

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

February 27, 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, Dave Jeffers of the Lakes Region Planning Commission, Armand Morin, Fire Chief Siegel, Police Chief Baiocchetti, Officer Gustafson, Elson Moody, 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 February 6, 2006 as written. Selectman Cormier seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Belmont Hazard Mitigation Plan Hearing

Chairman Watterson opened the Public Hearing at 5:05 p.m. for the purpose of taking public comment on the Belmont Hazard Mitigation Plan prior to adoption by the Board of Selectmen.

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that Dave Jeffers has provided a new copy of the Hazard Mitigation plan because some grammatical edits had been done.

Dave Jeffers of Lakes Region Planning Commission provided an overview of the plan pointing out the purpose of the plan is to look at the vulnerabilities, critical areas, facilities, generating and measuring gaps in the system and how to address them. The plan is primarily a planning tool, not a statement of policy. He noted the Goals incorporate State, Master Plan and committee input. He reviewed the matrix which

outlines the hazards, actions, who will implement certain procedures and funding, many of these items are already being done and some are being proposed to implement. Mr. Jeffers commented that the plan will go to FEMA and they may have suggestions also. He noted that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is a prerequisite for certain grants.

Selectman Cormier commented that there seemed to be a focus on natural disasters and asked if the other man made disasters such as terrorism were looked at and if there would be subsequent documents to deal with homeland security. Mr. Jeffers responded that it had been discussed at the committee's meetings and determined to be not of the highest priority, however can be added at a later time. Chief Siegel added that there is the hazmat and terrorism EOP that deals with those issues too. Chairman Watterson asked who does the review of the plan; Chief Siegel noted that mainly the contacts are updated regularly.

Chairman Watterson asked if the recent table top exercise would dovetail with this plan, Chief Siegel explained that some of the time tables were transferred to the plan and the exercise would help with the long term prevention and plans of what to do and when to do it. Chairman Watterson asked if there would be costs associated with the long term planning, Town Administrator Beaudin explained that some things would not have a cost associated while other things such as Code Enforcement could incur some cost. Chairman Watterson asked if the hours for Code Enforcement had been increased, Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that the Code Enforcement Office has budgeted for additional clerical hours and software to streamline the process to help free up the inspector for more enforcement time.

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that the next step is for the Plan to be sent to FEMA for their comment and then back to the Board of Selectmen for signature. With no further discussion Chairman Watterson closed the Public Hearing at 5:25

Old Business

Table Top Exercise

Chairman Watterson reviewed the recent table top exercise and explained that there is a lot of behind the scene's work that happens for such an exercise. He noted the exercise dealt with flooding from the Lochmere dam and dealt with how to respond, who, what and when right down to the minute, from the rescue to function of Public Works. The exercise help point out a couple of blemishes in the plan and they are now being addressed. Chairman Watterson thanked Chief Siegel and other the other worked with him to plan the table top exercise. Selectman Caldwell added that he felt the exercise had been handled well.

Morin Abatement Request

Town Administrator Beaudin provided to the Board a letter from Armand Morin requesting assistance with the taxes on a mobile home owned by Cindy Beede that is located on his property and has been abandoned by the owner and then the bank that held the mortgage on the mobile home. The trailer can't be moved until the taxes are paid. In the past the Board of Selectmen has not accepted deeds to mobile homes.

The mobile home is taxed separately from the land and the taxes on the land have been paid by Mr. Morin. Selectman Caldwell added that Mr. Morin had spoken to him regarding the trailer and he asked Mr. Morin to put together the letter that he did for Town Administrator Beaudin.

Mr. Morin added that bank had wanted to sell the trailer to him but he doesn't want it, it has been ransacked. He had called in a trailer hauler to look at removing it and he has stated that it isn't worth it for him to take the trailer.

The Board decided to review the situation further and will get back to Mr. Morin with their decision.

Police Department Weapons

Chief Baiocchetti and Officer Gustafson were present to present to the Board their proposal for updated and upgraded handguns to continue with the standardization within the department. Chief Baiocchetti explained that Officer Gustafson, who has done a lot of research, had approached him with the request and initially the chief was not in favor of the weapon selected for the proposal but has since handled the weapon and now stands behind and highly recommends the proposal being presented by Officer Gustafson.

Officer Gustafson explained that several different guns had been fired and the 45 Glock was chosen because it seemed to have the most manageable recoil. Officer Gustafson commented that there were initial concerns that the gun is made from polymer which is a plastic material, however the gun is very reliable and the plastic concerns have been overcome since the Chief actually fired the gun. There are currently three different types of hand guns used by the department and they are all 10+ years old. There was discussion that the same process should be looked into for replacement of the departments other weapons.

Officer Gustafson commented that the majority of the officers are comfortable with this gun choice.

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that the funds for this purchase are being requested to come from the Capital Reserve Homeland Security account which requires Selectmen authorization, the total will not exceed \$6,706 and the Chief will purchase the leather holsters for the guns from his operating budget.

Selectman Cormier moved to authorize the purchase of new handguns from the Capital Reserve Homeland Security account not to exceed the current quote of \$6,706, Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Purpose Statement – Municipal Facility

Chairman Watterson reiterated that he feels the proposal from the Municipal Facilities Committee should come before the voters at the 2007 Town Meeting and that the committee should not be required to work on the project for more than 2 years.

Selectman Cormier commented that he agrees and the Board needs to come up with an objective to present to the committee. He feels that stating the need to increase space for the Town Hall and Police Department is too general and the purpose statement needs to give more specific direction.

Selectman Caldwell expressed that he feels that additional remodeling should not be an option. Chairman Watterson added that the feedback he is getting from the community agrees that more money should not be put into the Town Hall building.

There was discussion regarding the possibility of holding a special town meeting for the purpose of presenting the options to the voters. Town Administrator Beaudin added that a request could be made to the voters, at Town Meeting, to ask them to authorize a Special Town Meeting to be held later in the year. Selectman Caldwell noted that the turnout for special town meetings in the past has been minimal and he isn't in favor of holding a special town meeting.

After further discussion regarding what the mission statement should be, Selectman Cormier advised that he will work on the statement prior to the Board's March meeting and try to come up with one that encompasses the need without being too general.

Conservation Commission Appointments

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that she has received two requests for reappointment to the Conservation Commission. The first from Nancy Wederski who has been on the commission for several years and the second from Ginger Wells Kay who the Board had appointed to fill John Peverly's position when he resigned. Each appointment will be for a 3 year term.

Selectman Cormier moved to re-appoint Nancy Wederski to the Conservation Commission, Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Caldwell moved to re-appoint Ginger Wells Kay to the Conservation Commission, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business **Appointment – Municipal Records Board**

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed her memo to the Board regarding the appointment of employees to the Municipal Records Board in accordance with RSA 33-A:3 which became effective August 29, 2005. It states that the Board of Selectmen shall designate a member of the Board or staff to serve on a committee to govern the disposition of municipal records.

Selectman Caldwell moved to appoint Town Administrator Beaudin as the Board of Selectmen's representative, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Caldwell moved the appoint Cary Lagace, Nikki Wheeler and Carol Lacasse as the other committee members per RSA guidelines, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Report

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that the closing on the Harker property will be March 8th, the Conservation Commission voted to expend the funds from there account to purchase the property. Town Counsel has reviewed the documents. The Commission is also requesting a small amount of time at Town Meeting to do a presentation for the voters.

The first billing cycle for the commercial tipping fees has gone out with approximately \$10,000 billed for the month of January, which is right on target for the projected revenues.

The assessing work is moving forward for the measure and list and pickups. The quarter of Town that will be part of the re-measure project will include South Road, Wareing Road, the Village area, Shaker Road and the Sargent Lake area.

The Town has received the Winnisquam Fire Department letter regarding the dissolution plan and has had no contact from either Tilton/Northfield or Sanbornton regarding the letter.

Town Administrator Beaudin will meet with Scott Johnson regarding funding for the Route 3 project and discuss low income loans or grants that may be available. It is possible that the project won't go out for bid until later in the summer which will allow for further review of Rural Development options.

The gravel pit that the Town will be receiving the Tax Collector's deed on in April has been determined to have a more significant amount of gravel than originally thought.

Town Reports will be available for distribution on Monday, March 6th.

The Planning Office continues to be very busy.

Public Works Hire

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed the memo from Public Works Director Bob Bennett requesting the Board to authorize the hiring of Donald Hurd at a Grade 10 Step 2 moving to Grade 10 Step 3 upon successful completion of his probationary period with a start date of March 6, 2006. Mr. Hurd will fill the vacancy left from the resignation of Mr. Weeks. Town Administrator Beaudin explained that there were four candidates interviewed by Mr. Bennett. Mr. Hurd has previous sewer background and will be able to be crossed trained to help cover other areas.

Selectman Caldwell moved to hire Donald Hurd starting March 6, 2006, Grade 10 Step 2 to Grade 10 Step 3 after probationary period, Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Non-Public Session – Hardship Abatement

Chairman Watterson moved to enter non-public at 6:45 to discuss hardship abatement requests. Roll call was taken, those present and voting were Brian Watterson, Reginald Caldwell, and Ronald Cormier. Also present were Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin and Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace.

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

At this time the Board authorized Town Administrator Beaudin to process the hardship abatement requests.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for March 6, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Brian Watterson, Chairman

Reginald Caldwell

Ronald Cormier, Jr.