

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2009, 5:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Ronald Cormier called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.; also present were Selectman David Morse, Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Aaron LaChance from Stantec, Russ Hiltz of Hiltz Construction, Rod Dubiou, Mr. Hawkins, Public Works Supervisor Craig Clairmont, Land Use Technician Rick Ball, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Cynthia DeRoy, Fire Chief Jim Davis, Deputy Chief Sean McCarty, several Pleasant Valley Residents, Kinney O'Rourke with the Daily Sun. Selectman Pike was absent from the meeting. Conservation Commission members Denise Naiva, Carol Fairfield and Ken Knowlton joined the meeting later.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Morse moved to accept the minutes of the October 5, 2009 meeting as written. Chairman Cormier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – CDBG Public Hearing on the progress at Pleasant Valley

Chairman Cormier opened the Public Hearing at 5:02 p.m. for the purpose providing progress information regarding the Pleasant Valley Project and accepting public comment. Aaron LaChance of Stantec Engineering noted that there has been lots of progress made on the project and the water main has been installed and is currently being disinfected. He added that curb stops should be in by next week and with temperatures falling they must finish up the work on the main line to avoid it freezing up. He noted the goal was to have a base coat of paving done this year. He stated that he knows it has been a hassle at times for the residents in Pleasant Valley and appreciates their patience during the project. Chairman Cormier asked for public comment at this time.

There were members of the public that asked if this was the time to talk to about the recent water boil problem. Chairman Cormier apologized for the problem with the water and thank everyone involved in correcting the situation. He explained that the work being done on the project had created the problem but felt that the situation was on its way to being rectified and the Board was considering some type of reduction in the water bill to compensate. Cindy Sullivan stated that her complaint is regarding the notification process of the boil order. She

added that she wasn't notified until Tuesday after the boil order issued on Sunday. Town Administrator Beaudin explained that the boil order came late on Sunday and the local media outlets were given the information for broadcasting and written notices started going out on Monday and was completed on Tuesday. Chairman Cormier added that DES has guidelines that the Town followed for notifying residents of the situation. He added that there had not been time for those involved to hold a debriefing session to analyze how the situation has handled. He felt given the fact that the Town had never experienced anything like this before it was handle well, and there most likely was room for improvement but those involved haven't had the opportunity to review and determine if that is the case. He added that everyone involved did the best they could. It was noted that with the situation occurring on a holiday weekend the process was hindered some by that due to lack of available staff.

There was further discussion regarding notification methods that could be considered for the future, such as reverse 911, Nixel or the schools phone call program. It was noted that the reverse 911 program is rather expense however, the Board agreed to look at all options. Selectman Morse added that he felt that the initial notification went well with even the Town's website having been updated with information on Sunday night as well as WMUR and the local newspapers having the information. He felt for something that the Town has never had happen before it went well. He added that the State was involved immediately and the proper measures followed. Chairman Cormier commented that the Town was lucky to get such quick response from the State with regard to the testing of the samples. Public Works Supervisor Craig Clairmont noted that the problem was found quickly and everyone involved did all that they could to fix the problem as soon as possible.

Getting back the Pleasant Valley project Aaron LaChance advised those present that a second look at the meter installation has them looking at meter pits for outside the home which appear to be a much better option for relatively close to the same cost. It was noted that the pits are insulated round, in ground containers with locking lids that house the meters. Two thirds of the homes have been visited regarding the meter installation and will require significant plumbing for the initial meter installation plan and the meter pit seems to be the better option at this time as long as the cost comes in within range.

With no further comment Chairman Cormier closed the public hearing at 5:34 p.m.

Public Hearing – Recreational Trails Program Grant \$1,332/DRED Bureau of Trails

Chairman Cormier opened the public hearing at 5:35 p.m. in accordance with RSA 31:95 b to accept the grant in the amount of \$1,332 from DRED Bureau of Trails for the recreational trail program.

With no public input, Chairman Cormier closed the public hearing at 5:36 p.m.

Selectman Morse moved to accept the grant as described. Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Birch Hill Kennel Contract

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed the proposed contract for \$7,500 with Birch Hill Kennels with the Board. It was noted that this past year has been going well and there have been no issues with the services and the Town has a good working relationship with Mr. Carpenter. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that there had not been an increase for the 2010

contract. The Board asked Town Administrator Beaudin to ask Mr. Carpenter if he would provide a proposed 2 year contract.

JAG Grant Correspondence

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that despite Mr. Tardif's continued letters, Town Counsel has provided approved responses and the grant has been received within the guidelines.

Winnisquam Fire Department Discussion

Chairman Cormier stated that the Board wants to discuss the status of the removal of the equipment at the WFD. He noted that previously there was a plan to be finished by 2010, but is interested in clearing out the equipment sooner. They discussed the possibility of discontinuing the ambulance from that location, Chief Davis noted that it still does respond from there on occasion. The Board felt that the occasional response wasn't enough to justify the expense of keeping it stocked and the building heated to support it. Chief Davis reminded that originally the plan was to trade 2 ambulances (WFD ambulance being one of them) for 1 new ambulance for the main station. The Board still agrees with that concept if it is cost effective to do so however felt the ambulance didn't need to be kept in service until such time that it is traded and if the opportunity to sell it before hand came along it should be considered. The Board would like the building freed up for other uses as soon as possible.

