

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Cormier called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m., also present were, Selectman Reginald Caldwell, Selectman Jon Pike, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Public Works Director Bob Bennett, Keith Pratt with Underwood Engineers, Jim Fortin, David Morse, Rick Ball, Janet Breton, Lori Ingram with the Citizen 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 April 2, 2007 meeting as written, Chairman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Works – Road Work

Bob Bennett was present to provide to the Board of Selectmen his recommendation for road work for the upcoming year. His list is made up of many of the roads suggested by the engineering company for overlays. Bob pointed out that many of those roads were recommended for just overlay with no shim. He believes that most of them need to be shimmed as well as overlaid which increases the expense for each road. There was discussion that quotes should be obtained before the final decision is made as to which roads get worked on. Chairman Cormier noted that with the Route 3 project going on that a lot of traffic is diverting to the Belmont roads such as Horne Road and Union Road to avoid the construction and perhaps those roads are going to need work with the increased traffic. Selectman Pike pointed out that Upper Parish Settlement may be seeing increased traffic with the construction in that area too. Bob noted that typically there is a stipulation that the construction firm is responsible for the condition of the road. He also noted that in the past road work decisions were based on traffic counts. There was discussion regarding the need for work on Cotton Hill Road and Chairman Cormier stated that

the people that he has heard from appear to be happy with the status of the road. Ray Carbone who lives on Cotton Hill commented that the road is good and the better you make the road the faster they drive on it. His opinion was that if asked, the residents would probably be 50/50 on whether or not to make any improvements.

Chairman Cormier felt that the focus should be more on major roads. Bob pointed out that the suggested roads would require some reconstruction. There was discussion regarding getting quotes for work to be done on Horne Road, Union Road (not in its entirety), Bean Hill Road and an overlay on Cotton Hill Road. It was noted that Bob and his crew would do the drainage, construction and paving would be put out to bid. Keith Pratt inquired that if the work was contracted out can the contracted firm utilize the Town's gravel pit, there was a brief discussion regarding this and Town Administrator Beaudin explained that the easements restricted against commercial sale of materials but should be able to be utilized for all Town projects, but she will verify that contract firms can utilize the pit on the Town's behalf.

Survey for Town Project List

Chairman Cormier explained that through the survey that will be issued to residents the intention is to come up with direction for the large projects that need to be addressed. He added that Town Administrator Beaudin had created a list of the top six projects which include Municipal Facilities (Town Hall, Police Station, Library & Community Center), Pleasant Valley water and drainage project, Road Management program and Fire Department Ladder/Pumper Truck. There was discussion regarding a mailing of the survey as well as an online survey. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that Mike Cozort had indicated they would be willing to distribute the survey through the schools; however it was felt that residents may feel that only residents with children in school were the focus. Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that she will have a draft of the survey ready for the May 7th meeting.

Northway Finance Proposal – Route 3 Project

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that previously she had received an interest rate quote of 5.25% from Laconia Savings Bank, but has more recently received from Northway Bank an offer of 4.02% on a 10 year note for \$337,000 with the first payment not being due for one full year. The NH Bond Bank had offered 3.9%, however there are fees and other costs associated with their loan and they recommended that the Town utilize the Northway offer.

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the offer of 4.02% on a 10 year note for \$337,000. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Land Merger – Town Owned Dutille Road Lots

Land Use Technician Rick Ball was present and explained to the Board of Selectmen the on going project regarding the Town owned lots on Dutille Road. He explained that the Town has come to ownership of these lots due to a subdivision from many years ago going defunct and owners offering their lots back to the Town or the lots being taken by Tax Collector's deed for nonpayment of taxes. Because the number of lots that is now owned by the Town is so significant it is the suggestion of Rick that the lots be merged into to four larger lots for primarily mapping purposes. Selectman Pike asked what the intention for the lots is; Rick explained that the Conservation Commission has shown an interest in the parcels. Selectman Caldwell noted

that he believes that there is also an abutter interested in the parcels. Town Administrator Beaudin advised that the abutter had been told that if the parcels were going to be sold they would be notified, however, that is not the intention at this time.

David Morse commented that when these lots were discussed at the Conservation Commission level, Roger Doucette and he were pleased with the Conservation interest. David asked why this proposal isn't represented by the Conservation Commission or the Planning Board. Rick Ball noted that the Planning Board will look at this just as a merger of lots. Selectman Pike commented that the Conservation Commission will need to come forward with their request. David Morse asked if any of the lots had been given to the Town with the understanding that they would be used for conservation purposes, Rick Ball responded that none of the owners were solicited for Conservation Commission use.

Chairman Cormier signed the merger documents and thanked Rick Ball for his work on this project.

