

SELECTMEN'S WORKSHOP
Minutes of 04/24/06
4:00 pm

Selectmen: *Peter Miller, Chairman*
Frank Michel
Peter Brothers (Absent with notice)
Miller Lovett
Colette Worsman

Town Manager: *Carol M. Granfield*

Staff: *Chief Palm*
Lt. Keith True

Roll Call at 4:00 p.m. Open Workshop by Peter Miller, Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting and requested taking Agenda Item W-06-11 out of order without objection.

W 06 – 06 Acceptance of Minutes of 4/03/06 and 4/17/06 Board of Selectmen Meetings and Workshop Minutes of 4/10/06.

Frank moved to accept the minutes of April 3, April 17 and April 10 Colette seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

Other Items – Update

The Town Manager updated the Board on the following items:

Police Station Permits – The Town currently has the driveway permit, commercial discharge permit and an approval pending submission of additional photographs for removal of the old sign shop in order to proceed with the construction of the new Police Station. DES site specific / wetlands permits are pending the scheduling of a public hearing to be scheduled in 30 days once notified by DES. The Town Manager addressed a letter received from Mr. Forrester, a town resident who has an environmental company. She noted that he conducted his own study taking soil samples (which the Town had not authorized). He was concerned that the building was to be burned. The Town Manager explained that Bauen Construction has contracted with Spear Brothers to take the building down next week. The Town has an environmental report from HTE and no further permits are required. The Fire Department will have a training exercise but will not burn the building.

Pollard Shores – The Town Manager reported receiving another legal opinion from the Local Government Center. A request will be made for an opinion in writing. The Board requested the Town Manager contact the property owner and discuss the possibility of a betterment assessment for the property owner if desired.

Temporary Island – The Town Manager advised the Board that the State will soon be putting the temporary island down at the Town Docks. Discussion ensued regarding a concern of the Fire Chief for getting apparatus through. *Colette moved to accept DOT installation of the island the same as last year, but to have it reviewed early next year to address the concerns of the Fire Chief. Seconded by Frank.* In discussion, Miller Lovett expressed opposition, as he

wanted to have discussion and input from Chris Williams of the Greater Meredith design committee. *The motion passed 3 to 1 with Miller Lovett in opposition.*

W 06-07 Work Session vs regular 5:30 meeting

W 06-08 Improving Communication with Constituents

Both items were discussed together. Miller Lovett expressed his concern that workshops be as open as regular meetings, even televised. Chairman Miller shares the concern. Colette expressed desire to have as detailed minutes and recording of workshop as a regular meeting. The Town Manager stated that typically workshops are discussion on topics among Selectmen with staff input to update items and better prepare for when items are presented at regular meetings.

Jim Hughes (acknowledged to speak from the public) supported the Town Manager's comments and indicated that typically votes are not taken. Chairman Miller advised that due to the extensive workload of the Board in order to make progress, votes need to be taken at workshops.

Upon further discussion, the Board requested that the Town Manager begin scheduling all workshops at the Community Center in Meeting Room C and have them taped with a recorder so detailed minutes will be prepared and the meetings then televised. The Town Manager indicated this will be an additional cost which is not budgeted for such as the camera operator as well as the recorder and related items. The costs will be kept track of.

W 06-09 Fireworks Ordinance

Amendment to Chapter 11 Paragraph VI Staff Report and Discussion

Lt. True presented a staff report with an amendment to Chapter 11 to include a section on fireworks requiring a local permit. He cited problems with this local ordinance and noted that the fine of \$120 would go to the Town and not the State. There would be no cost for the permit however an application must be submitted 15 days before the event in order for the area to be evaluated.

LT. True and Chief Palm explained the concerns of safety and the need for this to be enforced at the local level.

Frank Michel requested the fine information be included in the Staff Report.

The Town Manager will advertise the public hearing on this amendment for the May 1st meeting.

W 06-10 Police Cruisers – Requested Change

Lt. True presented a staff report and request to change the color of the marked Meredith Police cruisers from blue to black and white. He cited studies that indicate black and white cruisers have better visibility in low light, snow, rain, fog and traffic. The cost difference is \$450 when ordering the vehicle. The Town Manager supported the change noting they are ordering a cruiser this year and would begin the change over time to replace cruisers when new ones are purchased. The Chief and Town Manager have presented this option as a conservative approach. Upon discussion the Board concurred with the change of color. *Colette moved that the Town of Meredith adopt the Black & White scheme for Town of Meredith marked cruisers and further that the Police Department be permitted to paint additional current cruisers black and white at their discretion with funds available in the Police 2006*

budget. The motion was seconded by Frank Michel and carried 3-1 with Miller Lovett voting in opposition.

W 06-11 Other Items Continued

Colette reported on SB 241 noting that it will be voted on inexpedient to pass. Next Colette requested that the health insurance and dental insurance discussion be a regular agenda item on May 1 and not discussed at the Workshop. It was agreed to place this on the regular agenda.

Miller Lovett reported that the Main Street Awards are May 22 when a workshop is scheduled and he will be attending the awards and suggested others attend. The status of the workshops will be reviewed. Next Miller Lovett reported that he will provide them with a Conversation Paper on Town Budgeting and Taxes and requested it be an agenda item in June or July. Miller Lovett indicated he will be out of Town for the next CIP Meeting and had discussion with Peter Brothers who is agreeable to be an alternate when Miller cannot attend. The Board was agreeable and the Town Manager will notify the Planning Department to add Peter Brothers to CIP distribution.

The Board was in agreement to schedule another date of April 27 or 28 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am for the Water & Sewer Department review. The Town Manager will schedule the date with the department and inform the Board of which date is scheduled.

Motion by Frank seconded by Peter Miller unanimously carried the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol M. Granfield, Town Manager

Peter N. Miller, Chairman

Frank S. Michel

Miller Lovett

Colette Worsman