

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2007, 6:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Watterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., also present were, Selectman Reginald Caldwell, Selectman Ronald Cormier, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, David Morse, Deputy Fire Chief James David, Fire Chief Richard Siegel, General Assistance Director Donna Cilley, and Ray Carbone with the Daily Sun.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2006 meeting as written. Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Cormier moved to accept the minutes of the December 18, 2006 meeting as written. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Amnesty Extension for Membrane Structures Only

Town Administrator Beaudin explained to the Board that Code Enforcement Field Inspector Rick Stroscher in his time out in the field found 30+ membrane structure code violations. In an effort to bring all of these into compliance he has requested that the amnesty program be extended to March 31st for **membrane structures only**. He feels this will allow him the time to send letters to each of the violations and offer them the extended time to come into compliance without additional penalty. There was discussion regarding the reason for the permits' being required on membrane structures is due to the need for them to meet setbacks and because they are becoming more of permanent structures. Town Administrator Beaudin

pointed out that even though membrane structures require a permit they are not assessed for tax purposes.

Selectman Cormier moved to extend the Amnesty Program for Membrane Structures Only to March 31st. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously

NHCTC Request for Themed Dinner Nights

There was a brief discussion regarding the request from the Technical College to hold themed dinner nights at the Food for Thought Cafe in which they would serve alcohol that is provided by patrons. Town Administrator Beaudin advised that the Towns insurance company felt that it was OK as long as the College provided a certificate of insurance. They noted that although the Town owns the building they are not sponsoring the events. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that she hasn't heard from Mr. Morrissey whom she has heard retired so she is not sure if they have received authorization from their State Agency yet.

The Board agreed that they would readdress this request once they receive confirmation that the College has authorization from their leaders to proceed with this type of function.

2007 Budget **Pleasant Valley Project**

Town Administrator Beaudin advised that initial estimates from Underwood Engineers indicate the project in Pleasant Valley will cost approximately 1.5 million with the grant maximum amount being \$500,000, leaving \$1 million to be funded through taxation. Chairman Watterson expressed that he wants to be able to move forward with this project, although all of the Board members agree it's more than they anticipated. There was discussion of spreading bond payments out over a longer period and if the project is done then those roads would be removed from the Road Management Project for a cost savings. Selectman Cormier inquired if it is possible to cover some of the project cost or payments through other operating accounts such as drainage. Town Administrator Beaudin expressed that it would be possible but it would have to be looked at carefully because some of the funds are earmarked for other projects. Chairman Watterson felt it would be possible to find offsetting revenue and does not want to walk away from the project due to cost.

Selectman Cormier suggested that the Board let the Budget Committee look at it and give their input. David Morse expressed that he felt it would not be fair to put it before the Budget Committee without additional information. Chairman Watterson noted that it should be run by the Budget Committee at this stage because they may decide to reject the project altogether. Town Administrator Beaudin felt that she could provide preliminary figures for the project and show where other cost savings may occur.

Ladder/Pumper

Town Administrator Beaudin advised that she has been in contact with E1 the supplier of the ladder/pumper truck being requested by the Fire Department. She noted that the cost of the equipment is \$822,239 and a lease/purchase option is being considered. With \$0 down for 7 years at 5.35% the annual payment would be \$143,906 and for 10 years at 5.38% the annual payment would be \$108,457. The lease would begin in March 2007 with the first payment being due in March 2008 to be paid by the Ambulance Revenue Fund. Selectman Caldwell inquired why the \$0 down option is being considered, Town Administrator Beaudin explained

that with the current schedule the Ambulance Revenue Fund the fund would run out by 2013 and sooner if a down payment is made. Selectman Cormier added that he would like to see it proposed for 10 years and noted the difference between putting money down or not is so little that the no down payment option would help preserve the Ambulance Fund.

Selectman Cormier moved to recommend presenting the Ladder/pumper Truck purchase in the budget with the lease/purchase option and the first payment due March 2008. Selectman Caldwell seconded. Donna Cilley inquired why if there is more than enough revenue generated in the ambulance fund how it is going to run out of money, Chairman Watterson explained that the schedule for other purchases is included in the projects for the account which would run the balance down. There was discussion that some of those future purchases may be able to be pushed out as well as the revenues could increase in that time frame. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that it will be presented as two warrant articles, one for the lease/purchase agreement and the second to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend funds from the ambulance revenue fund for the payments. Selectman Cormier expressed that the lease/purchase will be presented to the Budget committee at their next meeting.