Parks & Recreation Discussion

Janet Breton was present at the request of Town Administrator Beaudin to discuss her role for Old Home Day. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that previously it had been discussed that the Board may want the Parks & Recreation Director to have some participation in the event and now needs to know to what level they would like her involvement. Chairman Cormier expressed that following the last Old Home Day it was his opinion that the quality of the function had declined perhaps due to reduced number of volunteers and participation issues and that he had recommended that the Parks & Recreation Director get involved. Janet spoke regarding her involvement with the Old Home Day in Gilmanton and noted that they have determined that Old Home Day itself has changed peoples lives have changed and it just may be the way that it is. Volunteers are harder than ever to get and Old Home Day is a very big project. She added that she spoke briefly to Sue Roberts and asked her if she would like some assistance to which she responded that she would.

Town Administrator Beaudin suggested that perhaps the Parks & Recreation could take on one aspect of the event, perhaps concessions at Bryant Field. There was some discussion regarding problems with marketing and the fact that the 4-H Fair was scheduled for the same weekend, which shouldn't happen again. The Board of Selectmen felt it was appropriate for Parks & Recreation to help with one aspect of Old Home Day.

Town Administrator Beaudin indicated to the Board that she had been approached by a Recreation Committee member who would like the Board to direct Janet to handle Old Home Day and provide more direct coverage at the Park. It is Town Administrator Beaudin's opinion that Janet's time and experience will better serve the community by continuing her to implement new programs, oversee the beach and not spend all of her time policing the Park. Chairman Cormier commented that if security is what is wanted at the Park than perhaps that should be looked into, however, this would not be the best use of Janet's time. He understands the committee's concerns but doesn't feel it is Janet's job. Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that Janet has been working with the Police Department to have more community policing for that area. Selectman Pike suggested that in the next Belmont Better Times a notice be placed indicating the need for volunteers. Janet also noted there will be more activities taking place in

the park that involve adults so there will be more of an adult presence. The Board agreed they do not want Janet policing the Park.

Town Administrators Report

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that there are two bills coming through the legislation that the Town should make a presence at. First is SB88 this Wednesday which will have a dramatic affect on how bargaining units can be created by allowing 3 people to form bargaining units. If this was to pass there could be smaller groups breaking off and creating additional bargaining units, Local Government Center is opposed to this bill. Chairman Cormier indicated that he is in opposition of this bill and plans to attend the hearing regarding it. The Board agreed that they are in opposition of this bill. The second is HB653 which has changes that will be happening to the retirement system will be discussed on Friday and she would try to attend, this bill is recommended by Local Government Center.

Town Administrator Beaudin advised that the grant application for New Hampshire the Beautiful for the recycling bins has been submitted and is going through the process. She also noted that Bestway has seen an increase in the usage of the recycling facility and the quarterly figures from the Concord Co-op show the Town's tonnage is down. Chairman Cormier inquired when the facility will be open more and Town Administrator Beaudin explained that when their construction and demolition plant is open the recycling will be open more hours.

A letter was received from John Olmsted indicating that he should be removed as the Lakes Region Planning Commission representative as he no longer resides in Town. Town Administrator Beaudin pointed at that two representatives need to be appointed as Jeff Marden was the Town's other representative. It was discussed that the Planning Board, Zoning Board and Conservation Commission should be petitioned to try to find interested parties.

The Board was reminded that the DRED meeting has been rescheduled to the May 21st meeting.

The joint Sewer Commission meeting has been scheduled for June 4th at 5:00 p.m. and Rich Fournier has acknowledged receipt of the request for the meeting.

Town Administrator Beaudin advised that she has chosen the 8 communities that will be used for comparison in the Pay & Class study, and the personnel meetings will be held next week.

The Board was advised by Town Administrator Beaudin that the Flatley tax appeal is approaching a settlement for tax years 2003 to 2006.

Code enforcement is continuing to work hard and make progress. The tax bills are scheduled to go out the week of May 15th.

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that the construction company working on the Route 3 project has made quite a mess of the Town Beach entrance and she has asked Rick Ball to meet with them as soon as possible to rectify the situation there.

Non-Public Session

Selectman Caldwell moved to open the non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (b) at 6:45 p.m. Roll call was taken and those present and voting in the affirmative to enter non-public session were Ron Cormier, Reginald Caldwell, and Jon Pike. Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin was also present.

Selectman Caldwell moved to have Deputy Chief Davis assume the responsibilities and duties of the Fire Chief while the vacancy in the Chief's position is being filled. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cormier closed the non-public session at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting will be Monday, May 7, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Ronald Cormier, Chairman

Reginald Caldwell

Jon Pike