

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2006, 6:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Brian Watterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., also present were Selectman Ronald Cormier, Selectman Reginald Caldwell, Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Public Works Director Bob Bennett, School Superintendent Mike Cozort, Jeff Marden, Diane Marden, Barbara Binette, David Joubert, Stephanie with the Winnisquam Echo and Ray Carbone with the Daily Sun.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Cormier moved to accept the minutes of the August 1, 2006 meeting as written. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the minutes of the August 7, 2006 meeting as written. Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Watterson asked Town Administrator Beaudin what the status of the Income Surveys for the Pleasant Valley area project is, she responded that there ended up not being enough volunteers, so the Town has sent out the surveys with a return envelope for them to be sent to Bob Morency directly. Bob has indicated that if there is a need he can get a volunteer to go out there and follow up after the surveys start to be returned.

Public Works Paving Projects

Public Works Director Bob Bennett was present to explain to the Board the three paving projects that he feels need to be done this year. The first is Memorial Drive which the Board at their last meeting gave approval to proceed with. The other two are Cotton Hill Road and Old Marsh Hill.

Town Administrator Beaudin handed out pictures and supporting documentation received from Underwood Engineers for Memorial Drive and Cotton Hill Road. Bob explained that he will remove the base material on Memorial Drive and redo the road correctly from one end to the other. Mr. Cozort explained that the school would have liked to tie their parking lot repaving project into the road project but doesn't have it in the budget for this year because their project is going to involve more than just the parking lot. Bob explained that he will blend it the best he can to allow for the School's project next year to join the road. Mr. Cozort asked if the road will be completed before school starts, Bob responded that it won't but that he will do the project as quickly as possible once it begins.

Selectman Cormier asked if the paving was in the budget, Town Administrator Beaudin explained that Memorial Drive and Old Marsh Hill, Bob had planned to take from his operating budget, and Cotton Hill Road would have to come from Highway Block Grant funds or the Capital Reserve. Bob went onto explain that the base material that was used on Cotton Hill and several other roads in Town was substandard and is not holding up well at all. Some of the roads that this material was used on have already been redone. There was discussion regarding the status of the roads project that Underwood Engineers is working on, and that perhaps this project should be put on hold until it is determined where on the list Cotton Hill Road is going to be in terms of priority. It was noted that Cotton Hill Road is a Scenic road and may need to go through planning review prior to the project. The approximate cost of the project is \$91,000 without notification fees if the project would need to go before the Planning Board for a Public Hearing. Bob indicated that the project would need to be complete prior to the end of October. It was decided that the planning process should be gotten underway and once Underwood has provided a preliminary list of the priority roads the decision will be made at that time. There was also discussion that easements should be acquired for the project as they had not been the last time the road was worked on.

Bob explained that Old Marsh Hill Road is just at the intersection to correct the run off problem at the driveway that is there. There have been numerous complaints regarding the problem. Bob explained that the project will be cheaper if it is combined with the Cotton Hill project. The funds for the project will come out of his operating budget.

Chairman Watterson at the request of Town Administrator Beaudin signed the Temporary Easement for access to the Town gravel pit for Mr. Sheehan to begin the logging project. She explained that the easement has been reviewed by Town Counsel and that Mr. Sheehan is expected to begin work on September 1, 2006.

Save the Gale School Committee

Jeff Marden explained that he and the other committee members were present to ask the Board of Selectmen what their feelings are regarding saving and preserving the Gale School building. Selectman Cormier expressed that he wishes there was a way to come up with the funds to move and restore the building, but doesn't believe it is in the Town's plans or budget to do so. It would be good to save and restore the building; he just isn't sure how the committee is going to get there. Selectman Caldwell asked Mr. Cozort has the school feels about saving the building, Mr. Cozort responded that he too would like to see the building saved however finds it hard to fund through the SAU when children's needs are greater and would not recommend saving it when they are pushing for an addition at the High School.

Chairman Watterson added that he doesn't feel it is appropriate to take taxpayer funding from CIP projects, which in turn wouldn't get done and is disappointed that something hasn't been done before now when it was brought back up as an issue in 2001 when the school paid for the feasibility study. Mr. Cozort confirmed that the report was brought forward but not a warrant article to move forward with doing anything with the building. Selectman Cormier noted that the Lodge at Belmont has recently begun charity gaming and perhaps the committee and it's cause could work something out, he's not sure that the group is in favor of gambling but wanted to note it as an option.

There was discussion regarding the cost to move the building and locations that it could be moved to. Jeff asked if the Town would be willing to sell a parcel of Town owned land to the Historical Society, it was suggested that the committee review the Town owned parcels to determine which would be suitable but it was noted that even if there was land available the committee needed a very large amount of money to move the building. Diane Marden pointed out that committee has been working hard to raise funds and has only been at it for about 2 weeks. The committee would like the support of the Town and the School in their efforts for grant writing and other ventures they will take to raise funds. Diane added that the school owns the building and perhaps they can give permission for the committee to write for grants on their behalf. The committee will meet with the school tomorrow.

