

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

June 4, 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, Sewer Commissioners Rich Fournier, Bruce Arey and Charles Hampe, Fire Chief James Davis, Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti, Police Lieutenant Mark Lewandoski, Jim and Jody Carmody, Kevin Sturgeon, and Ray Carbone of the Daily Sun Newspaper.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Minutes**

Selectman Pike moved to accept the minutes of the May 21, 2007 meeting as written, Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Joint Meeting with Sewer Commission**

Chairman Cormier explained that because it has been a while since the Board of Selectmen and the Sewer Commission have met the Board of Selectmen felt it was time to get together and determine what each group was thinking for the future. Chairman Cormier expressed that prior to the recent meeting with DRED it was thought that sewer and water expansion up Route 106 would help attract new business in that area, DRED indicated that telecommunications are more important to businesses than public utilities. Rich Fournier explained that the commission typically looks to install sewer where that cost can be justified and recouped which is usually in congested areas. Rich stated that following the DRED meeting the commission also has decided to put aside efforts that would focus on industry development and look more to commercial areas which is in the Route 3 area which currently has sewer. Rich noted there is not much place to expand at this point except for the proposed sports complex on Bishop Road which could eventually tie in the trailer park on Bishop Road.

There was discussion regarding the sewer line that was installed for McGreevy and Chairman Cormier pointed out that that is a private line. Rich confirmed that the Town would have to take over ownership of that line and an agreement with Laconia would have to be made in order for it to be used by the Town in the future. Selectman Pike asked what the Town could do to help the developer working on the Bishop Road complex, Rich indicated that at this point not much. There was then discussion regarding the developer making an agreement directly with McGreevy and the City of Laconia and would the Board and Sewer Commission be in support of that with the possibility of the Town taking over the lines next year. The Board and the Commission agreed that they would be in support of that and asked Town Administrator Beaudin to draft a letter with Rich Fournier indicating such. Town Administrator Beaudin suggested that a letter from the City of Laconia acknowledging their stance on this situation should be requested. The Board of Selectmen thanked the Commissioners for coming.

### **Old Home Day**

Chairman Cormier explained that he had attended the Old Home Day meeting and during the discussions it was noted that they could use more vendor space and Chairman Cormier expressed that he recalled a time when Fuller Street accommodated vendors and perhaps could be utilized again. Chief Baiocchetti expressed his concerns regarding shutting the entire street down which would eliminate much needed parking, it would shut people out of their homes and limit access to the Police Department which is still open for business during this time. Upon further discussion it was decided that a portion of Fuller Street, to the end of Town Hall, could be shut down with far less impact. Chief Baiocchetti indicated that the Police Department would assist with the barricading of the road.

There was further discussion regarding providing busing from remote locations as was done last year for the evening and fireworks activities. The Board agreed that they would like that to take place again this year with the addition of a daytime bus to run around parade time to accommodate parade patrons too. Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that she would coordinate the buses.

### **Police Department Appointments**

Police Chief Baiocchetti had provided a request to promote Officer Stephen Akerstrom and Officer Adam Hawkins to Corporals following a process that included a full day of oral interviews and written exams. Chairman Cormier explained that he participated in the process and was impressed with the thoroughness with which they are evaluated. Chief Baiocchetti added that both Officers are good, solid workers and stood out in the process.

Selectman Caldwell moved to promote Officer Stephen Akerstrom to Corporal effective June 10, 2007 with a pay increase to Grade 16 Step 7 on the 2007 scale. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike moved to promote Officer Adam Hawkins to Corporal effective June 10, 2007 with a pay increase to Grade 16 Step 5 on the 2007 scale. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Sargent Park**

Chief Baiocchetti explained that he has received several complaints recently regarding activity at Sargent Park which his Department is addressing with additional patrols. He stated that this in no way should be something that Janet Breton is dealing with, it is a Police matter and the Department will continue to take steps to deal with the issues. One area that needs to be addressed is that there are no ordinances allowing the Police to enforce signage or nuisance behavior, criminal acts are different and are addressed as they happen. Chief Baiocchetti suggested writing an ordinance that would address the Beach area, the Bandstand area and Sargent Park so the Officers have a measure in which to enforce nuisance behavior and locking of gates to close areas when necessary. He noted that Town sanctioned events could allow alternate use of these areas but this would have a responsible party handling the event. The residents in attendance expressed a concern of illegal activities as well as the nuisance acts. Selectman Pike suggested that perhaps a sting operation would help, Chief Baiocchetti indicated that he feels there are other ways to deal these issues. Chief Baiocchetti suggested that the residents witnessing these behaviors contact the Police Department. The Board agreed that an ordinance needs to be written and have asked Chief Baiocchetti to provide them with a draft ordinance for their review as soon as possible.

## **Joint Meeting with Recreation Committee**

Members of the Recreation Committee, Tina Fleming, Rob Court, Brian Loanes and Greta Olson-Wilder and Parks and Recreation Director Janet Breton joined the meeting.

Chairman Cormier explained that the Recreation Committee has been asked to meet with the Board to discuss the Committee's and the Board's understanding of the needs regarding Sargent Park. Tina Fleming spoke for the Committee and began by stating that the intention was to have Janet or someone at the park to open up bathrooms and make equipment available for residents utilizing the park, not to patrol vandalism. They are looking for an increase in positive functions at the park and an adult to interact with the kids. She noted that the Parks & Recreation program has tennis and hockey and other sports equipment that has been received via grants and would like that equipment to be available and an adult presence would be a help in deterring some of the bad activities that are taking place at the park. Selectman Pike expressed that it sounded like they were looking for a babysitter, Tina and Greta assured the Board that they are looking for someone to interact with the kids. Chairman Cormier stated that Janet's position is less than 30 hours per week and if she were to put in hours at the park that the committee is looking for, more than 1/3 of her time would be spent at the park instead of her current functions of creating and staffing programs. He added that perhaps an intern or workstudy situation could be created and utilize someone from a college or educational program to gather experience. Selectman Caldwell asked Mr. Carmody how many parents he sees in the park? Mr. Carmody stated that there are no parents at the park, to which Selectman Caldwell exclaimed that it is the parents responsibility for their kids and when his kids were young parents were there and perhaps an the ordinance should be written to state a certain age must be accompanied by an adult.

Chairman Cormier expressed that the committee should look into the workstudy possibility as soon as possible for this year. Janet Breton added that she has people using the park regularly and those adults to gain access to the equipment and are responsible for it when they are using the park. They currently play horseshoes on Monday night and there is roller hockey

and street hockey and a soccer program is also in the works. A Friday night fun night program is being planned and in her opinion there are a lot of positive things happening at the park. Mr. Carmody added that this is going to be a change of culture which will take time but word of mouth does get out and the programs will be set up for the change. It was also felt that everyone currently involved needs to tap into their adult friends to get involved. Selectman Pike suggested trying to find a volunteer that may be willing to help out in the park in the evenings. Chairman Cormier thanked the residents and the Recreation Committee for coming.

### **Firefighter Appointment**

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a memo from Fire Chief Davis regarding the temporary fulltime firefighter position vacancy. Following the recommendations of Fire Chief Davis the Board of Selectmen made the following decision.

Selectman Pike moved to appoint Mike Elkin as a temporary firefighter on the day shift at a Grade 13 Step 1 on the pay scale with no benefits. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Cotton Hill Road Meeting**

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that there had been a request from Carol Walsh of Cotton Hill for a meeting of the Board on site on Cotton Hill to discuss the road status. The Board agreed to meet however would like the meeting to be part of a regular Selectmen's meeting. Jeanne will prepare an invitation and set up the meeting.

### **Opinion Survey**

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed the survey responses pointing out that there was about a 6% response rate. There was discussion regarding the varied responses that were received and that many of the response support certain projects but don't support the means to pay for them. It was noted that there was a large number a respondents that stated they would attend informational meetings so it was suggested that that type of meeting be scheduled soon.

Ray Carbone speaking as a resident expressed that he would like to see the Town look into impact fees and feels they are a good resource for additional revenue

### **Fire Chief Swearing In**

At this time the Board of Selectmen recessed for the Swearing in Ceremony for Fire Chief James Davis.

### **Next Meeting**

The Board will meet on Monday June 11, 2007 at 5:00 pm in non-public session to discuss the Deputy Fire Chief applications and the Oral Board process. The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting will be Monday, June 18, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Ronald Cormier, Chairman

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Reginald Caldwell

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Jon Pike