With no further discussion the Board of Selectmen voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Parks & Recreation Revolving Account

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that she and Parks & Recreation Director Janet Breton had discussed setting up a revolving fund for offsetting revenues for programs that the department runs. It is similar to the one set up for the Police Department and would allow her greater flexibility for running programs. When monies are received for programs that are self supporting, excluding the summer day program, they would go into this account and be available to cover the cost of the event. Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that it would have to be presented by warrant article at Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen agreed that this should be pursued.

Water Department

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that at a previous Budget Committee meeting Rich Fournier has suggested that the Route 3 Project and the Well #3 Development be bonded together and paid by water user fees. She indicated that she has researched this option and has determined that as long as there are two separate warrant articles for the two projects if they are both voted in, funding can be combined into one bond.

Police Station

Town Administrator indicated that the preliminary floor plan for the new Police Station is done and initial estimates for construction are \$2.1. The GMP will be available prior to Town Meeting. She noted that the square footage is 7850. David Morse inquired if the Municipal Facilities Committee has reviewed the plans, Selectman Cormier indicated that they had not met recently so have not reviewed the plans. Chairman Watterson noted that with the preliminary estimate now available he feels it's important to present a figure to the Budget Committee and suggested presenting \$2.2 million to the Budget Committee knowing that figure will be fine tuned in the near future.

Selectman Cormier moved to bond \$2.2 million for the construction of the new Police Station. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ray Carbone asked why the Board of Selectmen decided to change the architect on the project; Town Administrator Beaudin explained that the Board of Selectmen had not received any of the initial work in a timely manner. Donna Cilley expressed that she feels the acceptance of the gift of land on Field Land is a bad idea and believes that the Police Stations current location could be reworked for the new police station. She also expressed that the Town shouldn't accept land that is zoned Industrial as it could be developed with even greater benefit to the Town. Selectman Cormier pointed out that the property isn't for sale so development isn't likely.

Donna added that free isn't free and the individual giving the gift is receiving a benefit for gifting the land to the Town. David Morse asked if there is a back up plan for the property if accepted and the Police Station isn't. Suggestions were for a park or ball fields.

Sewer Commission Appointment

The Board agreed to defer the appointment of anyone to the Sewer Commission until their next meeting.

Town Administrators Report

Town Administrator Beaudin asked the Board of Selectmen what hours they want the polls open for Town Elections, they were most recently 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Board agreed they felt 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. is best following complaints that they should be open the same hours as the other elections.

Selectman Caldwell move to have the polls open on Town Election day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Debra McManus from NH DRED office stopped in to see Town Administrator Beaudin to discuss marketing for bringing commercial and industrial businesses to Belmont. She noted that Debra would like to discuss options with the Board of Selectmen at a future meeting. Selectman Cormier suggested that perhaps Liza Ledbeater with the local Economic Development organization could attend as well.

Town Administrator Beaudin reminded those present of the Special Town Meeting, to accept a gift of land on Field Lane from All M, LLC, will be held Thursday, January 11, 2006 at 7 p.m. in the Belmont Middle School cafeteria.

Other New Business

David Morse asked the Board when the Fire Department study will be ready. He was advised that there will be some preliminary information provided to the Budget Committee members at their meeting tomorrow night.

Non-Public Session

Chairman Watterson moved to open the non-public session at 7:24 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II c. Roll call was taken and those present and voting were Ron Cormier,

Brian Watterson, and Reginald Caldwell. Also present were Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin and Fire Chief Richard Siegel.

Chairman Watterson closed the non-public 7:30 p.m. No decisions were made.

Under Other Business, Chief Siegel asked if the Board had an opportunity to review the call data and budget estimate submitted to the Board relative to participation by the Town of Sanbornton in the costs related to the Winnisquam station. Discussion followed on the matter, and the Board agreed that based on call data and the overall Fire Department budget, that approximately a 10% increase in the requested reimbursement would be submitted to Sanbornton. The Board agreed that \$18,296 would be the 2007 reimbursement request.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting will be Monday, January 22, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Brian Watterson, Chairman

Ronald Cormier

Reginald Caldwell