

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2009, 5:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Cormier called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.; also present were Selectman Pike, Selectman Caldwell, Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Fire Chief Jim Davis, Deputy Fire Chief Sean McCarty, Town Planner Candace Daigle, Glenda Hill, Code Enforcement Officer Steve Dalton, Don Carpenter owner of Birch Hill Kennel, Donna Cilley, Lisa Clutters and several press members.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Pike moved to accept the minutes of the January 5, 2009 meeting as written. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike moved to accept the non-public minutes of the January 5, 2009 meeting as written. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the non-public minutes of the January 13, 2009 meeting as written. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Report Cover

The Board reviewed the Town Report cover as Town Administrator Beaudin explained that through a request that others participate in the process received input from the Heritage Commission. Shayne Duggan, Linda Frawley and Wallace Rhodes of the Heritage Commission created the cover with photos provided by Brenda Paquette and additional assistance from Dr. Jim Pilliod and the Historical Society. The Board agreed that they liked the cover as presented. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that she is considering a wire binding this year as a cost savings measure.

Town Meeting Warrant

The Board reviewed the Town Meeting Warrant, default budget and proposed budget as it will be presented at the deliberative session to be held at the Belmont Middle School February 2 at 6:30 p.m. A voter's guide which includes a copy of the ballot and description of the articles has been created for voters and will be distributed after the Deliberative Session. Alex Takantjis with the Belmont High School will assist with videotaping the session.

Selectman's Corner

The Board reviewed the Selectman's Corner report as it will appear in the Town Report; they felt it was reflective of the events of the past year.

NHMA Meeting

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that NHMA will be holding a meeting to discuss revenue sources with the voting delegate and asked the Board to appoint her to represent the Town for voting purposes unless a Board member was available to attend the meeting.

No Board members were available to attend and Selectman Caldwell moved to authorize Town Administrator Beaudin to vote on their behalf at the NHMA meeting, Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mazzitelli Letter

The Board reviewed a letter from the Mazzitelli's requesting to meet to discuss the upgrading of Maple Street to enable them to access their property in Gilmanton through Belmont. Following a brief discussion the Board agreed that there is no benefit to Belmont to allow this request. Chairman Cormier asked Town Administrator Beaudin to talk to the Town Administrator in Gilmanton to determine if there is additional information that was not provided to the Board that may need to be considered. The Board also requested that she send a letter to the Mazzitelli's requesting they remove the debris that they have left in the Town's right of way as outlined in the letter from the Land Use Office regarding this property.

Pine Gardens Mobile Home Removal Update

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that in regard to the recent discovery of another Mobile Home being removed from Pine Garden Mobile Home Park without the proper permits or taxes being paid. Mr. Dupont has acknowledged that there are 9 other units ready to be moved. Discussions with Town Counsel have provided two options for the Board to consider. The first is to seek legal recourse pursuant to RSA 80:2-a. The second option would be to seek an injunction as the violation relates to the zoning ordinance. After a brief discussion the Board agreed that steps need to be taken to stop this illegal behavior and requested that Town Administrator Beaudin to seek the injunction through the local court system.

Selectman Pike move to pursue and injunction against Mr. Dupont and the illegal removal of mobile home units from Pine Gardens Mobile Home Park. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Pleasant Valley Project

The project is moving forward with sewer information received and engineer drawings and discussions taking place last week. It was discovered that Holly Tree and Pinecrest were not part of the Pleasant Valley development although they have always been treated as though they were and will be included on the work that will be done. It is suggested that the Board accept them as Town Roads. A letter will be sent to abutters of that area to determine if they would support creating a loop between the two roads that would create a circle. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that February/March is when the kick off meeting for the project will be held with bid requests going out after that with bids due back by April. All involved believe that the bidding process should be competitive. A public hearing is proposed for February 23, 2009 if the Board agrees with the acceptance of the roads.

The Board agreed that a letter should be sent to abutters regarding the acceptance and joining of Holly Tree and Pinecrest.

Animal Control Discussion

Chairman Cormier explained that the Town has chosen to change Animal Control Facility providers this year from the NH Humane Society to Birch Hill Kennels with a cost saving of approximately \$3,000. He pointed out the contracts for service for each facility is virtually identical for the services that will be provided to the Town of Belmont. Lisa Clutters who has showed concern for the change was present and handed out a document that she created with approximately 30 questions that she would like answered regarding the change. Upon review of the questions Chairman Cormier expressed that he felt the questions were excessive in the number and perhaps she could narrow them down some. He noted that a majority of her concerns were for the process after an animal is brought to the facility which is then out of the hands of the Town.

Mr. Carpenter of Birch Hill Kennels spoke, advising that he has been in this business for 17 years during which time only three animals had been put down because they had become too vicious to handle. He advised that animals are held for 7 days before they are micro chipped, attended to by a vet and then given to a new home. He told of a dog that had been given away, abandoned several times and eventually reunited with the original owner, and how rewarding it was for him to be involved with the process and nursing the animal back to health before being reunited. He indicated that animals are chipped, groomed and prospective new owners are interviewed which would include kids or other animals meeting with the him and the new animal at his facility so he can observe how they all interact before any final decision if they are right for each other. He added that he is certified for canine search and rescue; he follows the law for this type of business and has a great working relationship with Noreast Veterinarian Assoc.

Lisa asked if the business operated as a non-profit organization, Mr. Carpenter stated no. Lisa asked who approached who regarding this new contract, Mr. Carpenter stated that he approached the Town with a proposal as he had with the other Town's that he works in. Lisa asked what type of profile was done for prospective new owners, Mr. Carpenter explained that he considers whether there are children, other pets and whether he feels they are all a good match. Lisa asked why the Town is leaving NHHS, Mr. Carpenter suggested that it was a matter of cost.

Chairman Cormier interrupted the barrage of questions and explained to Lisa that the Town's position on this is that it is a small issue and the change was done as a cost saving

measure for the Town, the contracts are basically identical and once the Animal Control Office drops an animal off at whatever facility the Town is contracted with the Town is done with that animal. As long as the facility is doing all right for the animal and there is no additional cost to the Town, the arrangement is fine. There was further discussion with someone else saying that had a bad experience at Mr. Carpenters facility, Chairman Cormier explained that he had a bad experience with the NHHS so that point can be argued from either side. Chairman Cormier indicated that he had heard enough and the conversation regarding this issue was finished.

Town Administrator Beaudin reminded the Board of the retirement luncheon on Friday January 31, 2009 at noon for retiring officer Richard Bryant.

Non-Public Session

Chairman Cormier called the non-public session to order at 5:45 pm in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3 II (c). Roll call was taken and those present and voting were Ronald Cormier, Reginald Caldwell and Jon Pike. Also present was Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin.

Chairman Cormier closed the non-public session at 5:55 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board of Selectmen's meeting will be Monday, February 23, 2009 at 5:00 p.m., at the Corner Meeting House; Deliberative Session will be at the Belmont Middle School Cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2009.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Ronald Cormier, Chairman

Reginald Caldwell

Jon Pike