

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2007, 6:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Cormier called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., also present were, Selectman Jon Pike, Selectman Caldwell, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Land Use Technician Rick Ball, Town Planner Candace Daigle, Public Works Director Bob Bennett, Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti, Albert Akerstrom, Gerry & Ron Mitchell, Ken Ellis, Fire Chief Jim Davis, Linda Frawley, Rich Fournier, Eric with the Winnisquam Echo and Lori Ingram with the Citizen Newspaper.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Minutes**

Chairman Cormier wanted to clarify that Mr. Morin is his brother-in-law. Selectman Pike moved to accept the minutes of the July 16, 2007 meeting as amended, Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike moved to accept the minutes of the July 25, 2007 meeting as written, Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Old State Road Discussion**

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that the memo from Rick Ball regarding Old State Road needed to be addressed and Rick Ball and Bob Bennett would explain the situation following their meeting with NH Department of Environmental Services. Rick Ball explained that he and Bob Bennett had met with NH DES regarding the drainage and erosion problem at Lake Winnisquam due to run off from Old State Road. Rick explained that it is a problem that he has been looking into for years, due to a plume of sediment that appears in Lake Winnisquam following rain storms. He originally thought it was a problem with a site plan in

that area and has since determined, as has DES, that the majority of the problem is Old State Road. It was noted that it was in the Road Management program estimated the work at close to \$500,000 for an enclosed drainage system. Bob Bennett added that DES is adamant that something has to be done now to address the problem or the Town could be levied fines. Bob had asked DES to provide an outlet pipe in their project so the Town had the option to address the problem in the future; however, DES wants the problem addressed now. DES is willing to work with the Town but the process has to begin soon. Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that Keith Pratt from Underwood Engineers had talked with Mr. Chapman from DES regarding the situation and was advised that most likely there will be an administrative order issued to the Town. Keith explained to him that the Town had not funded the project; Mr. Chapman indicated that DES would be willing to work with the Town if a plan were being implemented. Town Administrator Beaudin advised that Underwood had provided a scope of service for \$8,200 to address current needs for that project and will update it once the letter is received from the State with their directives.

Chairman Cormier expressed that he doesn't have a problem with moving forward with the engineering of the project however, the \$500,000 project estimate seems high to him and he thinks Underwood needs to do better on the cost. Selectman Pike felt that the State had been planning their project for long enough that if the Town had a problem there that needed to be fixed they should have notified the Town a while ago. There was discussion regarding grants for the project and Rick Ball indicated that DES had been questioned regarding available grants and they had said there were none available. Linda Frawley added that there may be Emergency Community Development Block Grants available for this type of situation. Selectman Cormier indicated that he felt the Town should move ahead with the engineering portion of the project but again expressed that Underwood Engineers needed to work on lower their estimates. Candy Daigle pointed out that she had received information from another engineering firm that stated that construction costs had gone up 35-40% between 2003 and 2007. Rich Fournier commented that maybe another engineering firm needed to be considered, Selectman Cormier stated that the Board was not prepared to do that at this time. Rich commented that he thought Underwood Engineer has above average thinking, Selectman Cormier commented that perhaps they do and they will be expected to come back with down to earth figures or the Town may look for a second opinion. Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that the scope of service will be paid out of the Professional Engineering Services account.

### **Concord Street Drainage & Sidewalk**

Town Administrator Beaudin explained to the Board that she has received 3 proposals for the 3 components of the Concord Street Sidewalk project from Steve Smith and Associates. The Cherette property drainage area is estimated at \$82,900, the sidewalk portion at \$140,000 and additional drainage at \$89,400. Selectman Cormier asked what was available in capital reserve for this project; Candy Daigle indicated that there is \$105,000 for the sidewalk portion and \$110,000 for drainage. She noted that there are options for reducing curbing and reducing drainage as cost saving measures. She also noted that if drainage is reduced there will continue to be areas where the water will pond. Selectman Cormier indicated there isn't a problem with doing the drainage at the Cherette property; however the expense of the rest of the project concerns him.

Selectman Pike asked Bob what the cost of the drainage project would be if the Public Works Department did the project, Bob explained that he would have to rework the cost and get

back to the Board. Selectman Caldwell reminded the Board that if Public Works does the project it takes them away from their other maintenance work, which has been a concern in the past. Selectman Cormier commented that at both of the Public Hearings there wasn't any one that came forward and said they want a sidewalk on Concord Street, Bob added that if the sidewalk is built it will be used and if the drainage isn't done at the same time in the future there may be drainage issues that will need to be fixed which would then interfere with the sidewalk. The Board agreed to move forward with the drainage portion on the Cherette property. Ron Mitchell added that with the Town being faced with several large road projects with large price tags perhaps it is time to bond some of the projects to get them done.

### **Firefighter/Mechanic Position Appointment**

The Board reviewed a memo from Fire Chief Jim Davis requesting that Mike Elkins be hired for the Firefighter/Mechanics position; he noted that he has currently been working for the Town for 5 weeks in a temporary position. He is recommending that he start fulltime affective August 6, 2007 at a grade 15 step 1. Selectman Caldwell moved to hire Mike Elkin for the fulltime Firefighter/Mechanic position affective August 6, 2007 at a grade 15 step 1 with a 6 month probation period. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Fire Chief Davis explained that he had received a 2 week notice from another employee and he will be posting that position tomorrow.

### **Municipal Facilities Update**

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that she has had further discussion with Randy Remick of Bonnett, Page & Stone and he will be forwarding a request to proceed with a more formal build/design proposal. Selectman Cormier commented that they would be willing to discuss a proposal.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Town Administrator Beaudin congratulated Cary Lagace for the receipt of her certification from the NH Department of Revenue as a Certified Measurer & Lister; the Board wished their congratulations as well.

Town Administrator Beaudin discussed the request from Parks & Recreation Director Janet Breton to close the skate park for a period of 7 days due to a recent rash of vandalism, disregard for property and excessive trash. It was noted that the ordinance regarding the Park is still being reviewed by counsel. The Board felt that due to the level of the problem this time that the Skate Park should be closed for at least 30 days. Tykie Akerstrom suggested that the closing be posted in the newspaper so that everyone knows why it has been closed. Selectman Caldwell moved to close the skate park effective August 13, 2007 for a period of 30 days. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed the annual letter from the Old Home Day committee outlining the day's events and requesting that vendor fees and permits be waived. Selectman Pike moved to waive the permits and fees for Old Home Day vendors for 2007. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board was reminded that the Boston Post Cane will be awarded at Old Home Day to Alta Toppin who has been determined to be the oldest resident of Belmont. The presentation of the cane will take place at the judging station at 12:30 prior to the start of the parade. Her family will be present but has warned that if the weather is too humid due to health reasons she may not be able to attend.

### **Non-Public Session**

Chairman Ron Cormier moved to enter non-public session at 6:53 pm in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (b). Roll call was taken and those present and voting were Ronald Cormier, Reginald Caldwell and Jon Pike. Also present were Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin and Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti.

Following a brief discussion; Selectmen Reginald Caldwell moved to hire David Estes as a full time police officer; the position he will be filling will be the Prosecutor position at a Grade 14 Step 10 and following successful completion of his probationary period to Grade 15 Step 11. His date of hire will be the week of August 19, 2007. Selectman Jon Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cormier closed the non-public session at 7:10 p.m.

Discussion followed briefly regarding recent Chief's Commendations issued to members of the Department to include; Corporal Adam Hawkins, Corporal Steve Akerstrom and Detective Raechel Moulton.

Chairman Cormier moved to enter non-public session at 7:20 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Roll call was taken and those present and voting were Ronald Cormier, Reginald Caldwell and Jon Pike. Also present were Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin and Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the receipt of a Step 4 Grievance in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement, Article VII (B).

Chairman Ron Cormier moved to deny the grievance; Selectman Caldwell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed relative to other ongoing personnel matters; no decisions were made in this regard.

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

### **Next Meeting**

The next regular Board of Selectmen's meeting will be Monday, August 20, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

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Ronald Cormier, Chairman

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Reginald Caldwell

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Jon Pike