

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Cormier called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., also present were, Selectman Reginald Caldwell, Selectman Jon Pike, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Deputy Fire Chief James Davis, Donna Cilley, Kevin Sturgeon, Linda Frawley, Denise Naiva, and Ray Carbone of the Daily Sun Newspaper.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Department of Resource and Economic Development Presentation

Deborah Avery and Michael Bergeron were in attendance to provide information regarding business retention and bringing in new business. Deborah explained that 80% of business comes from within the community and focus should be directed at existing businesses, their needs and providing resources. She also suggested that an "ambassador" should be appointed for new or existing businesses to meet with. Making communication easy, providing good customer service and being able to guide businesses to the State's resources are important factors.

Michael then provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting key factors in business relations. He talked of how to attract new business, create visibility in the press and how to brand Belmont as part of the "Lakes Region". He noted that the types of business that may look at moving to Belmont would likely need 2,000 to 6,000 square feet of space and their highest priority would be access to high speed technology. Michael expressed that focus on existing business is very important and utilization of the Town website could be key in recruiting new business by having access through the site to key information such as the State's website or available property in Town. Basically create a sales pitch for Belmont.

Ray Carbone asked what size building are businesses looking for the Belmont doesn't currently have, Michael answered that it doesn't need to be a specific size but it does need to be

sub-dividable to meet the businesses needs. Linda Frawley asked if the local tax rate has a factor in a businesses decision, Michael indicated that it does not because it is a minimal expense in terms of business expenses. Chairman Cormier inquired why with all the available land on Route 106, it isn't developing out and does it have to do with lack of public utilities, Michael expressed that for most businesses the telecommunications and the labor market factors are more important than utilities. Chairman Cormier added that there are several spots on Route 106 that there are no telecommunications available.

Denise Naiva asked if Belmont's rural characteristic would be considered a downfall to businesses, Michael indicated that there are many areas like Belmont that have developed out and what seems to be other important factors regarding the community are the level of safety, the quality of the schools and the quality of healthcare. Linda Frawley noted that when Belknap County Economic Development did a community profile they highlighted the quality of life in the area; Michael added that to mimic those qualities that are the Lakes Region and brand Belmont as part of the Lakes Region would be helpful in the effort to attract business. Denise Naiva inquired how involved the Tech Schools are with career needs of the local communities, Michael expressed that they are very responsive to providing programs that may be needed in a certain area.

Chairman Cormier thanked Deborah and Michael for coming and providing such helpful information. The meeting recessed for the Board of Selectman's meeting to relocate to the downstairs. When the meeting resumed Chairman Cormier stated that a lot of very interesting and useful information was provided by Deborah and Michael, providing some direction to follow and avenues to consider. Town Administrator Beaudin expressed that she found it quite interesting and suggests a strong focus on the existing businesses. Selectman Pike commented that he felt like Belmont wasn't missing much in terms of what they suggested.

Selectman Caldwell noted that the skilled labor available in the Lakes Region is very limited which is a big part of the problem. There was discussion regarding working with the schools, both High School and Tech School, to suggest incorporating trades programs. Chairman Cormier suggested that staff at Town Hall be reminded of the importance of customer service and that residents are our customers. Selectman Pike noted that he has received a couple of requests for hours at Town Hall to be extended. Town Administrator Beaudin reminded the Board that the extended hours were tried not that long ago with relatively little usage and the hour change at Town Hall took place in order to try and accommodate more residents.

Minutes

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the minutes of the May 7, 2007 meeting as written, Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

NH Highway Safety Grant – Traffic Data Collectors

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed the grant from NH Highway Safety for 4 traffic data collector's and explained that the match for the grant which is approximately \$2,000 will come from the Highway Block Grant fund. Selectman Caldwell moved to accept a grant from NH Highway Safety Agency for four traffic data collectors; with funding for the Town's portion to come from Highway Block Grant Funds. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed

unanimously. Reimbursement will be received from NH Highway Safety and it will be placed in the Police Department's Community Policing line for the grant portion.

Town Administrator's Report **Tax Deed List**

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed the Tax Deed List with the Board noting that the majority of the properties are mobile homes. She stated that she was sent letters to all the park owners advising them of the situation with hopes it will help motivate owners to get caught up. She noted that last year there was success in dealing with the property owners that occupied the property. The Board agreed that the process they followed last year of taking those properties that are due for tax deeding is the appropriate way to proceed. And those properties that are due for tax deeding due to unpaid water/sewer need to be shut off. There was discussion of the Town reporting to the credit bureaus and Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that she would look into that process.

Town Property Clean-up

The Public Works Department performed the task of cleaning up the Town owned property in the Holly Tree Lane area as discussed at the last meeting. Bob Bennett will place boulders along the Town's property line in an effort to prevent future disposal in that area. There is also some question regarding the private ROW way being used for storage which Town Counsel is reviewing at this time.

Deputy Fire Chief Position

Town Administrator Beaudin reminded the Board that the deadline for the Deputy Fire Chief's position, which has been advertised through Local Government Center, Fire Standards and the local newspapers, is May 25, 2007.

Opinion Survey

The survey response deadline is this Friday, May 25th. So far the responses vary greatly, with support for several projects but not a willingness to be taxed to pay for them. There have been approximately 65 mail responses and 35 online responses. The information is being summarized in an excel spreadsheet. She noted that Pleasant Valley was one of the areas that people seemed in support of but didn't live there and didn't want to have to help pay for it.

There was a discussion regarding the drainage at Pleasant Valley and Kevin Sturgeon noted that he had been there following the most recent heavy rains and saw that a lot of the problem appears that the road has settled enough that there is no place for the water to go. Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that Bob Bennett has been documenting all of the calls he receives from the area. Selectman Caldwell added that he had been to the area around the same time and noticed several problem areas but not to the extreme that he had expected.

Junkyard Licenses

There are four junkyard licenses that are before the Board for renewal and one that has outstanding violations and isn't being recommended for renewal. A letter is being sent to Mr.

Walker indicating that his license isn't being renewed at this time and the need for him to come into compliance or lose his junkyard license. The Board signed these documents.

Route 3 Water Project Bond

Town Administrator Beaudin provided the Board with the bond documents to sign for the Route 3 waterline project. She noted that Northway Bank was able to provide a 4.02% interest rate over 10 years with no prepayment penalty. She also added that bid requests have gone out for dormer work to be done on the Mill Building and also for roof work to be done at the Corner Meeting House.

Aesthetics Ordinance

At the Board's previous meeting Town Administrator Beaudin was requested to look into an aesthetics ordinance. Through information she received from Candy Daigle she will provide to the Board of Selectmen information that was collected and noted that the closest ordinance that was found is called a Property Maintenance Code which the Town of Pembroke currently uses but may repeal it as it is very difficult to enforce and is questioned as to impinging on property owners rights.

Citizen Complaint

Town Administrator Beaudin expressed that she received a complaint from 25 Pond Road, of speeding cars and squealing tires and such, which she has forwarded to the Police Department who had responded by providing more patrols in the area. However, the resident has also requested that three signs be placed in the area, a stop ahead sign, a children at play sign and a speed limit sign. The Chief supports the children at play sign. The Board approved a children at play sign to be erected on Pond Road.

Busack Letter

The Board reviewed a letter to Mr. Busack that was a response from Chief Baiocchetti to a speeding ticket that Mr. Busack issued to an officer of the Department.

Fire Department Appointments

Fire Chief Davis had provided a request to be appointed as the Forest Fire Warden and Emergency Management Director. Both are appointments typically held by the Fire Chief and previously held by former Fire Chief Siegel.

Selectman Caldwell moved to appoint Fire Chief James Davis as Forest Fire Warden. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike moved to appoint Fire Chief James Davis as Emergency Management Director. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Lakes Region Planning Commission Appointment

Chris Long has submitted a letter of interest to fill one of the vacancies of representative to the Lakes Region Planning Commission. Selectman Pike and Caldwell both commented that they felt Chris would do a good job in this capacity.

Selectman Pike moved to appoint Chris Long as the Lakes Region Planning Commission representative. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Donna Cilley spoke to thank the Board for the position they took regarding the Winnisquam Fire Department and the association with Sanbornton. She noted that it was a very difficult decision but necessary. Chairman Cormier commented that they are much better off to improve their own department.

Non-Public Session

Chairman Cormier moved to open the non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (b) at 7:10 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. Also present was Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace and Deputy Fire Chief James Davis.

The Board agreed to post the temporary full-time position in the Fire Department.

Chairman Cormier closed the non-public session at 7:25 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting will be Monday, June 4, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Ronald Cormier, Chairman

Reginald Caldwell

Jon Pike