Selectman Cormier added that the committee is on the right track however, it is not likely the funding is going to come from the Town or the School and the committee will need to find grants and up the level of fund raising that is being done.

Russell Tax Deed

Town Administrator Beaudin reminded the Board that after Town Counsel reviewed the process for accepting the deed for the property located at 137 Jefferson Road it was determined that some additional steps needed to be done in the process. Those steps have since been completed so the Town is prepared to accept the deed at this time. Town Administrator Beaudin explained that Ms. Russell has been in communication but does not have the resources to pay off that past due taxes to keep the property.

Selectman Cormier moved to accept the corrective Tax Collectors deed for property located at 137 Jefferson Road. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Recycling Update

Town Administrator advised the Board of Selectmen that she had recently met with Mike Donovan and Paul St. Hillare of Bestway to discuss the placement of recycling bins at there new facility in the industrial park off of Route 140. They indicated that they can have bins in place by October 1, 2006 to begin accepting co-mingled recyclables, glass, aluminum, tin and tearables (paper or cardboard that can be torn) from Belmont residents. At this time they would hope to have access to the recyclable containers open Wednesday evening 5-7 and Saturday 8-12 staffed by volunteers. Mike Donovan will open and monitor the Wednesday shift and will open and close the facility on Saturday but it will need to be staffed by volunteers. Town Administrator Beaudin has drafted a sign that is to be installed at the facility noting the hours of operation as well as what is acceptable recyclables. Chairman Watterson inquired about the recycle bins that Town Administrator Beaudin was looking into; she indicated that the cost of each bin is going to be approximately \$7 each but Melissa is still checking a couple more places

for cost. Chairman Watterson asked if they would be given out and if there would be more than one color, Town Administrator Beaudin explained that with the current estimated price the Board may want to consider giving one bin to each household and selling additional ones, as far as color, to start out it will most likely be one. If the Town moves forward with curbside recycling different colored bins could be considered as part of the contract for that service. Town Administrator Beaudin advised that she will contact the recycling committee to find out about volunteers to cover Saturday hours. Chairman Watterson commented that he believes the response from the Recycling Committee will be supportive.

Sewer Commission Request

The Board of Selectmen decided to discuss the request at a future meeting.

Fire Department Study RFP's

Town Administrator commented that the RFP's that have been received for the Fire Department Study have been distributed to the Board of Selectmen for their review and the project should be awarded at their next meeting. The Board agreed to meet following the CIP meeting on Thursday August 24 at 6:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House. Selectman Cormier noted that the Fire Department may request the ladder truck again this year and he would like to see the study complete prior to the end of the budget process.

Pandemic Planning Update

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that the group performing the Pandemic study would like to attend a Selectmen's meeting to discuss updates. Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that she will ask them to keep it brief and provide written documentation with the details.

Town Administrator's Report

The South Road Cemetery had been asked to attend a Selectmen's meeting to discuss their request for funds during last year's budget process, however they never responded to the request. Town Administrator Beaudin has sent another letter asking if they will meet with the Board and inquiring if they will be requesting funds again this year.

The Board had received a request from the Baptist Church requesting to use the Town Beach September 9 or 10 for a Church picnic. It was noted that in the past the Boy Scouts and other groups have used the area following the official closing of the beach. The Board agreed to allow the church to use the beach area for their function on September 10 because the Boy Scouts will be using it September 9 for their Eagle Court of Honor.

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that she had requested a revised temporary use agreement from the State following the changes they had made to accommodate Laconia. She has received the revised agreement and will sign it and return it with the revised certificate of insurance noting the changes. Selectman Cormier asked who would own the trail upon completion; Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that the Town will own it as it will run along the rails and across private property and that easements have will need to be obtained from the owners.

Bob Bennett is putting together prices to erect a utility shed at the site of the Parks & Recreation building area; the building will be needed to house the Bobcat for the winter as well as landscaping equipment. He is looking into a 12 x 24 building that will be situated on the current slab at the Sargent Street location.

Next Meeting

The next meeting to discuss the Fire Department Study RFP's will be August 24, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House following the CIP Meeting.

The next regular meeting will be September 5, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House.

Non-Public Session

Chairman Watterson moved to enter non-public at 7:34 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II(a) & RSA 91-A:3 II(c), Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll call was taken, those present and voting were Brian Watterson, Reginald Caldwell, and Ronald Cormier. Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace and David Joubert were also present.

Chairman Watterson closed the non-public session at 8:22. Following non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(c) the Board agreed to give Mr. Joubert until September 22, 2006 to make payment in full of his outstanding taxes. Under RSA 91-A:3 II(a) the Board of Selectmen agreed at this time to defer action on the memo from Chief Siegel. Also under RSA 91-A:3 II(a) the Board of Selectmen acknowledged Chief Siegel's chain of command following the merger of Winnisquam Fire Department and Belmont Fire Department personnel.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Brian Watterson, Chairman

Ronald Cormier

Reginald Caldwell