

## **Selectmen's Meeting – March 28, 2007**

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

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

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

**Homestead Woolen Mill Dam.** Selectmen met with NHDES representatives Deb Loiselle (river restoration) and Grace Levergood (dam safety) and DES consultant on the dam removal project Peter Walker (VHB). Also present was Town Planner Sara Carbonneau and DPW Director Lee Dunham. Peter Walker reviewed with Selectmen a handout summarizing work on the project to date and anticipated future events – Attachment #1. Continued deterioration of the dam since completion of the feasibility study in 2005 was discussed. Impact of the removal of the dam on the Thompson Bridge pier and how that pier might be impacted if removal is done in accordance with the plan outlined in the 50% plans released last fall was discussed. Selectmen expressed their concern that the water level resulting from implementation of those plans would be too low threatening the bridge and the utility of the river for recreation. Walker advised that with removal of the dam water levels were expected to drop in the impoundment running north up river to the Cresson Bridge. Sequence of bridge stabilization and dam removal was discussed. Walker advised that evaluation of alternative removal designs was under way and that models to quantify the impacts on water levels if removal provided for two or one or no veins (versus three proposed initially) constructed in the river were being conducted. Status of the FHWA grant being sought to help finance bridge work was reviewed. Current removal schedule – now probably not anticipated until fall 2008, was also discussed. Questions regarding what documentation would be done after dam removal to quantify the impact on both the river and the community were raised by DPW Director Dunham. Questions regarding how the impact of removal would be addressed relative to flood plain and flood plain mapping amendments were raised by Town Planner Sara Carbonneau.

**Home Occupation – 129 Westport Village Road, Tax Map 88 Lot 1.** Selectmen met with applicant Mary Ryan who reviewed the studio and gallery use proposed presenting plans, photographs and drawings related to how it would appear and be operated. An area variance, as the proposed use occupies more floor area than permitted for a home occupation, granted by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. After discussion, selectmen voted to approve the use outlined in the application and supporting materials as qualifying as a home occupation authorizing the chair to execute indication of approval of the use on the application received by the Town March 5, 2007.

**Fire Department.** Selectmen met with Fire Captains David Page, Gerry Bell and Robert Symonds. Status of the rescue truck, damaged in a 3/16/2007 accident, was discussed. It appears that the damage is more extensive than first thought and the town's insurer has transferred the truck to Valley Equipment (in Bradford, NH) for repair. It will be out of

service for several months probably. The department is considering putting the Jaws on 43E2 which is now back in service. The Yukon is being utilized to respond to house call type rescue calls. Since return from reserve duty, Captain Page has assumed responsibility for medical paperwork. Bell advised that the front end work needed on the reel truck was estimated at around \$1,000. Selectmen requested a written estimate and deferred determining how to proceed until the March budget report is issued. Selectmen were invited to the Firemen's Dinner at Pilgrim Pines set for Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Tatro will attend. Due to prior commitments Carlson and Davis cannot. Ten personnel from the department attended training last weekend in Maryland.

**Emergency Management.** Selectmen met with EMD Bruce Bohannon who provided them with information on upcoming Senior Officials Training and the first Vernon Drill set for April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Street Re-naming Committee.** Selectmen queried on the work of this group. The group needs to meet and report to the board in the next few weeks.

**Budget 2007.** Selectmen approved a request from Solid Waste Manager David Krisch to re-allocate between accounts funds within the departments approved budget – Attachment #2.

**Swanzey Lake Day Camp.** Selectmen set fees for the 2007 summer program – Attachment #3.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting.** Selectmen approved as written the minutes of their meeting of March 21, 2007.

**Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIa, Employee Compensation.** Selectmen voted by roll call to go into non-public session at 8:55 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 9:07 p.m. Selectmen approved pay rate adjustments for several town employees.

**Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIb, Recruitment.** Selectmen voted by roll call to go into non-public session at 9:08 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 9:25 p.m. Selectmen authorized extension of the application time period for the fire chief's position seeking a larger candidate pool.

**Correspondence, Permits and Other Matters.** Selectmen reviewed and executed the following:

- Honey Hill Trail Improvement Project. Selectmen signed a letter of support endorsing the project proposed by Eagle Scout James Toye.
- Do Not Occupy, 610 Swanzey Lake Road.
- Intent to Excavate, Tax Map 12 Lot 5.
- Annual License Renewal, Carpenter Home voting to authorized Chairman Tatro to execute on behalf of the Town.

**Forest Fire Nominations.** Selectmen nominated the following candidates:

- Forest Fire Warden, Lee Dunham.
- Deputy Forest Fire Warden, Bruce Tatro.
- Deputy Forest Fire Warden, Ernest Kirouac.
- Deputy Forest Fire Warden, Sly Karasinski.
- Deputy Forest Fire Warden, Gerald Bell.
- Deputy Forest Fire Warden, Charles Beauregard, Sr.
- Deputy Forest Fire Warden, Mark LaBelle.
- Deputy Forest Fire Warden, Geoff Davis.

Meeting adjourned at 9: 25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox  
Town Administrator