

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2005, 6:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Brian Watterson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Also present were Selectman Reginald Caldwell, Selectman Ronald Cormier, Jr., Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Town Administrator Donald McLelland, Sr., Public Works Director Bob Bennett, David McLelland, Jim Fortin, Tom Munsey, Jim Marden, Diane Marden, Chuck Storez, Jeff Marden, Brenda Paquette, Rick Ball, Barbara Binnette, Ray Carbone of the Daily Sun, Melanie Nelson of the Citizen and several other Marden family members.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Minutes**

Selectman Reginald Caldwell moved the minutes of the meeting held on February 11, 2005 as written. Chairman Brian Watterson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **Welcome Selectman Ronald Cormier**

Chairman Watterson welcomed new Selectman Ron Cormier, Jr. to the Board, they appreciate him running for the position and wished him good luck in his position of Selectman.

### **Recognition of Department of the Year**

Chairman Watterson indicated it is a special night in recognizing the department of the year, Public Works. The dedication of the Town Report cover to them and this recognition would have been at Town Meeting on Saturday, however, with the snow storm the department was too busy plowing. Congratulations were offered on behalf of the Board. Chairman Watterson went on to say that he has personally received many comments on the outstanding and wonderful job that the department has been doing. The Board of Selectmen thanks them. Town Administrator McLelland gave gifts to each employee.

## **Recognition of Employee Longevity**

Town Administrator McLelland explained that the recognition of longevity has been overlooked for many years. James Marden has given 40 years of service to the Town of Belmont and was presented with a plaque in recognition of that service as well as a gift presented by Chairman Watterson. James Marden said thank you and he appreciates the recognition.

## **Old Business**

### **Public Works/Water Department – Upgrade Plan**

Chairman Watterson referred to the water study done by Underwood Engineers in 2001. Town Administrator McLelland explained that the Water Department has been running under the Public Works Department part-time since late last year and completely under Public Works since the first of this year. Work is underway to determine the needs of the water department. Many issues have been found that need to be addressed; they are so numerous that a plan needs to be put in place to address them. Underwood Engineers has presented a proposal for upgrading the system and the Board will need to decide how much and when the work will be done. It has been determined that at least 100 water meters are not functioning properly and will need to be repaired or replaced.

Underwood's proposal addresses assistance with grants, long and short-term needs, and rate adjustments. Other than the repair of the tank nothing has been done to the system. Bob Bennett and David McLelland indicated that the list from Underwood may be an over kill and would like to be able to pick and choose some of their recommendations. They also indicated that they do have some current requirements of the DES that they have to address after a recent spill at the tank house, which the completion of the requirements will move forward as soon as the weather breaks.

There was discussion regarding the expansion ability, cubic versus metric readings and rate review. David McLelland explained that some customers are being billed improperly because of cubic readings being billed as gallons, which is billing about 1/7<sup>th</sup> of what should be billed.

The Public Works Director and Water Technician will come back before the Board at their March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting with a priority list with short and long term goals.

## **New Business**

### **Organization of Board – Chairman and Committee Appointments**

#### **Budget Committee**

Chairman Watterson made a motion for Ron Cormier to serve as Selectman's Rep. On the Budget Committee, the motion was seconded by Selectman Caldwell, the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

### **Conservation Commission**

Chairman Watterson made a motion for himself to serve as Selectman's Rep. on the Conservation Commission, the motion was seconded by Selectman Caldwell, the motion was approved, with Ron Cormier opposed.

### **Heritage Commission**

Chairman Watterson made a motion for Ron Cormier to serve as Selectman's Rep. on the Heritage Commission, the motion was seconded by Selectman Caldwell, the motion was approved, with Ron Cormier opposed.

Jeff Marden asked if a Representative would be appointed to the Recreation Committee, Selectman Watterson explained that the Committee will be hiring a part-time employee and changes will take place in Parks & Recreation.

### **Meeting Day and Time**

Selectman Cormier indicated he had made arrangements so that the meetings could continue to be held at 5:00pm. Selectman Caldwell made a motion for meetings to be held the first and third Monday of each month at 5:00pm, Selectman Watterson seconded the motion, the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

### **Dupont Road and Paquette Drive**

Rick Ball referred to the court case that dealt with the corner of Dupont Road and Dupont Road Extension, not clear whether they are public highways, as the requirements set by Town meeting vote in 1955 were never satisfied. Rick is asking if he can approach the property owners requesting them to satisfy those requirements in order for the Town to be able to complete the work on those roads. There was discussion regarding plowing and maintenance of these roads if they aren't public ways. The court order regarding these roads was also discussed and it was recommended by Town Administrator McLelland that all of the work and court time done to this point not be abandoned and that Rick move forward with seeing if he is able to satisfy the requirements to make these roads public ways, with the property owners. The Board of Selectmen authorized the letters prepared by Rick to be sent to the property owners to acquire easements.

### **Other Business**

Jeff Marden advised the Board of Selectmen that he has officially stepped down from the Budget Committee. Town Administrator McLelland advised that he had been notified by Town Council that Jeff Marden had stepped down from the Budget Committee, allowing Gary Flack to be sworn into the one-year term. He also advised them that the next group of four (4) candidates for the position all tied with three (3) votes each. Two of the candidates are not eligible and the other two would have to come

to a meeting scheduled at the Town Clerks office to determine the winner. The two candidates are Robert St. Lawrence And Pleasant Oberhausen.

Chairman Watterson advised that Representative Thomas would be asked to attend the next meeting to discuss his position on the State of New Hampshire acquiring the Voith building on Route 106, as this purchase would not be in the best interest of the Town.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting was set for March 28, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House.

**Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (a)**

Chairman Brian Watterson moved to enter non-public session at 7:00 p.m., in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Selectman Reginald Caldwell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Roll call was taken and those present and voting were Chairman Brian Watterson, Selectman Ronald Cormier, Jr., Selectman Reginald Caldwell, also present Town Administrator Donald P. McLelland, Sr..

Vice Chairman Reginald Caldwell closed the non-public session at 7:20 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

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Brian Watterson, Chairman

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Reginald Caldwell

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Ronald Cormier, Jr.