

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

August 18, 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, Fire Chief Jim Davis, Deputy Fire Chief Sean McCarty, Ron & Gerrie Mitchell, Water Department Manager David McLelland, 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 Pike moved to accept the minutes of the August 4, 2008 meeting as written. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Monument Square

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that a painted sidewalk in the area of the monument was to be the topic of discussion but because the State is doing construction in that area discussion is deferred until construction has been completed.

Chairman Cormier asked if the street lines are going to be repainted this year, he indicated that they all don't need to be painted but the ones with higher traffic levels need to be painted. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that it hadn't been budgeted for this year but she will look at the Public Works budget to determine if it can be funded.

Town Administrator Beaudin added that Board will be presented with a sidewalk alternative plan at their next meeting as well.

Anticipated Tax Impact

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed the anticipated tax impact for 2008 noting that by utilizing unexpended fund balance and a portion of overlay the anticipated tax rate would increase approximately .03 cents. Selectman Pike commented that he was concerned with the cash flow after the first of the year with the economy as it is property owners may not pay their taxes as in years past. Selectman Caldwell noted that a significant number of property owners have their taxes escrowed so he doesn't believe that will be a big problem. Town Administrator Beaudin commented that it isn't any different than the Board has done in the past. She also indicated that the final revenue figures are being compiled and should be available at the Boards next meeting.

BRATT Trail Update

Ron Mitchell was present to update the Board on the status of the BRATT project. He explained to the Board that the cost of the fence needed in the Phase I portion of the project came in much higher than anticipated leaving the completion of Phase I short on funding. Phase II was set up in such a manner that the funds from Phase II can only be used on Phase II work and the funds haven't been appropriated yet. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the BRATT fund has \$381,716, and the Capital Reserve account has \$61,040. Ron Mitchell noted that to further complicate the project most residents on Dutile Shore Road don't want the trail to run along that road. In an effort to alleviate that problem the businesses on Route 3 were contacted to determine if they would allow easements across their property. Piche's has expressed that they would allow a temporary easement allowing the trail to run across their property until such time that the trail is routed back to the original proposed route if easements are obtained.

It was determined that \$437,300 would have to be gross appropriated in order to move forward with the project. Voters will have to be educated on what all of this means and the media can help with that. Ron Mitchell commented that he believes if the project doesn't move forward this year it will probably go away. The Board expressed that they support the request to move forward with a warrant article for this year.

Town Administrators Report

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that she has followed up with the Lodge at Belmont and they have come current with their payments to the Town.

Town Administrator Beaudin updated the Board on the abandoned mobile home issue within Pine Garden Mobile Home Park. She advised that the unit in question had the taxes abated a few years back to allow Mr. Dupont to remove the unit from his park but due to manner in which it was abandoned he couldn't move it and it started accumulating back taxes again. Case law indicates that he can move the unit from the lot but not from his park, it also indicates that the Tax Collector's Deed releases all liens but the unit would begin to be assessed a park rent fee from the deed date until the unit is removed from the park and Mr. Dupont is not willing to work with the Town at this point.

She reminded the Board that there is an Economic Development meeting on Monday, August 25 at 4:30. The next Board meeting is September 8th and the budget review process will begin and the Board agreed to meet early at 3:00 p.m. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that she has met with department heads regarding the construction of a steel building for recreation use and will provide recommendations at the Board's September 8th meeting.

Route 3 Waterline Agreement

Chairman Cormier spoke regarding the recent negotiations between Belmont and Laconia relative to the Route 3 waterline agreement. The agreement was being considered for amendment due to sewer negotiations for a project on Bishop Road, Laconia did not like the 1969 agreement and felt that they would request a renegotiation in order to talk sewer line connection on the other project. Laconia Town Manager stated in the newspaper that the most recent proposal from Belmont was unacceptable. Laconia responded with a version of the agreement of their own which Chairman Cormier stated is completely unacceptable and as far as he is concerned the negotiations between Belmont and Laconia done. As far as the sewer issue for the other project there are other avenues that the Town will consider pursuing. The Board felt that the proposed project is a business that would benefit all the surrounding communities and beyond and Laconia should have been more receptive to working these agreements out.

There was a brief discussion of the alternative option for the sewer hookup and project off of Bishop Road and Chairman Cormier indicated that there is the possibility of purchasing the sewer line from Mr. McGreevy however, that would be a function of the Sewer Commission.

Chairman Cormier moved to suspend further negotiations of the waterline agreement with the City of Laconia. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Non-Public Session

Chairman Cormier opened the non-public session at 6:00 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c) - Roll call was taken 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 no decisions were made and the meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board of Selectmen's meeting will be Monday, September 8, 2008 at 5:00 p.m., at the Corner Meeting House.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Ronald Cormier, Chairman

Reginald Caldwell

Jon Pike