

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2008, 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, Town Planner Candace Daigle, Fire Chief Jim Davis, Deputy Fire Chief Sean McCarty, Code Enforcement Officer Steve Dalton, Donna Cilley, Tilton Selectman Katherine Dawson, Jim Valtz, Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti, Attorney Mark Broth, Gail Ober with the Citizen, Eric Zygmunt with the Winnisquam Echo and Ray Carbone with the Laconia Daily Sun.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Minutes**

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

### **Tilton Selectman Katherine Dawson**

Chairman Cormier welcomed Selectman Dawson. She began by explaining that the Tilton Northfield Fire District had a study done which was provided to the Board for their review. She went on to explain that there have been several residents that have expressed concern for emergency coverage since the closure of the Winnisquam Fire Department. She asked what the Board's future plans for the WFD are. Selectman Pike noted that there has been discussion of closing the station for budgetary reasons. Chairman Cormier added that the property has a considerable value and isn't being staffed fulltime. Chairman Cormier commented that he must have misunderstood the request for this meeting because he thought the discussion was going to be on regionalization. Selectman Dawson noted that the study didn't touch on regionalization. She added that she's not sure regionalization would benefit Tilton as it is only 11 square miles in area and the study focused more on how to provide better services on the other side of exit 20 where the traffic can slow response times. She then asked how Belmont feels about regionalization.

Selectman Pike expressed that he feels that Belknap County would need to be divided in to three areas of service and with rising costs regionalization will be demanded. He added that Belmont is responding to calls in all surrounding communities and cost wise it needs to be looked at. Chairman Cormier commented that he didn't agree completely with Selectman Pike and feels that there are huge hurdles that would come with trying the merge equipment and property from several communities. Each community has to decide what type of service they want to provide and Belmont has chosen to provide a full time department. Selectman Pike commented that it a matter of sharing resources.

Chairman Cormier stated that with the Winnisquam Fire Department a request for minimal contributions from two communities to continue the same level of response out of the Winnisquam Fire Station and they thought it was to much. He added that if you can't make it work at the Winnisquam Fire department how can you make it work on a much larger scale? Selectman Caldwell asked Chief Davis how much talk there is of regionalization, Chief Davis responded that the chiefs do talk about it but are waiting for someone to show them a plan. He added that some feel it would have to come from Concord and noted that initially the cost to communities would be more before they would see the cost savings of regionalization.

It was discussed that the mutual aid system is a form of regionalization with the expense belonging to each individual community. Tilton Selectman Dawson offered that maybe the mutual aid system is what needs to be looked at for change. Chief Davis noted that he is required by law to respond to mutual aid calls and the bigger communities do end up bailing out the smaller communities and he remembers when Belmont was the smaller community being bailed out by the bigger community.

Tilton resident Pat Clark asked the Board if they would consider cost sharing with the communities in the area of the Winnisquam Fire Department. Chairman Cormier expressed that he is leary of doing that because of the time that was spent trying to do that before to no avail, but anything is possible. He added that there are a lot of questions and problems that would have to be resolved and he doesn't believe Belmont is interested in the Fire District option. He feels there needs to be discussion regarding it at the Chief's level. Selectman Dawson thanked the Board for leaving the door open to possibilities. The Board thanked Selectman Dawson for coming.

### **Jim Valtz – Bell Drive Resident**

Jim Valtz was present to discuss recent correspondence regarding the Town discontinuing maintenance services on private roads. He gave a brief history of the property and then explained that his primary concern is the bank that is created at the end of the road by the State plows and asked if the Town would break it open when they come to clean out the hydrant that is on the property. He explained that maintaining the roadway will be a hardship but that getting through the bank created by the plow truck would be near impossible with the equipment that he has. It was discussed that the ROW would be located to determine if the hydrant is in the ROW and determine if the Town can assist with clearing the end of the roadway. Town Administrator Beaudin advised Mr. Valtz that she would contact him with the determination after the Board has been apprised of the results.

### **Old Home Day Request**

Tina Fleming sent a request on behalf of the Old Home Day committee requesting an earlier road closure time to accommodate the road races. She has requested closure from 9 a.m.

to 2 p.m. There was discussion of closing from Mill south entrance to Depot Street as well as a portion of Fuller Street.

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the Old Home Day road closure time change as proposed. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Fuel Oil Purchasing**

Town Administrator Beaudin advised that the Town has been allowed to participate in the School District's #2 fuel purchase program that was awarded to Fuller Oil at a rate of \$4.295 per gallon through April. The Town buildings that are able to capitalize on the program are the Town Hall, Corner Meeting House and Winnisquam Fire Department.

### **Parks & Recreation Hire**

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a memo from Parks & Recreation Director Janet Breton stating that Stephanie Desrosier has accepted the position of Activities Supervisor. She will work approximately 20 hours per week. Stephanie has coached a number of different sports with varying age groups with in Belmont. The Board was pleased that the position has been filled.

Chairman Cormier discussed his interest in providing some kind of building for the Parks & Recreation Department at it's present site in place of the current trailer that is rented. He noted that he invisioned a steel building with a concrete floor, mostly open for activities to take place, but to also include a small office for Janet. Selectman Pike commented that he felt the building could be erected relatively inexpensive however the internal features could get costly. Selectman Caldwell thought the Board should get together a plan to present to the community. Selectman Pike suggested that the Candy Daigle the Town Planner advise the Board what size building could be built on that site. Chairman Cormier indicated that he thought the building could be funded by existing funds from the Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve fund. Donna Cilley asked the Board to reconsider presenting this project at this time due to the hard economic times that the community is feeling. Chairman Cormier stated that he would reconsider.

### **Tax Deeding Property Update**

Town Administrator Beaudin explained to the Board that the tax deeding process is ready to move ahead with and she reminded the Board that the eviction process is going to be approximately 60 days and although some park owners may be willing to work with the Town on park rents that may be due, others may not. Several of the units being considered for deeding owe back park rent. Chairman Cormier commented that if park owners would like any of these units removed from their parks this may be a concession they are willing to make. He added that each property would have to be looked at case by case.

### **Anticipated Tax Value 2008**

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that the 2007 abatement applications have been responded to with the exception of one remaining property. As a result of the abatements and value changes resulting from pickups, the Town's overall value only appears to have increased by about \$400,000 for 2008. We also saw an increase in elderly exemptions amounting to about \$3.2 million; this coupled with decreased revenues may result in a slight increase in the

anticipated tax rate for 2008. She will continue to monitor the information and advise the Board in late August.

### **Fire Department 6 Month Status Report**

The Board reviewed the 6 Month Fire Department Status Report provided by Chief Davis. Selectman Pike asked if the training for the ladder truck was finished, Chief Davis indicated that the majority of the training is complete. Selectman Pike asked Chief Davis what his feelings on regionalization are, Chief Davis explained that for the most part he is in favor of it and he and the other chiefs do discuss it.

### **Cotton Hill/Union Road Status**

Chairman Cormier asked what the status of Cotton Hill and Union Roads is, Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that an issue has arisen with the drainage on Cotton Hill that is being dealt with and there are a couple of outstanding easements on Union Road but things are moving forward and Cotton Hill paving has been completed. The authorization for design at the Union and Horne Road intersection has been signed and the engineering for Horne Road will be finished next year.

### **Video Equipment Donation**

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that a very generous anonymous donation was made to the Town for the balance of the cost of the video equipment for recording meetings. The anonymous donation was a little more the \$2,200 and the donor suggested that a video library be considered for the Public Library. The Board expressed thanks to the donor.

### **Harris Property – Code Enforcement**

Code Enforcement Officer Steve Dalton was present to discuss the Code Enforcement issue at the Harris property on Hurricane Road. Steve explained to the Board that he had hoped to have a final determination regarding the property this evening however, he hasn't received the final determination from legal counsel. He noted that Mr. Harris has worked with him to try and resolve the situation in a timely manner. Mr. Harris has taken away a lot of the vehicles and parts that were being stored on his property. Soil sampling of areas of concern showed no contamination of the soil. Steve advised the Board that a determination of what the grandfathered rights of the property are is being performed and he hopes that the results of this situation are final and the issue won't need to be dealt with again.

Selectman Pike commented that the owner of a neighboring property, Mr. Decato, commented in the newspaper regarding the cars he has on his property and suggests that Steve look into all the properties that knowingly operate auto repair businesses to determine their compliance. Steve indicated that Mr. Decato's property has gone through the court proceedings and can quickly be determined to be in compliance and he will create a list of the other properties that he will look into for compliance.

### **Non-Public Session**

Chairman Cormier opened the non-public session at 6:25 p.m. with Town Counsel. Roll call was taken and those present and voting were Ron Cormier, Reggie Caldwell and Jon Pike.

Also present was Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Chief Baiocchetti and Attorney Mark Broth.

Chairman Cormier closed the non-public session at 7:45 p.m.

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The Board of Selectmen authorized Town Administrator Beaudin to create a documented sick bank for an employee.

**Next Meeting**

The next regular Board of Selectmen's meeting will be Monday, August 4, 2008 at 5:00 p.m., at the Corner Meeting House.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Ronald Cormier, Chairman

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Reginald Caldwell

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Jon Pike