

Selectmen's Meeting – March 30, 2010

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

Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

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

Recreation Committee. Selectmen met with Michelle Matson, applicant to serve on the Recreation Committee, discussing her interest in serving and prior experience working with youth recreation programs. Selectmen voted to appoint Ms. Matson as a member of the Committee for a 3 year term requesting necessary paperwork to complete the appointment process be prepared for signature at next week's meeting.

Confirmation. Selectmen endorsed the Planning Board's nomination of H. Greg Johnson to serve as one of the town's regional planning commission commissioners for a 3 year term.

Notice of Violation – Robinson & Johnson Partnership, Tax Map 52 Lot 26. Selectmen met with Frank Lucius discussing the land use violation resulting from the dumping at the property of demolition material from Cheshire Tire (a building taken down in Keene) by Mr. Lucius. His plan was to burn it at the site and during the winter burnt portions of this building's debris at the property. The site does not have land use approval allowing commercial burning of demolition material. Lucius reviewed with Selectmen his contacts with the town regarding burning the Cheshire Tire material, initial with Deputy Forest Fire Warden Dunham, and then with Fire Chief Skantze. Dunham had not express concerns about burning at the site. Lucius advised Skantze recently indicated that he would consider issuing a burn permit provided the use was authorized by land use officials. Selectmen and Lucius reviewed the site's land use approvals and the process to seek approval to conduct commercial burning at the site. The timetable for consideration of an application by the planning board was reviewed. Staff estimated that the earliest a site plan application hearing was likely to be conducted (if an application was submitted promptly) was May 13. The April 4 deadline established by the code enforcement officer's notice of violation was reviewed with Selectmen requesting the Code Enforcement Officer defer further enforcement action to allow consideration by the land use boards of an application granting permission for such use (provided such applications are submitted in a timely fashion).

Lane Field. DPW Director Dunham reported that action was not required on the Cal Ripken League's request to spray (to prevent weeds) the infield as the vendor who was to perform the work advised he did not have a license which allowed application on the town's infield. Parking at the facility and whether a no parking zone should be established along Mill Lane was discussed.

Brown Field. Dunham provided members with additional information regarding plans to move the field lighting switches to a more secure location attached to the concession stand/bathroom facility at an estimated cost of \$2,120. Selectmen requested an additional price for the work. League participants are also interested in modifying the backstop and fundraising for the work desired was suggested.

Paving Bids. Dunham reviewed revisions to the paving bid packet (Attachment #1) and a schedule which returns bids for board consideration on April 27. Selectmen authorized proceeding to bid the work outlined.

Thompson Covered Bridge Project (Scour Countermeasures and Fire Suppression).

Selectmen voted to execute an agreement with project low bidder Northern Construction Services LLC authorizing Chairman Carlson to execute the construction agreement on behalf of the town.

Landscaping at Town Hall. Correspondence from the Old Homestead Garden Club regarding the landscaping in front of Town Hall and the town's plans following removal of the 2 burning bushes last year (one was dead) was reviewed. Selectmen requested correspondence be drafted for their consideration offering financial support for replacement with a suitable species.

Utility Appraisals. Selectmen executed an agreement with G.E. Sancoucy to update for Tax Year 2010 the town's utility assessments.

Swanzy Lake Day Camp. Planning for the 2010 season (anticipated to return to 8 weeks) is underway. Participant fees (unchanged since 2008) were discussed and census was reviewed. Staffing compensation, and whether increases would be considered this year, was discussed with Selectmen advising participate fees would not require adjustment if pay rate adjustments were not anticipated.

Past Due Taxes Eligible for Deeding. Selectmen were updated on the status of accounts authorizing a payment arrangement providing the taxpayer (Tax Map 73 Lot 22-546) until 4/15 to satisfy the 2008 tax lien.

Honoring Buck. Selectmen authorized placement of a painting of Buck adjacent to the Town Hall signboard next week to honor his service to our town.

Fire Department. Steve Dunshee met with the board submitting a letter advising he had been a volunteer firefighter with the town for 24 years and more recently in 2007 a full time firefighter working for towns up north. Following an injury related to his full time employment in December 2008 preventing him from performing firefighter duties, he has had 2 surgeries. He advised he was now able to return to work in a light duty capacity. He indicated he had several conversations with Chief Skantze over the past year and half regarding his status with the town's department and Skantze had requested during those conversations documentation regarding his physical condition and how it impacted his ability to perform the duties required of a firefighter. To date, Dunshee said he has not provided Skantze with any documentation addressing those requests. Dunshee said he was upset reporting that Skantze most recently (3/20) told Dunshee that he felt he was not eligible to be on the town's roster and perhaps he should consider retiring or resigning. Dunshee told Selectmen he did not wish to retire or resign and does not feel he should be let go due to his injury. He wants to be able to come back as a firefighter (in a limited duty capacity). He relayed to board members that he was also upset that Skantze would not sign off on paperwork to allow Dunshee to re-certify as an EMT. Selectmen told Dunshee they would discuss these matters with Chief Skantze and respond.

Elderly Deferral Application – Tax Map 18 Lot 234. Selectmen reviewed the application received following the March 1 deadline requesting additional information from the applicant, occupants and property owners.

Whitcomb Hall. Selectmen authorized lending of chairs at the hall a DPW employee for an event June 12.

ICMA Deferred Compensation Policy. Selectmen adopted modifications to the policy – Attachment #2.

Non-public session, RSA 91-A:3IIb – Hiring Police Department. 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 to seal the minutes of the session until the conditions of the offer of employment are satisfied.

Consent Agenda. Selectmen reviewed and executed the following:

- Correspondence directed to NHDOT providing feedback regarding the Winchester Route 10 Bridge project.
- Accepting the resignation of firefighter Wayne Dunham expressing appreciation for his service to the town.
- Abatement #2010-01.

Minutes of Previous Meetings. Selectmen took the following actions pertaining to minutes of the group's previous meetings:

- Selectmen Tatro and Davis approved as written the minutes of the board's meeting of March 16, 2010.
- Selectmen Carlson, Tatro and Davis approved as written the minutes of the board's meeting of March 23, 2010.
- Selectman Carlson and Tatro approved as written the minutes of the board's meeting of March 26, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator