

Selectmen's Meeting – June 7, 2011

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

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

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

Press Release – Reducing West Nile Virus & EEE, Tire Amnesty Day 2011. Selectmen were provided with a copy of a press release to be issued.

TANF. Information regarding changes to the TANF program received from DHHS and potential for additional costs to the community's general assistance program was provided to Selectmen.

SWRPC Dinner Meeting – June 21. Selectmen advised they would not be able to attend.

Hydrant Repair – WS Community Church Cistern. Selectmen were advised that this hydrant had been repaired. Marking of the dry hydrants remains pending.

Cruiser #4. An estimate to repair the car damaged on May 30th was provided to members. Scheduling of a public hearing pursuant to RSA 31:95-b will be required as repair costs are more than \$5,000. A report from the town's insurer of repair costs is still pending.

Narrowband Compliance – January 2013. Information received from departments regarding status of narrowband compliance was provided to Selectmen.

Unlicensed Dogs. Selectmen reviewed a list which included owner information related to dogs which remain unlicensed – Attachment #1.

Paving Plans 2011. Selectmen met with DPW Director Lee Dunham who provided revised cost estimates of chip seal work proposed. To remain within Selectmen's decision to chip seal 25,000 square yards, inclusion of Ash Hill Road in the 2011 has been deferred. Roads scheduled to be chip sealed include: Aldrich Road (east end), Taft Road, Webber Hill Road and Cobble Hill. Chip sealing, and fibermat work approved May 24th will be funded from the operating budget. Revised cost estimates for cold mix application on Whitcomb Road and reclamation and reconstruction of drainage on Railroad Street and Eaton Road (to Greenleaf Road) were reviewed. Funding available in expendable trust this year and anticipated funding available for road work next year (assuming the town's funding commitment is at least \$145,000) was discussed. Work anticipated next year and the condition of Homestead Ave was discussed. Conditions on Whitcomb Road and whether a portion (needing the most attention) was feasible to include in this year's work plan was deliberated. Based on updated cost estimates provided by Dunham, Selectmen approved moving forward with reclamation of Railroad Street and Eaton Road to Greenleaf including drainage improvements. They also approved cold mix application to Whitcomb Road beginning at the intersection of Oliver Hill and running south to a point just south of 211 Whitcomb Road estimated at .7 miles. Funding source for these projects (Eaton, Railroad & Whitcomb) will be the expendable trust for road reclamation, reconstruction and rehabilitation. The board authorized issuance of a bid specification for the cold mix and reclamation work approved with a bid due date of June 24th and consideration by Selectmen on June 28th.

Upper & Lower Wilson Pond Dam RFP. Dunham advised that the town had received 15 responses to its RFP and that the review committee had selected 3 firms to interview.

Replacement of Large 6 wheeled dump truck. Dunham advised that he would be in to the board's next meeting with additional information about the planned truck replacement.

National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Application. Fox advised Selectmen the application had been filed with a project cost estimate of \$355,000 for the Cresson Bridge. Based on that estimate and the state's representation that the grant match portion (20%) would be funded 80% state and 20% town, the town's share of the project would be \$14,200. Selectmen requested letters be prepared asking Shaheen, Ayotte and Bass to support the application.

Assessment of Telephone Poles. Fox queried whether at this point in the legislative session the Selectmen supported obtaining professional services to develop an assessed value for the poles. Selectmen recommended proceeding.

USPS & Swanzey Mail Routes. Fox advised that she and Selectman Carlson were scheduled to participate in a conference call the next morning with representatives of the Postal Service to discuss their decision to move the Swanzey delivery routes to Keene. Other board members were welcome to participate.

State Retirement System & Legislative Action. Selectmen discussed the committee of conference report on SB 3 scheduled for house vote tomorrow expressing their support.

Properties eligible for Tax Deeding – 22 Anthony Circle. Fox advised Tax Collector Ruth Snyder had been contacted by the Cooperative who advised they had initiated the process to acquire the unit for non-payment of park rent.

FD Call and Training Payroll Policy Implementation. Fox reported that an informational session for department members had been scheduled for June 20th.

SRDD & Extension of Safford Drive. Staff and consultants met with NHDOT regarding modifications to driveways at the Fairgrounds and Clearwater Pool and will be meeting with CFA and Clearwater representatives over the next week or so to review the results of that meeting with NHDOT.

Swanzey Lake Day Camp. Selectmen authorized granting of a one time age waiver to a child who just turned 12 to participate in the town's summer program with conditions recommended by staff.

Health Officer. Selectmen relayed a request from Health Officer BethAnne Tatro to allow property owners at 147 Pine Street and 127 Homestead Ave to bring materials from their property to the Recycling Center allowing the charges associated with disposal to be liened against their real estate until they were financial able to pay them. Aim of the waiver would be to assist in cleaning up the properties. Selectmen approved doing so for a 30 day period subject to conditions recommended by the town's Solid Waste Manager.

Vermont Yankee signs. Fox advised that signs marking the Vermont Yankee Evacuation zone had not been authorized or placed by the utility or NHOEM. Permission had not been obtained to place them in the town's right of way.

Residential Intern Program. Selectman Tatro advised he had opportunity to talk extensively with Chief Skantze about the program and how it would work and he no longer had reservations about moving forward with implementation for the fall of 2011. Selectmen discussed the proposal with Carlson advising she felt that the program was being advanced to because of the candidates versus deciding first to initiate the program and then recruiting candidates. Selectmen voted to authorize implementation of the residential intern program as detailed in the information provided by Skantze April 26th with Carlson abstaining. Carlson queried whether there were any tax implications or requirements to pay FICA associated with the “value” of the housing provided. Fox advised she had not researched that issue as the board had previously indicated they were not implementing the program. With it authorized, that issue will require investigation.

Wilcox School. Selectmen discussed the unused property and alternatives to initiate discussions with the district regarding its future, research needing to be done into that process and how that unused property might help meet the town’s and district’s future needs.

Minutes of Selectmen’s Meeting of May 31, 2011. Selectmen approved as written the minutes of their meeting of May 31, 2011.

Consent Agenda. Selectmen authorized the following consent agenda items:

- Scheduling of public hearing – Street naming & numbering regulation.
- Correspondence to B. Landry re: abatement of interest.
- Open Container Permit #2011-2 – Old Homestead Association.
- Raffle Permit #2011-12.

Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIa – Personnel. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3IIa at 8:15 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 8:25 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator