

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2006, 5:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Brian Watterson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., also present were Selectman Reginald Caldwell, Selectman Ronald Cormier, Jr., Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Land Use Technician Rick Ball, Karen Gilbert, Police Chief Vincent Baiocchetti, Melanie Nelson of the Citizen and Ray Carbone of the Daily Sun.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Caldwell moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on January 23, 2006 as written. Selectman Cormier seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Bond Hearing & Budget Committee Hearing

Town Administrator Beaudin reminded the Board of Selectmen and those present that the Bond Hearing for the proposed new Ladder/Pumper truck will be held Wednesday, February 8, 2006 at 6:30 at the Corner Meeting House followed by a brief meeting of the Budget Committee to address changes to the budget and then the Budget Committee Public Hearing at 7:30.

Selectman Cormier asked what the purpose of the Bond Hearing is, Town Administrator Beaudin explained that it is just for public input, there will be no motions made other than to open and close the hearing. Chairman Watterson commented that the Budget Committee has several items that they need to address prior to their public hearing, Town Administrator Beaudin confirmed that there are 4 items that the Committee must discuss.

Conservation Commission – Harker Property Acquisition

Land Use Technician Rick Ball was present to review the proposal for the acquisition of the Harker property by the Conservation Commission. Mr. Harper approached the Conservation Commission to purchase his 188 acre property located at the westerly end of Route 140 when he did not receive approval for a motor cross track. The property is primarily wetlands, 140 acres, with an outstanding wetlands violation which the Commission is prepared to deal with for an estimated cost of \$76,100. It was noted that Commission member Ward Peterson was recently at a habitat seminar and spoke with a UNH specialist who provided ideas for restoration of the property. Jim Tarr has been hired by the Conservation Commission to do a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. It was noted that Mr. Harker originally wanted to have a closing by March 1st but the Commission felt they needed more time and want April 1st, they compromised on March 15th with the flexibility to change if necessary.

Rick noted that Walter Harris has been hired to do a title abstract and Attorney Tim Bates recommended purchasing title insurance. Selectman Cormier asked how confident the Commission is that \$76,000 will cover the expense to restore the property to DES satisfaction, Rick expressed that they are pretty confident but it will depend some on the restoration, but they have a good relationship with DES which they think will help through the process. Chairman Watterson added that the Commission has worked long and hard and he feels this is a good first purchase for the Commission.

With the appropriate contingencies in place to cover the Town, the Board agreed to move forward with signing the documents to allow the purchase to move forward. The attorney's recommendations have been put into place and the transfer will be by warranty deed.

Selectman Caldwell moved to have Chairman Watterson sign the Purchase and Sales Agreement for the purchase of the Harker property, Selectman Cormier seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Watterson signed the agreement. Rick advised that the Conservation Commission will schedule a public hearing on the purchase for Tuesday, February 21, 2006

Winnisquam Fire Department Warrant Article

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that there needs to be a Warrant Article to accept the cash assets of the Winnisquam Fire Department and as the exact amount isn't known yet it should appear in the amount of \$1 and will be amended to the correct amount from the floor of Town Meeting.

Selectman Cormier moved to include a Warrant Article to raise and appropriate the sum of one dollar for the fire apparatus fund, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business **Annual Report**

Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that she has written a Selectman's Corner article for the Town Report and the Belmont Better Times regarding the Town Hall/Police Department future building project and the proposed school auditorium building and would like the Board to review and edit the article prior to publication. Chairman Watterson asked his fellow Board members to review the bottom paragraph and consider adding the wording "and the Board of Selectmen supports this proposal." to the paragraph. He commented that this would let the public know their stance and there would be no question of the Board's support. Selectman Cormier expressed that his concern is that the auditorium should have been left in the original construction and he isn't sure they are getting the best value where they have just recently started putting this together. Selectman Caldwell asked why Selectman Cormier felt the construction figure isn't accurate, Selectman Cormier expressed that it seems high. Selectman Caldwell added that the cost of steel is sky rocketing he feels taking that into consideration that the figure may not be that far off.

Chairman Watterson asked if the other Board members are comfortable with adding the supporting statement to the article. They all agreed they are going to support the project.

Town Administrator Beaudin added that the article will be put in the Town Report and Belmont Better Times; both will be available prior to Town Meeting.

Draft Annual Meeting Warrant

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that she has created the draft Annual Meeting Warrant which has been reviewed by both the Department of Revenue and Attorney Bates. She will have the MS-7 ready for the Budget Committee to sign following their Public Hearing.

Prime Time Advertising

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that she has been approached by a company called Prime Time Advertising to purchase advertising for the Belmont Red Raiders. The firm claims to print sports related items with the Red Raider logo and sells them to businesses. The Town has purchased these items for the past three years, does the Board wish to continue this practice. Chairman Watterson indicated that they do this practice to help fund schedules for the teams, but it is unclear exactly who is receiving the benefit of the program. The Board of Selectmen chose not to support this advertising program this year.

Conservation Commission Appointment

The Board of Selectmen received a request from Nancy Wederski to be re-appointed to the Conservation Commission, the Board will address that request at their first meeting in March.

Town Administrator Report

Town Administrator Beaudin informed the Board that at the first Municipal Facility Committee meeting, David Provan provided a PowerPoint presentation on the process that he has followed in assisting other communities with their facility needs. Mr. Provan noted that the process may take longer than the Board is anticipating. Selectman Cormier added that the process has been enlightening so far; he noted that one of the first things that was suggested for the Board to do is to draft a vision or purpose statement as to what they want to see from this project. Other things suggested to the committee were space assessment, look into other buildings and locations, possibly contract with an architect to discuss options and present more than one choice. Mr. Provan suggested that the size of the committee be increased as there will be plenty to do and subgroups could be formed to handle certain tasks.

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that out of the meeting has also come the request for information from committee members and she wants the Board to be clear to the extent that they want staff helping to provide and create the information requested. The first requests were for floor plans of Town buildings some were easy to attain, others are not available and a committee member suggested Town Hall staff create them. Chairman Watterson indicated that he feels that other groups are already relying too much on staff for committees individual needs and feels this should be limited. It was suggested that the Municipal Facility Committee members funnel their requests through Selectman Cormier.

There was discussion that taxpayers felt the space needs and size of the previous facility that was proposed was driven by staff who primarily are not residents and don't experience the negative side of funding a large building project. Town Administrator Beaudin commented that there are many areas that the staff needs to give input and perhaps that input can be reviewed by a professional to determine accuracy and presented by them to ease the taxpayers concerns.

Chairman Watterson commented that he is not comfortable with this being a two year project, it is difficult to retain interested individuals for that length of time and the drive for the project will fade in that time frame. He feels the goal needs to be set for 2007 so it doesn't lose momentum. Selectman Cormier expressed that he agrees however Mr. Provan believes that for the best possible outcome it will take longer and the process should be done in phases starting with the purpose statement and then the needs assessment. He also feels that the skill level of the committee members is such that they should be able to provide a lot of assistance that might normally need to be contracted out.

Town Administrator Beaudin informed the Board that at the meeting last Thursday with Winnisquam Fire Department, they discussed the dissolution plan. Attorney Rogers has drafted a letter to go to the communities involved advising them of the dissolution plan that will take place after the Belmont Town Meeting if there is a vote for approval. She noted that she has received their inventory which has a worth of

approximately \$781,000 and the assessed value of the property is approximately \$700,000.

David McLelland recently attended a meeting with the Department of Transportation regarding the waterline project on Route 3. He advised Town Administrator Beaudin that they were cooperative and commented that they understand the Town's position, however if the community decides not to participate they will only replace and relocate the line in conflict, by moving a piece here and a piece there where the conflict occurs. There was discussion regarding bonding the money and putting it on the water users which it was agreed is hard to justify only the users paying for the project as all users won't benefit from the project. Town Administrator Beaudin advised that she is waiting to hear from Eliza Leadbeater to determine if there are any grants that the Town may qualify for on this project and she will write a letter to Mr. Suther to determine if it really is the State's intention to only fix the areas in conflict.

Tony Brown recently attended a meeting at Town Hall with Town Administrator Beaudin, Land Use Technician Rick Ball and Town Planner Candace Daigle, regarding the deficiencies at Sargent Lake Dam, where he assured them that some of the conditions at the Dam are already being worked on and it is their intention to bring the dam into compliance. He advised them that there is an emergency plan on file at the Fire Department despite the States letter saying there isn't. It was noted that the Dam Bureau had staff helping in that department after the floods that don't normally work for the Bureau and they may have missed some of the information regarding Sargent Lake Dam. Chairman Watterson expressed that over the next several weeks the Board of Selectmen has a lot to do but would like to meet with Tony Brown later to discuss the Sargent Lake Dam.

Next Meeting

The meeting was set for February 27, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House.

Non-Public Session

Chairman Watterson moved to enter non-public at 6:35 in accordance with RSA 91A:3 II (a) and (c). Roll call was taken, those present and voting were Brian Watterson, Reginald Caldwell, and Ronald Cormier. Also present were Chief Vincent Baiocchetti and Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin.

Chairman Watterson closed the non-public session at 7:00.

Following discussion of Chief Baiocchetti's February 3rd memos, the Board of Selectmen took the following action.

Selectman Reginald Caldwell moved to hire James Kirby as a full time Police Officer for the Town of Belmont; at a Grade 15 Step 8 (\$39,143.32) until 4/1/2006; Grade 15 Step 8 (\$40,121.80) after 4/1/2006 and following completion of his six-month probationary period, an increase to Grade 15 Step 9 (\$40,273.72), subject to completion

of the Department's Field Training Program. His date of hire will be the week of February 26, 2006. Selectman Cormier seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Reginald Caldwell moved to hire Charlene Crowell as a full time Police Dispatcher for the Town of Belmont; at a Grade 10 Step 3 after successful completion of a six-month probationary period, an increase to Grade 10 Step 4. Her date of hire will be February 13, 2006. Selectman Cormier seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Reginald Cormier moved to hire James Fagan as a full time Police Officer for the Town of Belmont; at a Grade 15 Step 1 and following a one-year probationary period, an increase to Grade 15 Step 2; subject to successful completion of the Police Academy and the Department's Field Training Program. His date of hire will be either the week of March 26, 2006 or April 2, 2006. Selectman Caldwell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Brian Watterson, Chairman

Reginald Caldwell

Ronald Cormier, Jr.