

## **Board of Selectmen's Meeting**

### **Minutes of May 1, 2006**

*Selectmen:*

*Peter N. Miller, Chairman*  
*Frank S. Michel*  
*( Absent with notice) Peter F. Brothers*  
*Miller C. Lovett*  
*Colette Worsman*

*Town Manager:*

*Carol M. Granfield*

*Administrative Assistant:*

*Wynette DeGroot*

*Recording Clerk:*

*Karin Landry*

Call to Order: Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm. Announcements made regarding hearing assistance, fire exits and comments from the floor.

Roll Call: Chairman Peter Miller, Frank Michel, Miller Lovett, Colette Worsman, Carol Granfield, Wynette DeGroot, Karin Landry

Chairman Miller announced that the approval of minutes is not the first item as they were approved in the work session.

#### **TOWN MANAGERS REPORT:**

- The Welcome Directory is complete. It contains a summary of information on Town departments, licenses, permits, etc. It is a good resource for home or business and can be picked up at the Town Hall.

- The Community Center was well utilized during school vacation week with 50-70 people participating in the programs each day. The programs are being monitored and are subject to change if need be. We are currently working on approval of Hawkins Bridge with DES. Work on the bridge is not scheduled to begin until next year. A summary of fundraising activities and expenditures will be presented to the Board in a future workshop or meeting. The final figures will not be available until year-end. Everyone is invited to the dedication ceremony scheduled for June 3.

- Police Station is moving forth. We are working on permitting with DES and a preconstruction meeting with town department staff, engineers, architects and various others will be held this week. Weekly or bi-weekly meetings will be held to discuss matters as they arise. The change to black and white police cruisers was approved by the Board. If funds are available in the police department budget, existing cars will be painted black and white.

- Various activities are in the works including the May 13 Walkathon to benefit the Community Center, Adopt-a-Spot and the Plant New Hampshire Charette which will focus on the streetscape on Main Street. The Home and Garden Show featuring Rebecca Cole from the Discovery Channel as the key note speaker is scheduled for May 7. A Route 3 and 25 transportation corridor workshop will be held Saturday from 9-1 at the Community Center. It will take a look at the corridor with an eye for making travel through Meredith better, including changes

to activities, pedestrian traffic, safety, etc. Everyone is invited to attend. A meeting will be scheduled with a group of Meredith residents working with the Town to create a dog park.

Colette Worsman asked for clarification as to whether the footbridge was included in the original bid for the Community Center. Carol responded that according to the 9/13/04 Minutes, it was not and that it will be included in a breakdown of fundraising and expenditures.

#### **VISITORS' AND RESIDENTS' COMMENTS:**

Chair Miller opened the discussion for visitor and resident comments.

Jim Hughes expressed his pleasure at being included as part of a well-attended meeting. He gave a brief overview of workshop and meeting procedures in the past and expressed that voting should not take place at the workshops. Mr. Hughes stated that research on employee benefit packages should take place prior to the time the issue is brought up at a public meeting. He would like to see meetings scheduled where open dialogue can take place between employees and representatives of the Town regarding changes in benefits. Mr. Hughes also mentioned that he would like to see a sign in front of the Community Center posting the hours.

Chair Miller responded that with the present volume of business in front of the Board it is necessary for them to vote on some items at the workshop. The workshops are telecast and the minutes will be in greater detail than in the past. Any member of the public is welcome to attend the workshops and has the opportunity to speak.

Pat Mack spoke against construction of the footbridge, citing the sidewalk that was constructed last year that provides access to the Community Center from the park.

Bob Flanders mirrored Jim's comments regarding employee benefits. He spoke highly of the Meredith staff and the good working relationship between the staff and Town.

Dave Sticht spoke to the issue of workshops vs. meeting. He asked for a clarification between the two and whether or not there was a written definition of each.

Chair Miller responded that there is no definitive definition at this time.

Lt. Keith True added that the Board did not vote on additional costs of black and white cruisers at last week's work session. The cost was absorbed in this year's cruiser line item.

#### **SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS** (*Reports on Committees 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting each month*)

Chair Miller deferred the Selectmen's Comments in light of the amount of items on the Agenda at the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:****06- 19            Public Hearing: Amendment of Ordinance - Municipal Code  
Chapter Disorderly Actions § VI**

*Miller Lovett moved to open the Public Hearing at 6:10 pm seconded by Frank Michel.  
Hearing opened.*

Lt. Keith True supported the insertion of additional language regarding the illegal use of fireworks to the Town Ordinance regarding disorderly actions that was amended earlier this year. The amended ordinance allows for issuance of a ticket for the illegal use of fireworks and the funds generated go into the Town's general fund. The enforcement of this ordinance takes place at the local level as opposed to the State level. Lt. True stated that Section 6 should be amended to include the language "or any New Hampshire permissible fireworks". The amended ordinance reads:

"Such person discharges any consumer fireworks formerly known as class "C" explosives or any New Hampshire permissible fireworks within the Town of Meredith without properly obtaining a permit by the appropriate authority, that being the Fire Chief and Chief of Police as outlined in NH RSA 160."

Shawn Cross of Atlas Fireworks spoke regarding the distinction between commercial and consumer fireworks and the Class C firework classification. Mr. Cross spoke in favor of the additional proposed language.

A discussion ensued regarding permitting and safety issues and the additional costs in enforcement of the ordinance.

Ed Engler spoke to a minor change in punctuation within the proposed ordinance.

*Colette Worsman motioned to close the Public Hearing at 6:40 pm. Seconded by Frank Michel. Public Hearing closed.*

*Frank Michel motioned to amend Section 6 of the Disorderly Actions Ordinance as presented with minor punctuation changes, seconded by Colette Worsman. All in favor. Motion passed.*

**06-20 Senior Center Week Proclamation**

Carol Granfield read the proposed Senior Week Proclamation as follows:

Whereas, Older Americans are significant members of our society, investing their wisdom and experience to help enrich and better the lives of younger generation; and

Whereas, the Meredith Senior Center has acted as a catalyst for mobilizing the creativity, energy, vitality and commitment of the older residents of Meredith and surrounding communities; and

Whereas, the Meredith Senior Center affirms the dignity, self worth, and independence of older persons by facilitating their decision and actions; tapping their experiences, skills and knowledge; and enabling their continued contributions to the community.

Now, therefore, we, the Meredith Board of Selectmen hereby proclaim

**May 14 – 20, 2006**  
**Senior Center Week**

We call upon all citizens to recognize the special contributions of the Senior Center participants, and the special efforts of the staff and volunteers who work every day to enhance the well being of the older citizens of our community.

*Miller Lovett motioned to adopt the Senior Center Week Proclamation, seconded by Frank Michel. All in favor. Motion passed.*

**06-21 Village Pathway Committee Charge**

Carol Granfield explains that a Charge is being proposed for the Village Pathway Committee that will give direction to the group. It includes:

- Research village pathways in other municipalities, with site visits and consultations with officials.
- Create a conceptual plan for the Meredith Village Pathway, including the route of the pathway, its distinctive identifying features, and the multiple uses of its various segments.
- Prioritize which segment(s) of the pathway to complete first, with an approximate timeline for completion.
- Develop cost estimates for these segment(s) of the pathway.
- Prepare a draft budget for these pathway segments, identifying amounts to be secured through grants, cash and in-kind donations, and town appropriations.
- Present conceptual plan, immediate priorities, cost estimates, and draft budget to Board of Selectmen, CIP Advisory Committee, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Greater Meredith Program.
- Write a Transportation Enhancement Grant proposal and other grant proposals for submission in 2007.
- Solicit community support for the conceptual plan and its immediate priorities through public outreach.

- Help draft warrant articles as needed.
- Help shepherd the completion of the initial segments of the project as needed.
- Following completion of these segments, commence work on the next phases of the project.

Peter Miller further detailed indicating that the path will link downtown scenic, cultural and historic points of interest as well as town facilities to encourage people to explore the village on foot. The Pathway is eligible for an 80/20 federal transportation enhancement grant.

*Miller Lovett motioned to accept the Village Pathway Committee Charge, Colette Worsman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.*

### **06-21 Health and Dental Insurance Discussion**

Carol Granfield opened the discussion with considerable information on the subject of employee benefits, including a comprehensive history and comparisons to what is provided by other municipalities of relatively the same size. She spoke about cost-cutting strategies in the past and alternative plans such as Matthew Thornton Blue HMO. Her understanding of the meeting is to discuss and inform, not to pursue changes at this time.

Chair Miller opened the discussion to the Board members.

Frank Michel stated that he feels the topic is a budget issues and calls for a workshop. He also protests the mention of “anonymous constituents” by Selectmen Worsman.

Colette Worsman explains that she was approached by concerned taxpayers who she wishes to keep anonymous as they did not attend the meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding the procedure for adding an item to the Agenda and Chair Miller reiterated the need for rules of operation to govern these matters. Chair Miller goes on to complement the industrious, hard-working employees of the Town of Meredith and the importance of retaining them. The entire compensation package must be looked at through dialogue from the Board, department heads and staff at all levels.

Chair Miller opens the discussion to public comment.

Jim Hughes reminded that the Chairman and the Town Manager establish the agenda which may have additions made at any time.

Chair Miller added that as new board members become more familiar with the meetings they will exercise discretion with agenda items.

A brief discussion ensued regarding clarification of the health plan and pre-tax 125 plan. It was noted that the employees need to be familiarized with the 125 plan so that it will be better utilized.

Chair Miller ends the discussion stating that he understands the importance of pursuing campaign platforms and that he hopes Town employees will be validated and uplifted by the positive statements at the meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Frank Michel asked about the status of the Fire Department construction committee and charge and Chair Miller responded that it will be on the Agenda for the May 8 workshop.

Pat Mack expressed concerns about the dock on Waukegan belonging to the Winnepesaukee Rowing Club. A boat has been tied up all week and she inquired whether the guidelines were the same as the guidelines for the Town docks downtown. A discussion ensued regarding the use of the docks and Chief Morrow indicated that the Police Department will take care of the matter. Pat also inquired about the Rte. 3 island issue. It was understood that the issue would be discussed in a timely manner last year so a decision could be made concerning safety issues. Chair Miller responded that the matter slipped through the cracks.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Frank Michel motioned to adjourn the regular Board of Selectmen’s meeting at 7:40 p.m. Colette Worsman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Carol M. Granfield, Town Manager

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Peter N. Miller, Chairman

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Wynette DeGroot, Administrative Assistant

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Frank S. Michel

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Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

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Miller C. Lovett

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Colette Worsman

(Absent with Notice) Peter F. Brothers