Chief Davis told the Board that he was having difficulty finding the chassis they would like for the new ambulance but continues to look for a unit comparable to the ambulance they have now. There was discussion regarding speaking to Ed Crawford regarding parking at the WFD. Chief Davis reminded the Board that Mr. Crawford has done a lot for the Town over the years and continues to help with the boat and such at no expense to the Town. Chairman Cormier expressed that he understands that however if the building is going to take on a new use the current situation may need to change some to accommodate the programs that are being considered to run out of this building. Chairman Cormier indicated that he would like the Board to meet with Mr. Crawford at their next meeting if he is available.

Habitat for Humanity request

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed with the Board a letter from Habitat for Humanity regarding a water/sewer billing issue that they were requesting and abatement for. The Board reviewed the request and agreed to abate \$180.20 from the account in question.

Roof Repairs

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed several roofing quotes with the Board for the Mill boiler room roof and the Police Department rear roof. She noted that the roofing proposals are for metal roofs and are \$2820.00 & \$1400.00 from Great Northern Roofing and \$1495.00 & \$2195.00 from Total Concepts for the PD and Mill roofs. The Board questioned if the roof on the Mill boiler room may need to meet some historical look so they weren't sure about a metal roof on that building. Town Administrator Beaudin expressed that she would determine if such criteria needed to be met, otherwise the Board agree to go ahead with Total Concepts proposal.

Conservation Commission Resignation

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that Ginger Wells-Kay had submitted her resignation from the Conservation Commission. The Board extended their thanks and wished her well. There was a brief discussion regarding appointing another member, however they decided to wait until later in the meeting to discuss it once the Conservation members arrived for that portion of the meeting.

Budget Work Session

Legal

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the legal budget had remained the same as last year. The funds are used to process Code Enforcement issues, tax appeal and union negotiations.

Personnel Administration

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that she had just received notification that health insurance rates were going up 16.4%, dental rate up 5.5% and life and disability went down slightly. There was discussion regarding pensions and Town Administrator Beaudin noted that they were up 5% due to the lack of funding from the State. Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that she had begun looking into other health insurance options and changes within the current program as the Town is committed to LGC at least through 2011, but did add that changes would only be applied to 19 non union employees. Due to the union contract, changes cannot be made to those employees health insurance. She noted that with a change in prescription co-pays there could possibly be a savings of \$40,000 but cautioned that it really needs further investigation.

Cemeteries

Selectman Morse as a cemetery trustee explained that the budget request has changed minimally as they still in the bidding process for the maintenance portion they built in a 5% increase. He noted that an Eagle Scout had created signs for the cemeteries and the fence at Lamprey Rd cemetery had been completed.

Insurance not allocated elsewhere

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that there was a slight increase in workers compensation premiums but the other insurances remained unchanged.

Emergency Management

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the Emergency Management budget remained unchanged at \$8,000.

Health Agencies

It was noted that South Rd Cemetery had increased their request to \$6,000 and Community Action Program had a slight increase as well but submitted documentation that more than supported their requested. The remaining services requests were unchanged with the exception of Youth Service Bureau who did not submit a request to date. There was

discussion that at the regional meetings it had been brought up that some of these agencies may be absorbed into the County budget in the future.

Library

Selectman Morse noted that salaries had been adjusted by 2% the same as other employees, he had based the health insurance on last year's figures so he will go back and update those figures. He also noted that the computer line was added to the library budget at \$4,100.00, the same as in other departments.

Patriotic Purposes

Town Administrator Beaudin advised that a miscellaneous expense line had been reduced as less busses were used during Old Home Day, otherwise the requests are unchanged.

Principal Debt Service

It was noted that the Pleasant Valley project had been added to this budget while the highway and beach bonds have been eliminated.

Interest Debt Services

It was noted that the Pleasant Valley project had been added to this budget while the highway and beach bonds have been eliminated.

Tan Anticipation Services

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that this budget is unchanged from last year.

The Board discussed that at their next meeting they would do a final review and approve the budget all at once.

Conservation Commission Discussion

As previously discussed, Selectman Morse noted that the Conservation Commission wants to appoint Carol Fairfield currently and alternate to full member status upon the resignation of Ginger Wells-Kay. The committee members present agreed that this is their wish.

Selectman Morse moved to appoint Carol Fairfield a full Conservation Commission member. Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ken Knowlton, Denise Naiva and Carol Fairfield were present to discuss Conservation Commission activity with the Board to bring them up to date. Ken noted that the Town Forest project is nearing completion and indicated that the commission has received a considerable amount of help with the project from a neighbor of the forest, Tim Hayes. Ken noted that Tim's suggestions and help sometimes come before being asked, he has been a great help. The hope of the commission is to eventually be able to advertise the Town Forest as an accessible nature area. Denise added that the Commission is hoping to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony in the spring.

Ken commented that the property on Route 140 is being considered for a conservation trust to strengthen the protection of the parcel of land. He noted that Keith Bennett volunteered to cut the field on the Sanborn Farm property and noted that he did so at his own expense. The commissioners stated that the volunteerism this year has been astounding. Ken advised the Board that commission is looking into purchasing another parcel of land and has begun the report card and other processes necessary to move forward with a purchase. There was discussion of a future river walk that the commissioners where very excited about and have one area with a gap in it right now but are continuing to work on an easement or such. Ken stated that the revitalization committee is a good group of people and want good things for the Town. Ken noted that as things changed the commission would come before the Board again.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board of Selectmen's meeting will be Monday, November 2, 2009 at 5:00 p.m., at the Corner Meeting House.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Ronald Cormier, Chairman

Jon Pike, Vice Chairman

David Morse