

Selectmen's Meeting – March 16, 2010

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

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

Election of Officers. Election of officers was deferred until March 23rd in the hopes that all members would be present. Selectman Davis will continue to serve as chair until elections are conducted.

Building Code Update. Selectmen were advised of code updates effective 4/1/2010 as a result of the state's adoption of a variety of 2009 codes.

Thompson Covered Bridge Scour Countermeasures/Fire Suppression Project. A pre-construction meeting has been scheduled for 3/25 at 10 a.m. at Town Hall.

LGC Regional Dinners. Selectmen discussed the upcoming regional dinner declining at this time to plan to attend.

Legislative Delegation Meeting. Information regarding an upcoming regional meeting (3/29) with the area's legislative delegation hosted by the City of Keene was distributed to members.

Carpenter Home Grant Application. The town's application seeking funding for energy improvements at the home was not successful. In the next few weeks facility needs will be prioritized to support developing a plan to fund the most needed facility work.

Citizen's Concerns. Representative Lerandean advised Selectmen of concerns related to proposed NHDES rules concerning stream crossing and their potential impact on town's DPW activities. A public hearing to learn more about the rules is scheduled for next Tuesday.

Past Due Taxes Eligible for Deeding – Route 10 Auto & William & Suzanne MacPhail. Mrs. MacPhail met with Selectmen reviewing the status of these accounts and the taxes outstanding which deem the parcels eligible for deeding March 31, 2010. Past payment arrangements and payment activity was discussed at length. Consideration of re-application of a December payment of 2010 taxes and whether that could be redirected toward the older taxes was requested. Need for a payment arrangement that resolved this longstanding issue was expressed by Selectmen. The taxpayer indicated that she would continue to make payments on a regular basis at least 2x a month. No action or decisions were made by Selectmen regarding the accounts.

Department of Public Works. Selectmen met with DPW Director Lee Dunham who queried whether the board would authorize hiring of seasonal staff for grounds maintenance in late April versus May. After discussion about the benefits and potential late season problems, Selectmen declined to authorize early hiring. Change of division work hours/schedule would be linked to initiation of the seasonal hiring.

Facilities were discussed including a proposal to construct a new scorer's booth, with financial support from field users. Selectmen requested additional information regarding the field improvements proposed and the possible scorer's booth. Work space deficiencies for cemeteries, parks and facilities maintenance and other DPW operations were discussed. Selectmen declined to endorse renovation and relocation of the CPM Division to Whitcomb Hall preferring investigation into alternatives which would enhance coordination of the department's divisions.

Further discussion of 2010 paving plans funded through Budget 2010 and the expendable trust for road reconstruction, reclamation and rehabilitation was deferred to a future meeting.

Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIa, Department of Public Works. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 7:40 p.m. Present was DPW Director Lee Dunham and Town Administrator Elizabeth Fox. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 8:00 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

Fire Department. Selectmen reviewed the quote obtained for preventive maintenance from NE Fire Equipment & Apparatus Corporation. After discussion, Selectmen met with Chief Skantze and reviewed details of the quote. Status of repairs to Engine 2 (2001 Pierce) and Engine 3 (1987 Pierce) were reviewed with Skantze reporting #2 as complete and #3 as almost done. Selectmen queried about vehicle use data since the March 2009 preventive maintenance with Chief Skantze advising he did not see mileage as a measure of maintenance frequency for the fire fleet but felt it was important to annually document the status of trucks. A question regarding frequency of pump testing was raised and whether NFPA established a standard will be investigated and reported back to the board by Chief Skantze. After requesting several technical corrections to the quote, Selectmen voted to authorize fleet preventive maintenance work by NE Fire Equipment & Apparatus Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$7,735.34. Concepts related to the proposed conversion of department personnel from volunteer to call status were discussed. Policies relative to station response and the “order of response” guideline followed by the department were also discussed.

Recommended Budget 2010. Selectmen executed the MS-2 Report of Appropriations Actually Voted and authorized merger of the recommended budget to fund accounting – Attachment #1.

138/140 Pine Street, Cournoyer Property/Sevene Site Plan, Tax Map 57 Lot 118. Selectmen reviewed correspondence from A. Studebaker (Ashuelot River Campground) expressing concern about possible site plan violations by Sevene and conditions at a neighboring property owned by Davis. Correspondence directed by Weston to Sevene reminding of the requirements of the site plan approval was reviewed. More recent actions by Sevene, 3/15/2010, removing trees were reported to the board. Concern that enforcement action seeking site plan compliance could (in part) be moot if tree cutting was to resume were expressed. After discussion of enforcement options, Selectmen authorized town counsel to seek an injunction to prevent further removal of the natural vegetative barrier required by the Planning Board’s site plan approval.

Re-affirmation RSA 31:105, 105 & 106 and 508:12-b. Selectmen re-affirmed their adoption of these statutes – Attachment #2

Recreation Committee. Selectmen requested staff schedule an opportunity for the board to meet the nominee.

Request for permission to metal detect – Bob Lewis, Tax Map 1 Lot 1. Selectmen voted to authorize Mr. Lewis to metal detect on this town owned property providing excavation is limited to that which could be done with a small shovel and any excavation was filled in and compacted in a manner that returned the ground to its pre-excavation conditions. In addition, information regarding the discrepancies between the town tax map and deed noted by town counsel should be provided to Mr. Lewis.

February Storm Debris Management Update. Selectmen confirmed that that town would not be providing roadside debris pick up for eligible debris resulting from the February windstorm.

Swanzy Welcome Sign Fund. Selectmen accepted a donation of \$5 in honor of Buck toward a replacement welcome sign pursuant to RSA 31-95-b.

140 Warmac Road, Tax Map 29 Lot 3-3. Selectmen were advised of a query from a former mortgage holder seeking a payoff figure.

Non-public Session – RSA 91-A:3IIa & c, PD FMLA Leave Request. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3IIa & c at 9:45 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 9:50 voting to authorize FMLA leave for up to 12 weeks for the requesting department employee.

Consent Agenda. Selectmen reviewed, approved and executed the following:

- Correspondence accepting the resignations of Donald Doucette (firefighter), Paul Daniello (Conservation Commission) & Richard Scaramelli (SWRPC Commissioner).
- BTLA Settlement Agreement – Tax Map 23 Lot 3-4, authorizing chairman to sign.
- Appointment papers Open Space Committee Nominees - Feist & Zeh.
- Appointment papers Conservation Commission Nominee – Morrison.
- Appointment papers Swanzy Revenue Development District Advisory Board Nominee – G. Davis.
- Single Act Audit Engagement Letter (required due to federal funds received in 2009 in excess of \$500,000) authorizing chairman to sign.
- Accepting & authorizing expending pursuant to RSA 31:95-b donations to Swanzy Rural Character Fund: \$ 7 (NH Preservation Alliance), \$45 (Swanzy Historical Cttee), \$5 (L. Lane)

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting. Selectmen approved the minutes of their meeting of March 2, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator