

Selectmen's Meeting – February 28, 2007

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

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

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

Cheshire County Jail Site Selection. Selectman Carlson advised other board members of call she had received from Commissioner Stillman Rogers regarding the Hill property as a proposed site for the new county facility. She advised Commissioner Rogers that Westmorland remained her preferred site and that she was concerned about the costs associated with development of a new facility at the Hill location. He has asked her to testify at the upcoming March 5th county meeting.

Buck & Ike. Victoria and Bruce Barlow met with Selectmen to review a collaborative project proposed between the Old Homestead Association, the Open Space Committee and the Johnson Family Farm which involved 2 oxen, who are brothers, named Buck and Ike. Involvement of the Open Space Committee is driven by the sentiment coming from the town's Master Plan Update which illustrated the town's desire to preserve rural character. Proposed is an initiate to develop funding support for Buck and Ike. A handout – Attachment #1, and flyer – Attachment #2 were shared with Selectmen. Events planned to "promote" Buck and Ike and the rural character they embody were reviewed. The support that would be provided by the Open Space Committee, which would be tied to the committee's educational efforts toward open space protection and conservation with Buck and Ike as mascot were reviewed. Selectmen endorsed participation of the Open Space Committee.

Chris Ballas, 58 Westbrook Court, Tax Map 27 Lot 9. Chris Ballas, a recent applicant for a home occupation, met with Selectmen advising he needed to enlarge the garage in which his home occupation was located and was planning to build a 29 x 24' addition in front of the existing garage.

Regional Prosecutor Program. An agreement (MOU) for the program proposed by the county and amendments suggested by Town Counsel were distributed to Selectmen who asked that discussion be scheduled for their next meeting.

West Swanzey Sidewalk Committee. The purpose of the committee and the nomination process were reviewed with Town Administrator Fox suggesting that Selectmen ask the moderator to appoint a member to the committee that would establish a direct link to the board or DPW to improve communication and coordination between the efforts of the committee and the town's governing body and Department of Public Works.

Minutes of Prior Meetings. Selectmen reviewed and approved as written the minutes of their meeting of February 21, 2007.

Tire Amnesty Day. Selectmen approved continuing the town's annual tire amnesty day to be held on June 16, 2007. Education efforts will take place to tie the event to West Nile Prevention.

Junkyard Licensing. A draft application and information regarding the licensing process was distributed to board members for discussion at the board's next meeting.

Non-public session, RSA 91-A:3IIa. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3IIa at 7:40 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 7:45 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes until the action authorized was initiated.

BTLA Docket No. 21078-04PT. Selectmen voted to authorize the chair to execute on behalf of the board a settlement agreement for the pending case setting the assessed property value for the parcel at \$231,000 for tax years 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Fire Department. Selectmen reviewed handouts including draft position descriptions for Volunteer Fire Chief and Volunteer Deputy Fire Chief, Organizational Rules and Regulations and information relating to training programs and certifications offered by NH Fire Standards and Training. Pending was finalization of the minimum qualifications and special requirements for the chief and deputy chief's positions. Those sections of other town's chief position descriptions (Amherst, Jaffrey, Peterborough & Putney) were distributed. The merits of more general requirements with language providing an opportunity to consider equivalent education and/or experience were discussed. After review and discussion, Selectmen approved position descriptions for the Volunteer Fire Chief and Volunteer Deputy Fire Chief – Attachment #3 and #4. Rules and regulations related to the department's organizational structure were reviewed. How to implement the changes proposed was discussed. Selectmen approved the proposed Organizational Rules and Regulations – Attachment #5 with an effective date to be determined. Selectmen requested staff draft an ad seeking a volunteer fire chief for consideration at their next meeting. They also asked that an appointment be scheduled with Chief Karasinski.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator