

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

February 23, 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, Land Use Technician Rick Ball, Public Works Director Jim Fortin, Donna Cilley, Grace Romprey and several other Pleasant Valley Residents.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the non-public minutes of the January 26, 2009 meeting as written. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Acknowledgement - Cary Lagace

Tow Administrator Beaudin recognized Cary Lagace for successful completion of the Assessing Course II Income Approach to Value toward her assessing certification. Selectman Pike expressed that he would like to see these types of accomplishments published in the local paper under the business acknowledgement section.

Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures

The Board previously received for their review a portion of the Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures. They acknowledged reviewing them and indicated that they had no questions on the procedures received to date.

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the procedures submitted through January 18, 2009, they include A1 through A4, A6 through A18, O1 through O12 & O14 and M1 through M7. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

On a different note, Selectman Pike asked what the policy on sprinklers in multi unit buildings is, Chief Davis explained that it would depend on the nature of the businesses in the building and noted that a building containing a fireworks store would require the building to have full activation of the sprinkler system while other businesses would only have activation by unit.

Fire Department Annual Report

Chief David had provided an Annual Report for the Board's review which is a summary of the prior year's activity. Selectman Caldwell expressed that he was surprised by the number of fire calls, 373. Chief Davis explained that it includes all fire calls including, car fires, fire alarm activation, house fires, etc.

NHMA Policy Recommendations

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that at a recent NHMA meeting regarding Policy Recommendations the voting members felt there was not enough information to support the policies. However there was enough information for the group to support the gas tax increase of 15 cents over the next 3 years. LGC was asked to provide further information which was provided at the subsequent meeting on February 20th. The Governor's budget is recommending cuts that will have a serious impact on all communities. The affect on Belmont will be approximately \$320,000 will the loss of rooms & meals and another approximate \$70,000 of shared revenue. There was the theory that the communities would be kept whole with the education stimulus proposed payments, but it isn't taken into consideration that the school and the municipality have separate operating budgets. It was noted that there is still a lot going on and the budget has other steps that it must go through before it becomes final. The Governor has stood by the fact that he will veto a sales tax so that is not an option, but he has discussed expanded gambling as a possibility.

Selectman Pike noted that he had heard that at the Police Chief's meeting that there was only one chief that supported gambling. Selectman Cormier added that the Board did choose to put forth a statement of support for added gambling. Town Administrator Beaudin expressed that a letter had been sent on behalf of the Board to other local communities expressing the Town's position on expanded gambling. Selectman Cormier added that on March 3rd the hearings on the gambling bills will be heard and he plans on attending those hearings.

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that also during the meeting she attended that it was recommended that communities leaders discuss with their representatives because there is misinformation with the "kept whole" statement that is being made. Selectman Cormier asked that the Department Heads go back and look at their budgets again to determine if there are any areas that could possibly be cut any further. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that because the Town is SB2 now there is no further opportunity to change the budget unless the DRA allows for Special Town Meetings without the court process for this type of change, which has been discussed but not decided.

BCEDC Appointment

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that it is time to re-appoint a representative to the Belknap County Economic Development Committee. Chairman Cormier indicated that he would be willing to continue to serve in that capacity.

Selectman Caldwell moved to re-appoint Chairman Cormier to the BCED Committee. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Hardship Abatement Criteria Amendment

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that the Town had previously update income levels for the Elder Exemption and the Hardship income level should coincide with the income level and also the all household income should be considered during that review so the criteria would include that requirement as well.

Selectman Caldwell moved to amend the Hardship Abatement criteria as presented. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike expressed that he feel the document should also indicate that a violation of the guidelines would void the abatement.

Mazzitelli Follow Up

Town Administrator indicated that she had an opportunity to talk to the Gilmanton Town Administrator's secretary as he was not available and she indicated that there were no special conditions regarding this property, just that the Gilmanton Board agreed to send a request to the Belmont Board. The Board asked Town Administrator Beaudin to issue a letter to the Mazzitelli's explaining that there is no benefit to the Town of Belmont to issue their request.

Public Hearing – Holly Tree Lane and Pinecrest Drive Acceptance

Chairman Cormier opened the Public Hearing for acceptance of Holly Tree Lane and Pinecrest Drive pursuant to RSA 674:40-a at 5:30 p.m.

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that Holly Tree Lane had been dedicated to the Town in 1969 and in 1971 Pinecrest Drive had been dedicated, but the Town has never accepted them and they have remained as private roads. She added that due to the construction project on the water and drainage system in Pleasant Valley it is necessary to consider accepting the roads because the drainage is proposed to flow through that area. Land Use Technician Rick Ball was present and provided a map to the Board that showed the proposed changes for those two roads. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the engineering firm shows this as the best plan for the project, which would connect the two roads for ease of maintenance. Selectman Pike asked if the roads would be paved and Rick Ball indicated that they would be paved. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the acceptance would be effective May 1, 2009 or at the beginning of construction.

Grace Romprey asked the Board what legal right they had to ask her to move the slab on her property that she had approval to build; Rick Ball explained that the slab had been built in the Town's Right of Way. Grace explained that in 1994 she received approval from the Town to build that garage, Rick Ball expressed that she may have but it was not built on her property, it was built in the Town's ROW. He added that the project will be surveyed which will provide a clearer picture of where the boundaries are.

Donna Cilley asked if these roads are private or public roads, Chairman Cormier answered that they are private roads. There was some discussion that the acceptance should be

tabled until the boundaries are set, Rick Ball explained that all property pins will be in place before the acceptance. Donna went on to state that she has a couple of concerns first, that a couple of years ago the Romprey property was a nightmare and the Town went in to clean it up and there was question of contamination in the ground and second, they are private roads and two years ago she asked the Town to take over a Town road and was told the Town is not going to accept any more roads. The Sargent Lake roads had to be set up as emergency ways because the Town wouldn't accept them. The Town refused to accept Jodi Drive a Town road and is now going to accept these private roads. She added that this was not part of the Pleasant Valley project.

Rick Ball noted that the drainage has been going across this area for years. Town Administrator Beaudin added that this is the best location for drainage for this project. It was asked if the statute of limitation for the dedication of the roads may have expired, Rick Ball explained that unless there is a vote otherwise, the dedication remains in effect until the Town acts on it.

Grace asked how much it was going to affect her taxes, Chairman Cormier explained that it is all part of the project cost. Grace added that the safety of the neighborhood would not be the same if the roads are looped. There was additional conversation regarding the addition of trash pickup once the project is complete. Grace asked who would pay for the removal of the slab, it was noted that it would be at the property owners expense. Chairman Cormier indicated that another Public Hearing would be held prior to the acceptance, once the surveys are complete. Donna Cilley asked if an environmental assessment would be done prior to acceptance, Chairman Cormier stated that it will be looked at to determine if that is necessary.

With no further discussion Chairman Cormier closed the Public Hearing at 6:05.

Non-Public Session

Chairman Cormier called the non-public session to order at 6:07 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 6:30 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board of Selectmen's meeting will be Monday, March 3, 2009 at 5:00 p.m., at the Corner Meeting House.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Ronald Cormier, Chairman

Reginald Caldwell

Jon Pike