

Selectmen's Meeting – September 21, 2010

Present were Selectmen Nancy L. Carlson, Bruce L. Tatro and Deborah J. Davis. Also present was Town Administrator Elizabeth Fox.

Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Financial Matters. Selectmen reviewed and approved accounts payable and payroll manifests.

Citizen Concerns. Clyde and Carol Keene and Butch Thompson presented Selectmen with petitions collected in the Westport Village area expressing concerns about a proposal to site an asphalt plant in Winchester near the Swanzey town line. Attachment #1 includes the text of the petition submitted. They reported on activity at a recent Winchester Planning Board meeting at which project developers outlined their proposal. An application seeking Winchester Planning Board approval has not yet been submitted so public hearings have not been scheduled. Mr. & Mrs. Keene and Mr. Thompson expressed the view that the application had regional impact and that pursuant to statute Swanzey should be notified. Selectmen encouraged them to write to the Winchester Planning Board requesting they make a regional impact finding. The proposal was subject of a ZBA appeal and that board ruled in early September that asphalt plants were a permitted use. The appeal deadline for a ZBA ruling was discussed. Concerns were expressed about fire response, fuel storage, emissions, traffic, threat to the aquifer and trucks. Selectmen suggested providing the town with copies of any correspondence directed to the Winchester Land Use Boards.

Recycling Center. Selectmen met with Solid Waste Manager David Krisch and Assistant Stephen Stewart who reported that the burning chamber/heat exchanger on the town's waste oil furnace (which is more than 10 years old) has failed. They estimated that during the unit's life it had saved the town more than \$24,000 in heating fuel costs. Costs to rebuild or replace with either a "Clean Burn" or "Reznor" were reviewed. The Clean Burn unit requires purchase of a compressor as well as the new furnace at a cost of \$6,345. The Reznor unit is \$5,930 installed (with trade of existing unit). Selectmen approved purchase/installation of a Reznor Waste Oil furnace for \$5,930 with funding source for the project designated as the center's operating budget.

Informational Items. Selectmen acknowledge receipt of the following informational items:

- Police Department Quarterly Report ending 9/15/2010.
- Fire Department call counts for June, July and August
- Invitation to MRSD's upcoming goal setting meeting.
- Scheduling of the Public Hearing for replacement of the Route 10 Bridge crossing the Ashuelot just over the town line in Winchester.
- Filing of a Supreme Court appeal by Gocht (ZBA variance litigation).
- Notice of Impending Foreclosure - Cournoyer Property, 138 Pine Street.

Summary of Assessed Value (MS-1). Analysis comparing the 2009 and 2010 MS 1 reports was reviewed with Selectmen. A shift since 2005, increasing the commercial/industrial portion of the town's tax base from 14.7% to 18.6%, was reviewed.

Fitness Room Quotes. Selectmen reviewed quotes received for this grant supported project requesting Faulkner develop a spreadsheet which compares them item by item as quick review indicated that vendors might not have quoted all of the same materials.

Past Due Tax Liens. Selectmen reviewed the status of several accounts requesting correspondence be drafted for consideration at their next meeting.

Agreement between Cheshire TV, City of Keene and Towns of Marlborough & Swanzey. Selectmen were updated on status of negotiations pertaining to renewal of this agreement. Keene has proposed shifting the basis of negotiation so that each town has an individual agreement with Cheshire TV and the two towns and city have a separate agreement between the municipal partners. Staff is scheduled to meet with the city regarding the agreement between the municipalities on 9/22. Since the City determined it wished to proceed with an individual agreement with Cheshire TV development of a separate agreement for Swanzey is now a project to be initiated. To allow work to continue, Selectmen voted to grant an additional extension to the initial 5 year agreement with Cheshire TV setting a new expiration date of 11/23/2010.

Correction to Minutes of Previous Meeting, August 10, 2010. Selectmen approved a correction to previously approved minutes noting that the meeting date should have been 8/10 not 8/9 as indicated on the initial copy.

Health FSA for Plan Year 2009. Selectmen voted to designate funds received following the close of plan year 2009 to be used to reduce the cost of administering the FSA during Plan Year 2010 receipting the 2009 plan year funds as general government misc. income.

Fire Department. Discussion of proposed department purchase orders and future fire department purchases was deferred. Fox advised that Skantze indicated that the ladder truck is out of service with a PTO problem. The new tanker is not in service yet as driver training is still underway and the hose ordered for the truck has not been delivered.

DPW Quote for Lining of Streets. Selectmen reviewed a memo from Dunham recommending expenditure of \$7,900 to line Matthews Road and Eaton Road. Selectmen requested an additional quote and a breakdown for that recommended indicating the number of feet of each type of striping, the rate per foot and detail regarding any other additional project costs for their 9/28 meeting.

Cobble Hill & Warmac Road Bridges Scope & Fee Proposal. Selectmen requested additional time to review the submissions.

Heating Oil Bids. Results from bids solicited with School District were provided to board members. Collectively, the bid prices 164,000 gallons. Selectmen indicated they preferred award with a fix mark up (v. fixed price) advising Fox to consult with school officials and award accordingly.

North Swanzey Water & Fire Precinct/Interim Agreement with Keene and provision of service to accommodate an additional building at 265 Old Homestead Highway. Fox reviewed with Selectmen activity by town staff, the precinct and city regarding provision of water and an additional hydrant deemed required by code.

NH Retirement System certifies rates effective 2011. Selectmen were provided with the newly certified rates effective 7/1/2011 and estimate of budget impact based on 2010 payroll for Group II employees. It was noted that the certified rates are based on the assumption that the state resumes contributing 35% effective 7/1/2011.

Personnel Matter, RSA 91-A:3IIa – Town Hall. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 8:20 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 8:35 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

Consent Agenda. Selectmen approved the following items:

- Intent to Cut, Tax Map 82 Lot 3-2.
- Authorization for tax exempt status – 88 Wilson Pond Road
- Letters regarding pending receivables and taxes to several property owners.
- Request directed to the Planning Board to extend landscaping security, Sevene Site Plan, 138/140 Pine Street.
- Event Permits #2010-23 & #2010-18.
- Exemption/Tax Credit follow up letters – Tax Map 71 Lot 9, Tax Map 87 Lot 2-5107, Tax Map 18 Lot 159, Tax Map 15 Lot 37, Tax Map 27 Lot 12, Tax Map 37 Lot 33, Tax Map 18 Lot 234, Tax Map 31 Lot 9, Tax Map 32 Lot 19-7 and Tax Map 10 Lot 4.
- Authorized accepting and expending pursuant to RSA 31:95-b \$466.20 in proceeds of an insurance claim related to cruiser damage for damage repairs to cruisers.

Minutes of Previous Meetings. Selectmen approved the minutes of their meeting of 9/7/2010 as written and the minutes of their meeting of 8/31/2010 correcting the spelling of the word “judgment” and clarifying the sentence pertaining to agreement to write a letter to the editor supporting the SAU withdrawal.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator