

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2008, 5:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Cormier called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., also present were Selectman Caldwell, Selectman Jon Pike, Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti, Public Works Director Jim Fortin, Deputy Fire Chief Sean McCarty, Parks & Recreation Director Janet Breton, Tina Fleming, Greta Olson-Wilder, Sue Roberts, David Morse, Linda Frawley, Tom Murphy, Lori with the Citizen and Ray Carbone (5:25) with the Daily Sun. Also joining the meeting later for the Public Hearing on Gambling were Bill McGee from the Lodge at Belmont, Senator Kathy Sgambati, Representative Alida Millham, Representative James Pilliod, & George Condodemetraky,

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Minutes**

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the minutes of the January 7, 2008 meeting as written. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Hearing on Proposed Traffic Ordinance**

Chairman Cormier opened the Public Hearing on the proposed Traffic Ordinance at 5:02 p.m. Chief Baiocchetti explained that the 1977 ordinance has been revised, reviewed by Town Counsel and Public Works Director Jim Fortin. He noted that it will allow for enforcement of parking bans, it designates municipal parking lots, and authorizes the Board of Selectmen to post sign, and paint roads. It also authorizes Public Works to designate no parking areas. Selectman Caldwell asked about commercial restrictions, Chief Baiocchetti stated that everyone has their opinion of what a commercial vehicle is; the ordinance clearly lists what will be considered a commercial vehicle for enforcement purposes. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the second public hearing for this ordinance will be Tuesday, February 19, 2008. Chairman Cormier closed the public hearing at 5:11 p.m.

### **Award RFP – Auditing Services 1/1/2008-12/31/2010**

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that the RFP had been sent to 5 firms for Auditing Services bids, with the numerous changes for municipal auditing most did not bid.

Vachon & Clukay the Towns current auditing firm proposed for three years 2007-\$15,612, 2008-\$16,002 and 2009-\$16,700, Town Administrator Beaudin recommends awarding Vachon & Clukay the contract for auditing services.

Selectman Caldwell moved to award Vachon & Clukay the three year auditing contract as proposed. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Home Day Committee Discussion**

Chairman Cormier explained that he received notice that Tina Fleming is stepping down as Chair of the committee and asked that the committee come in to discuss how they will proceed. Tina explained that due to the recent cuts to the requested budget for the committee she feels it will be too difficult to plan a successful event within the budget amount that has been approved, and is therefore stepping down. She noted that she has heard that more fundraising needs to be done is pointed out that with three regular volunteers it is very difficult to get the event planned never mind doing fundraising. She added that this is a great community event and the expenses associated with it have increased in order to continue to provide a quality event. Chairman Cormier explained that he understands what Tina is saying but cuts have been made everywhere this year.

The committee discussed that they usually have volunteers the day of the event but that isn't the problem, they need volunteers through the planning process. There was discussion of soliciting volunteers and Chairman Cormier expressed that the Board of Selectmen would be willing to run an ad requesting volunteers. Chairman Cormier also stated that he feels strongly that the weekend should change to avoid the Fair weekend. Sue Roberts noted that they usually put out a flyer in March for volunteers, she feels that volunteers have to have community spirit which has to be fostered, the committee will live within whatever the budget is and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the road race event is this year and has already been advertised as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in August. Chairman Cormier expressed that he understands for this year it would have to remain on that date but a change should be looked into for future Old Home Days.

There was discussion that looking for volunteers and planning the events probably needs to happen year round. The Board wants to see the event continue, however it is a volunteer program and if volunteers can't be found to get job done it may have to dissolve. Chairman Cormier pointed out that Janet helped with vendors last and did the committee want her assistance again. Janet noted that this year may be more difficult for her because the summer day camp has been extended even closer to the Old Home Day event, but she will be willing to do what she can. The committee agreed that they would like Janet's help again. There was discussion of the many expenses associated with OHD that are budgeted elsewhere such as fireworks and busses. Linda Frawley commented that she is on the Budget Committee and still isn't sure what the exact cost of the event is. Janet added that she can send a volunteer flyer to the people on her Parks & Recreation database list.

### **Ballot Questions – Curfew & Noise Ordinances**

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed the ballot questions with the Board. She noted that the SB2 Public hearing will be on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The SB2 question will be on the ballot and voted on March 11<sup>th</sup>. There has been an SB2 petition for the school and the school board has chosen to not support it. On the ballot is the SB2 question, the Noise Ordinance and the Curfew Ordinance.

Selectman Caldwell move to accept the ballot as written. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Petition Warrant Article presented**

David Morse presented that Board with a petition warrant article that requests that the Board of Selectmen meetings be taped and broadcast on the local public access station. It requests that up to \$5,000 be appropriated for equipment. He explained to the Board that he feels it is important to get the word out to the public and this is a great way to do that. Chairman Cormier stated that he has no problem with this idea. Linda Frawley indicated that the community franchise agreement includes money for the purchase of the equipment, and a resident of Belmont has volunteered to help do the set up. She added that on two occasions Belmont has already used this service and the equipment will be owned by the Town so it could be used for additional purposes. She noted that the media tends to be fragmented but with this media it can reach 32,000 homes in the broadcast area. The Board accepted the warrant article.

### **Public Forum relative to Gambling**

Chairman Cormier started the Public Forum at 6:05 p.m. He explained that the forum was to discuss the possible expansion of gambling in NH and specifically at the Lodge at Belmont. The Lodge is one of four dog tracks in NH and the tracks appear to be where the proposed Bills would consider expanded gambling. David Morse asked how can he know if he supports it when it is not known what the affect on Belmont will be or how much the State will expand gambling. Chairman Cormier indicated that from the research that he has done the State is looking to legalize slot machines, not table games with the Town receiving ½% to 2% which would generate revenues in the 1-2 million dollar range annually. Senator Sgambati indicated that the State is testing the waters to see how people feel toward different approaches. Alida Millham indicated that there are currently 5 bills that are being proposed three of which are focused specifically to the charity gambling and the percentage pay outs to the charity.

Chairman Cormier expressed that he is in favor of expanded gambling if it is done smartly, there are many places that have gambling and unless you were looking for it you may not even know it is there. It is his opinion that it is entertainment that people make a choice to do, and the municipality can benefit from it. Bill McGee indicated that he hasn't done research on the expansion of gambling but would welcome whatever was legalized because the track has seen an approximate 3% decrease in revenue for the last several years. He expressed that he is in favor of the charity gambling but is hard to answer whether he is in favor of what the State is doing with out knowing the specific proposal. George Condodemetraky expressed that he thought gambling would attract the wrong type of people to the area or the locals would go there and loose everything they have which would affect the Town negatively from the welfare side of it. Selectman Caldwell stated that whether it is here or somewhere else if someone wants to gamble they will go to where it is happening.

There was discussion if there were studies of the economic impact from gambling with Senator Sgambati indicating that there are many studies but they are kind of all over the place and analyzing what they mean is very difficult. Chairman Cormier noted there is currently a wide range of types of gambling center from the full blown Vegas to the much smaller don't even know it is there just slots gambling and it is hard to know what would happen here. He also noted that whatever the community impact would be there would be the revenues that would help offset the expense to the community. There was further discussion regarding the need to increase revenues for the State and most don't want to see the income or sales tax so something has to be done. Selectman Pike stated that nobody wants to see change but everyone

wants and expects more, you have to pay for it some how. Representative Pilliod expressed that he has no moral obligation one way or the other and he hasn't made up his mind. He feels that the lodge hasn't seen any increase in crime or anything like that and if everyone makes money from it he is OK with that.

Senator Sgambati expressed that they are listening to the communities and if there is further information that comes about it should be given to her. Chairman Cormier explained that the gambling facility if Delaware has a very similar rural setting and he encouraged people to go see it and you can see the gambling facility has had very little impact on the visual rural setting. He thanked everyone for coming and closed the public forum at 7:03 p.m.

### **Award RFQ – Engineering Services Pleasant Valley Feasibility Study**

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the RFQ for the engineering services for the Pleasant Valley Feasibility Study were sent out and 4 engineering firms responded. She added that the proposals were reviewed independently by herself, David McLelland and Candy Daigle. She recommended that the Board authorize her to work with Horizons Engineering on the project. Horizons has the availability to get the job done in time to have figures available for Town Meeting, they have access to alternative funding sources, have the experience and can work within the budget. Chairman Cormier expressed that he thought it will be good to work with another engineering firm.

Selectman Pike moved to authorize Town Administrator Beaudin to sign a contract and work with Horizons Engineering on the Pleasant Valley Feasibility Study. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Award RFP – Grant Administration Services - CDBG**

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that administration services for the Pleasant Valley Grant had been put out for bid with only one response from Donna Kerwin Lane. She has worked with the Town on previous grants and is very qualified. Her bid was for \$1,200 which Town Administrator Beaudin is recommending the Board accept her proposal.

Selectman Caldwell moved to hire Donna Kerwin Lane to handle administrative services for the Pleasant Valley Grant per her proposal for \$1,200. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **2008 Budget Changes**

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed with the Board changes that the Budget Committee had made from the Board's initial votes. Chairman Cormier stated that it was his opinion that the Board should not revote on any items that they had previously approved unless there was a department request for change not just the Budget Committee approved a different amount. The other Board members agreed.

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that Police Department line item 4210-309 Uniform Cleaning had been reduced to \$2,000 by the Budget Committee. Chairman Cormier noted that at the Budget Committee meeting David Morse felt that the Police Department had not reduced their budget enough and this was his way of that happening. Chairman Cormier added that he felt the Department Heads had done a good job with making cuts when requested to do so and he would like to see the Board leave this line item as they had initially voted at \$3,000. The Board agreed to leave line item 4210-309 at \$3,000.

The Building Inspector had added a request for \$1,000 for protective clothing, such as a hard hat, steel toed boots, etc. The Budget Committee approved \$500.00 of that line item 4242-015. Town Administrator Beaudin explained that Building Inspector Steve Dalton was OK with the approved amount. Selectman Caldwell moved line item 4240-215 in the amount of \$500.00 for protective clothing. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that with the addition of a second vehicle to the Building Inspection budget there are two increases that have been requested to cover related repair and maintenance of the two vehicles.

Selectman Caldwell moved to increase line item 4240-707 to \$1,000. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike moved to increase line item 4240-715 to \$800. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the State issued amount for the Highway Block Grant budget item is \$162,744. Selectman Caldwell moved to amend line item 4319-001 to \$162,744. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that General Assistance Director Donna Cilley had requested an increase in line item 4445-430 to \$125,000 based on actual expenditures being higher than initially requested, the Budget Committee approved \$130,000. Selectman Pike moved to amend line item 4445-430 to \$130,000. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that due to the change in the Summer Day Camp Program for the Parks & Recreation department, Janet Breton has requested the following increases: 4520-111 to \$4,400, 4520-112 to \$3,118, 4520-113 to \$21,726 and 4520-718 to \$14,531. Selectman Pike moved to amend the Parks & Recreation line items as requested. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Fire Department Inspector Proposal**

The Board reviewed a memo received from the Deputy Fire Chief that requested reconsideration of the Fire Inspectors position as part-time. Chairman Cormier explained that during the budget committee meeting following a tie vote and then a revote when an additional member arrived, the budget committee voted against supporting the addition of this position to the Fire Department. Selectman Pike noted that after receiving community feedback regarding the need to limit spending this year he has decided that he would like the Board to reconsider their initial support of this position and he made a motion to withdraw the support of the request and zero the line item. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike went on to say that he would consider supporting the position on a part-time basis if for next year someone from within the current department positions were trained and promoted to inspections along with their current responsibilities. Chairman Cormier indicated that after listening to the concerns regarding the position and much thought that he would recommend that funds be put into a professional services type of line item and the work be contracted out, have the individual concentrate on a specific area and get a feel for how this position would work out. Deputy McCarty expressed that the concern with that would be consistency between contractors. Town Administrator Beaudin added that when the Building

Inspection office required coverage they were able to find one individual to do the work and it actually worked out very well. The Board agreed that they would be willing to support \$15,000 for the initial use of a contracted inspector to evaluate how it would work out.

Selectman Caldwell moved to increase the Fire Prevention line item to \$16,500 with \$15,000 earmarked for use to pay a contracted individual for fire inspections. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Town Administrators Report** **Warrant Article Discussion**

Town Administrator Beaudin reminded everyone of the Budget Public Hearing tomorrow, Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Cormier noted that during discussions at the Budget Committee meeting on the Comstar warrant Article changes it showed that there was a gap so if one of the articles were to fail the funds would not be allocated properly, so they have been reversed in order to avoid that problem. The rest of the articles will be written to be contingent upon the first article passing.

There was a brief discussion regarding the new petition warrant article and Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that she will review the Franchise Agreement for further information.

Chairman Cormier noted that he would like the non-binding referendum on expanded gambling question to be as simple as possible to better analysis what the voters want.

### **Elderly Exemption Changes**

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed with the Board the new levels of exemption being proposed in the Town Meeting warrant for the Elderly. She noted that currently age 65-74 receive a \$50,000 exemption is being proposed to increase to \$65,000, age 75-79 currently \$65,000 being proposed to increase to \$80,000 and age 80 and up currently \$80,000 being proposed to increase to \$125,000. She noted that these changes will have an impact but it is uncertain at this time what it will be.

### **Conservation Commission Appointment**

The Board reviewed a request from Scott Rolfe to be reappointed as a full member to the Conservation Commission. He noted that he is looking forward to continuing his efforts with the Conservation Commission.

Selectman Caldwell moved to reappoint Scott Rolfe as a full member on the Conservation Commission for a three year term. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Non-Public Session**

Chairman Cormier opened the non-public session at 7:48 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c). Roll call was taken and those present were Ron Cormier, Reginald Caldwell and Jon Pike. Those voting were Ron Cormier and Reginald Caldwell. Also present was Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin.

Chairman Cormier closed the non-public session at 8:20 p.m.

Selectman Caldwell moved that the detached apartment on the Young property is a legal non-conforming use. Chairman Cormier second and the motion passed, Selectman Pike abstained.

**Next Meeting**

The next regular Board of Selectmen's meeting will be Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Ronald Cormier, Chairman

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Reginald Caldwell

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Jon Pike