

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2005, 4:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Brian Watterson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., also present were Selectman Reginald Caldwell, Selectman Ronald Cormier, Jr., Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Polly Clough for Community Health & Hospice, Judith Scothorne & Bob Adams for Community Action Program, Trisha Burton for Youth Service Bureau, Tina Fleming, Brian Loanes, Bill Ekberg, Building Inspector Gary Boisvert, Town Planner Candace Daigle, Fire Chief Rick Siegel, Residents of the Sargent Lake area, Melanie Nelson with the Laconia Citizen, and Ray Carbone with the Daily Sun.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Reginald Caldwell moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on October 3, 2005 as written. Selectman Ronald Cormier seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Budget Work Session

Cemetery

Chairman Watterson noted that Mr. Ekberg had been to see him and the cemetery budget is for basic maintenance with just a small increase. Town Administrator Beaudin explained an addition to the Lamprey Cemetery capital account which will be reviewed at their next meeting

Selectman Caldwell moved to approve line item 4195-999 \$10,945 as proposed. Selectman Cormier seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Health Agencies

Community Health & Hospice

Polly Clough was present for Community Health & Hospice to review their budget request with the Board on behalf of Margaret Frankhauser who was unable to attend. She explained that 6200 visits had taken place in Belmont, the 2nd highest usage in their service area. She also noted a 98% satisfaction rating on the survey completed by Belmont residents. The program has asked for level funding.

Chairman Watterson inquired what constituted a visit, Polly explained that there are many types of visits, noting physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing visits, hospice visits as well as Young Family Program visits for sick children, new mom's and immunization programs. She notes a program that also assists with household chores to avoid placement in a nursing home.

Selectman Caldwell complimented the program stating their service is second to none. Selectman Cormier thanked them for their effort to level fund during tough times.

Selectman Caldwell moved to approve line item 4415-333 \$23,000 as proposed. Selectman Cormier seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Community Action Program

Judith Scothorne and Bob Adams were present representing the Community Action Program to discuss their budget request. Judith noted to the Board that a 5% increase was requested from all communities. She reviewed a statistics sheet regarding the usage of the program in Belmont. She indicated their goal is to bring on another full-time staffer to help handle the influx in demand for services. Selectman Caldwell stated what a good service they provide.

Selectman Cormier moved to approve line item 4415-335 \$8,102 as proposed. Chairman Watterson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously, Selectman Caldwell abstained.

Lakes Region Family Service

It was noted that Lakes Region Family Services request has remained the same for the last several years.

Selectman Caldwell moved to approve line item 4415-337 \$3,000 as proposed. Selectman Cormier seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Youth Service Bureau

Trisha Burton was present to review the budget request for the Youth Service Bureau. Trisha explained that the funding is used for the Court Diversion and Upswing programs. The Court Diversion program deals with first time offense situations and are

subject to review and a contract, owning up to the offense and taking responsibility for their action, sometime performing community service.

The Upswing program is similar in that when troubled youth are identified they are held responsible for their actions with assistance being given to the entire family. Belmont makes up about 20% of the youth involved in the programs. Trisha noted a slight increase due to their rent being increased.

The Board discussed the relatively high costs versus the number of children helped by the program. The fact that the Belmont Police do not use the program and the referrals to the program come from other departments was also noted. The program does show a return of a \$1,300 surplus.

Selectman Caldwell moved to approve line item 4415-339 \$33,867 as proposed. Selectman Cornier asked that the surplus figure be removed from the current request as it had not been taken into consideration with the presented request. Selectman Caldwell removed his motion.

Selectman Caldwell moved to approve line item 4419-333 \$32,567 as amended. Selectman Cormier seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

New Beginnings

Selectman Caldwell moved to approve line item 4415-340 \$1,500 as proposed. Selectman Cormier seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Cormier noticed the actual request from New Beginnings was to be \$1,800. Realizing the error Selectman Caldwell moved to amend line item 4415-340 to \$1,800. Selectman Cormier seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

American Red Cross

Selectman Caldwell moved to approve line item 4415-341 \$2,840 as proposed. Selectman Cormier seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Genesis

Selectman Cormier noted the request from Genesis is up almost 50%, with no representative present to explain the increase the Board requested Town Administrator Beaudin to contact Genesis to provide an explanation of the increase.

NH Helpline

The representative from NH Helpline explained to the Board that the program hasn't requested funds at the local level before, however the cost of increases for the program have required the program to go out and get funding from other sources. She noted that the program has assisted 237 calls from Belmont, primarily homeless and domestic violence calls.

General Assistance Director Donna Cilley expressed that she feels the request should be zeroed; the program's only function is to provide information which can be provided by the General Assistance Office. The program used to be funded through a grant which is no longer available.

Selectman Caldwell expressed concern that the health agency programs are starting to overlap each other.

Chairman Watterson moved to \$0 line item 4415-343. Selectman Caldwell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Recreation

Tina Fleming and Brian Loanes were present to review the Recreation budget with the Board. Tina first noted that Phil Brouillard is closing his skate park in Gilford and has offered to donate a piece of equipment to Belmont; Tina will keep the Board informed when she has more information. Tina reviewed the programs that have taken place to this point and the programs that will run during the balance of this year and into next year.

Town Administrator Beaudin informed the Board that the application deadline for the part-time Recreation Director closed and the applications had been provided to the Board and Tina for their review.

Tina explained that not having the Director in place earlier in the year as they had anticipated the level of events didn't reach what they had hoped for however, they have had a very successful year to this point.

Tina noted the many repairs that have been done and will continue to be worked on, including new backboards, lighting and court resealing. She also noted the work that is planned for the Bandstand Park area and a Winter Carnival event.

The Board of Selectmen expressed their thanks to the entire Recreation Committee for all their hard work creating and running these programs.

Selectman Cormier moved to approve line items 4520-102 through 719 \$86,076 as proposed. Selectman Caldwell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Building Inspection

Town Administrator Beaudin explained the increase in salary is as approved by the Union contract.

Gary noted an increase in Dues due to an increase in the NH Building Officials dues, and increased telephone and fuel costs. Anticipated revenues are approximately \$40,000.

Selectman Caldwell moved to approve line items 4240-101 through 999 \$51,639 as proposed. Selectman Cormier seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing

Chairman Watterson opened the Public Hearing at 5:13 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public input regarding the public need for conferring Emergency Lane status upon certain private roads in the vicinity of Sargent Lake, specifically Morgan Road, Arnold Road, Dock Road and the private portion of Sargent Lake Road.

Town Administrator Beaudin advised that staff has been looking at the situation with the Sargent Lake Roads, specifically Morgan Road, Arnold Road, Dock Road and the private portion of Sargent Lake Road; it is their recommendation to move forward with naming the roads as emergency lanes.

Sara Deschuiteneer spoke in favor of the Emergency Lane as she has a young child and feels the importance of the roads being clear in case of an emergency.

Mike Murphy spoke in favor of the Emergency Lane, but wanted to point out that he still believes the roads are Town roads and the Town has received funds from the State for these roads and the Town won't acknowledge ownership.

During Discussion, it was noted that there are a significant number of homes in the Sargent Lake area surrounded by forest land; in the event of a fire in the area there would be considerable risk to the abutting land as well as the loss of property value, which because of the waterfront property, would have a negative effect on the Town's taxable valuation. Mr. Joseph McCormack, who lives on the private portion of Sargent Lake Road, pointed out also that there are a number of snowmobile and ATV trails in the vicinity, and the Sargent Lake roads are the only access for emergency vehicles in the event of an accident.

Donna Cilley asked if the roads are considered private or Town owned, Chairman Watterson indicated that the Town's view is that they are private and the Town has no intention of taking them over.

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that with the Emergency Lane status the Sargent Lake Association can still petition the Town for layout as the status of the roads is unchanged.

Robert Norkiewicz stated he is a new resident and prior to purchasing his home was told by someone at Town Hall that these were Town Roads. He has young children as do many close neighbors and he supports the need for the Emergency Lane.

Several residents noted that they have lived there for numerous years and the roads have always been maintained by the Town and they just want to continue to receive what they have at this point.

Chairman Watterson closed the Public Hearing at 5:34 p.m.

Selectman Cormier moved to in accordance with RSA 231:59-a to confer the status of Emergency Lane upon the following private roads in the vicinity of Sargent Lake; Morgan Road, Arnold Road, Dock Road and the private portion of Sargent Lake Road. Such status does not create any duty or liability on the part of the Town of Belmont, nor does it alter the classification or legal status of the private ways. Selectman Caldwell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Sargent Street Garage

Town Administrator Beaudin referenced a memo sent to the Board regarding the demolition of the Sargent Street Garage building and placement of a modular office trailer for the Parks & Recreation director. She explained that she has received 2 demolition quotes with Danley Demolition being the lowest; Applied GeoSystems advised there is no problem with demolishing the building. It would take approximately 2 wks to mobilize the demolition company because they need to get state and local permits, then the trailer would be placed and water and sewer hooked up.

Selectman Caldwell moved to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the proposal for the demolition of the Old Sargent Street Highway Garage. Selectman Cormier seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Cormier moved to authorize the Town Administrator to contract with Atlantic Storage for one year in advance rental to include setup and pickup for a modular office. Selectman Caldwell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Conservation Commission Letters

The Board reviewed a letter forwarded from the Conservation Commission requesting that Scott Rolfe be appointed to the Commission as an alternate.

Selectman Caldwell moved to appoint Scott Rolfe to the Conservation Commission as an alternate. Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed another request from the Conservation Commission to consider moving Mr. Peverly to the alternate's position on the Commission due to a poor attendance record. The Board asked if the Commission had contacted him to inquire why he hasn't attended, Town Administrator Beaudin indicated they hadn't. The Board asked Town Administrator Beaudin to request that the Conservation Commission contact Mr. Peverly to find out his intentions prior to any actions being taken to change his position on the Commission.

Coons Point Road

Town Administrators advised the Board that the Town has a sewer pump station at the end of the road that needs to be accessed daily. There recently was an erosion problem on the street that the Town helped with in order to maintain access to the pump station.

Recently the residents were notified of the private status of the road and they came into meet with Town staff regarding the maintenance of the road. It is staff's recommendation that an Emergency Lane be placed on Coons Point Road for continued access to the pump station

Selectman Caldwell moved to notify the abutters of Coons Point Road of a public hearing on Monday, November 7, 2005 at 5:30 p.m., to take input on conveying the status of Emergency Lane on Coons Point Road. Selectman Cormier seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Route 140 & 106 Intersection

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that at the State of NH Public Hearing last week regarding the construction of turning lanes at the intersection of Routes 140 and 106 the State offered to install sidewalks if the Town wanted them. They have asked that the Town make a request to have them installed. Chairman Watterson asked the Town Administrator to write the letter of request.

It was noted that during that meeting the State's proposal did not include a right hand turning lane on Route 140 West and the Land Use staff feels strongly that there should be a lane there. Chairman Watterson asked that a request for a turning lane at that location be included with the letter requesting sidewalks.

Other Business

There was further discussion with Donna Cilley regarding Emergency Lanes. The road inventory will assist greatly in determining if there are other roads that qualify and each road that may qualify will need to be reviewed on an individual basis. Per the RSA regarding Emergency Lanes the benefit and public need will have to be determined in each case.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for October 19, 2005 at 4:30 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House for a Budget Work Session; the next regular meeting was set for November 7, 2005, 5:00 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Brian Watterson, Chairman

Reginald Caldwell

Ronald Cormier, Jr.