimously approved.

Board and Department Updates:

George McCusker reported the ZBA heard two cases. Both of them were approved. The ZBA received a letter from Clayton Platt that hit different members, differently. George stated he feels the letter basically gave the board a heads up of Clayton's concern that there had been an error in the presentation of the facts, (Dexter/Brunelle Hearing) but some felt it was meddling. Don stated that Clayton had spoken to him outside of the Zoning meeting and questioned what the Selectman's process was in approving permits after a case has been decided by the ZBA. He asked if they would just get a "rubber stamp" approval. Don stated the Selectmen would be looking to verify that everything was in order and taking measurements accordingly.

The Board then discussed a letter they received from Clayton Platt, based on his position that he feels that the facts presented to the ZBA were fraudulent. The Board stated Clayton's first letter to the ZBA seemed to be more about the right-of-way and not so much the property line. Concern was noted that there is a granite bound that shows the State property line that is not showing on any of the plans presented. George stated a condition of Zoning approval is the plan must show the granite bound and be approved by Bryan O'Day before the applicant can move forward. In reviewing a copy of today's letter to the Selectmen, with maps provided, Clayton draws attention to the areas he is concerned are fraudulently represented. Following a great deal of discussion about the letter, and concern of the misrepresentation of facts, the Board agreed the Selectmen, or any other party has a right to apply to the ZBA for a rehearing. A request has to be made within 30 days of the date of decision. The applicant has yet to produce the final material required to the Zoning Board. The Selectmen will bring this back up for discussion at their September 23 meeting.

George stated that the Upper Valley Planning Commission has informed their commissioners that the National Flood Insurance has eliminated subsidies for people required to carry flood insurance.

Conservation Commission: Leigh reported the CC is moving forward with getting Brooks Weathers to do a forestry study of the Kinsley lot.

Cemetery: The Cemetery Trustees are doing an inventory of stones that are leaning, and within their budget, they are working with someone from Claremont for repair at a cost of about \$200.00 per stone.

Planning Board: George reported the wetlands scientist, Rick Van de Poll, updated the Planning Board with his findings, and noted concern that the existing wetlands and setbacks laws are excessive. He is not looking to strengthen those. Vernal pools have been discussed. George stated there seems to be a push to get this stuff done. The Planning Board continues to review the information.

Don reported there is a Joint Boards of Selectmen meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. The Selectmen will meet here first to open bids for the cruiser. A tentative time was set for 6:00 p.m.

Don reported that notices of impending tax deeding have been sent out to 18 taxpayers that could necessitate action in about 6 weeks. Several properties could be problematic. Some are working their way through the process and a mortgage company may be making payment on others.

Leigh reported Cynthia Anderson has received a letter from the bank regarding their intent to pay the back taxes and penalties for the property on 651 Hogg Hill Road. However, they did not state when they intended to pay and to date a check has not been received. This is not an open-ended process.

Correspondence:

Notice from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission of upcoming meetings for participation in updating the regional Master Plan.

Wetlands Dredge and Fill Application to DES for Eastman Village District.

Signatures:

Yield Tax: Munholland – George Hill Road

Building Permits:

Gatti – new house – Oak Hill Road West
Smith – carport – Hogg Hill
Martel – renewal for porch replacement – Main Street
Bednar – shed – Cross Place

The Board signed application for reimbursement from the State Bureau of Emergency Management for programming the Emergency Management Director's radio.

Building use approved for the library lower level for appliqué classes by Caye Currier

Miscellaneous Business:

Schedule for monthly “go to duty” and check signing: Don – October; Leigh – November; and George – December.

Request received from Clayton Platt looking to plant a tree at the recreation field in memory of Tom Burke who died 10 years ago. Tom was instrumental in getting the skate park built. The Selectman agreed Clayton should work with Pete and the details should be worked out with a date and time so a notice can be given so the public can attend.

Don noted a lot of time was spent at the last meeting discussing and accepting the gift of the John boat, but he would like the record to show that the Selectmen are exceedingly grateful to the first responder’s and to Brown’s Marina for making this happen for the Town of Springfield. Don will draft a letter of thanks.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts