

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Minutes of June 4, 2007

Selectmen:	<i>(Absent with Notice)</i>	Frank S. Michel, Chairman Peter F. Brothers, Acting Chairman Robert C. Flanders Miller C. Lovett Colette Worsman
Town Manager:		Carol M. Granfield
Recording Clerk:		Karin Landry

Call to Order: Acting Chairman Peter Brothers called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Chair introduced the Board, Town Manager and Recording Clerk. He made announcements regarding fire exits, listening assisted devices and the use of microphones.

ACCEPTANCE AND/OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

07-36 Non-Public Board of Selectmen Minutes of May 7, 2007;
Board of Selectmen Workshop Minutes of May 7, 2007;
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2007;
Board of Selectmen Workshop Minutes of May 21, 2007;
Non-Public Board of Selectmen Minutes of May 25, 2007

Selectman Flanders moved to approve the Non-Public Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2007; Board of Selectmen Workshop Minutes of May 7, 2007; Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2007; Board of Selectmen Workshop Minutes of May 21, 2007; and the Non-Public Board of Selectmen Minutes of May 25, 2007. Seconded by Colette Worsman.

The following changes were proposed to the May 21 Board Minutes: Selectman Lovett corrected a minor typographical error; Selectman Worsman asked that the hours of balloting for the Special Town Meeting be amended to read “7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.”; and Selectman Brothers asked that the vote on calling a Special Town Meeting be corrected to reflect his vote as “opposed.”

4-0-0. Motion passed with amendments to May 21 Board of Selectmen minutes.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Depending on the weather, it is hoped that the roundabout will be open for Bike Week. The paving, cobblestones and signage must be completed before it can be used.
- The bundled project is starting this week. A trailer will be placed in the High Street parking lot as a headquarters for the project. It will take up approximately eight spaces. Alternative parking will be posted over the next several weeks.
- As directed by the Chair at the last meeting, The Town Manager continued discussions with the Town Moderator and Town Clerk pertaining to whether there should be a hand ballot or machine ballot at the Special Town Meeting. All agree that in light of the single item on the ballot, it makes sense to move forward with a hand-counting of the ballot.
- A cable program will be taped this week that will give the voters a better idea of what the Special Town Meeting is about. There will also be a segment with the Greater Meredith Program on a career partnership that will be beneficial to businesses and students of the middle and high schools.
- There are approximately 15 spots currently in the Beautify Meredith Adopt-A-Spot Program. Additional locations are available, some in prime areas. The Spots are looking good and helping the Town save money. Anyone interested in adopting a Spot should contact the Town Manager.
- Bike Week begins on June 9. The ride into Meredith to the POW/MIA site is scheduled for June 14. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to come down.
- The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for June 18 at 5:30 p.m. There will be a workshop on water quality on June 25.
- The Town Manager became aware of a potential grant opportunity of up to \$10,000 to have wireless internet availability in Town. It can be applied for by either public entities or non-profits. The inns currently provide wireless accessibility along the waterfront and expanding to the Downtown will benefit businesses and individuals in that area. Interest in the grant must be expressed by June 15. Unless she is directed otherwise, the Town Manager is going to seek a non-profit to apply for the grant due to time constraints.

The Town Manager confirmed that there does not need to be a motion on the counting of ballots by hand vs. machine at the Special Town Meeting. The general consensus of the Board was that in light of the single ballot item, a hand ballot is sufficient. Resident Jim Hughes corrected the use of "hand ballot" to "paper ballot".

VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Resident Jim Hughes expressed concerns with accessibility for seniors at the Community Center. The back parking lot is far enough away that it is difficult for many seniors to get to the front entrance, especially in the winter. He suggested that the eight to ten spaces designated "bus parking" be restriped for general parking. Cones can be utilized when the spaces are needed for bus parking. He questioned whether all of the handicapped spaces have to be grouped together. He asked the Board to consider installing an automatic door opener at the front entrance. The doors are heavy and it is very difficult for people using canes, walkers or wheelchairs to enter the building. On a separate matter, he asked for a progress report at one of the upcoming meetings on the '07-'08 goals that were published in October of '06.

The Acting Chair directed the Town Manager to make note of Mr. Hughes' observations on the Community Center and investigate the feasibility of making changes. His request for a progress report on the '07-'08 goals will fit in with the quarterly project review in late June or early July.

Resident Phil McGowan asked about the cost of a Special Town Meeting and the criteria for calling it. There are three documented complaints received by the Planning Board in regard to electronic signs. He is not necessarily against the signs, but is concerned with how the matter is being handled. He does not think the business community was well-represented at the Planning Board meeting.

The Town Manager told Mr. McGowan that the cost of holding the meeting is just over \$0, plus the cost of the time of the people involved. Selectman Flanders pointed out that people rarely fill out complaint forms, and there are probably many more people concerned about the signs. The Mill Falls Association, Greater Meredith Program, and the company that owns the Mill Falls Marketplace and the Inns in Town all support a ban on electronic signs.

Mr. McGowan clarified that what he meant by the business community not being well-represented at the Planning Board meeting is that there was a small showing of businesses when taking into consideration the number of businesses in Town.

Selectman Worsman shares concerns about the numbers, but agrees that there may be more businesses and individuals than those with documented complaints, that are against the electronic signs. The Board is trying hard to be proactive, protect the Town, its entryways, and viewscapes. Property values are based on how the Town appears. The decision must be made quickly to allow the voters to weigh in on the matter. Ultimately, now the voters will have the opportunity to make the final decision.

Selectman Lovett pointed out that the public hearing as required by law is one measure of whether there should be a Special Town Meeting. Comments were overwhelmingly in

favor of holding the Meeting and he has not heard any criticism of it. The voters will weigh in on the matter.

Resident Jim Hughes requested that a copy of the rules be made available to Mr. McGowan with an explanation for them. He believes that things have been done properly.

Selectmen Brothers agrees that the process has been followed in order to have a meeting scheduled for the end of July. The Town Manager will have the information available for any interested parties.

Selectman Flanders reiterated the urgency in protecting what many people believe to be the gem of the Lakes Region and the State and a major travel destination. Coming forth quickly is a product of changes in technology and a recent Supreme Court decision.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

07-37 Abatements

Carol Granfield presented a list of 2006 administrative abatements in the amount of \$17,360.15. Each request for abatement was thoroughly investigated by Assessor Commerford and he made a recommendation for their approval. 148 abatements have been processed to date in the total amount of \$95,259.51. 112 abatements have been granted, and 36 denied. 85 requests are being reviewed and processed for 2006.

Selectman Flanders motioned that the Board approve 42 abatements as presented in the dollar amount of \$17,360.15. Seconded by Miller Lovett. 4-0-0. Motion passed.

The Board thanked Assessor Commerford for his thorough report on the abatement requests.

07-38 Road Name Change - Ducharme to Snow Dragon Mountain Road

In light of the recent vote of the United States Board on Geographic Names to make "Snow Dragon Mountain" the official name for the mountain/land that is owned by Albert and Donna Ducharme, they came before the Board to request that the road for the Ducharme Subdivision be re-named "Snow Dragon Mountain Road". The proposed name has been reviewed by Police Chief Kevin Morrow and Fire Chief Chuck Palm. They have confirmed that it does not conflict with any other street names. There are no residences on the road at this time.

Selectman Lovett moved that in light of the Board's discussion and the comments of the Town Staff, the Board approve the proposed road name of "Snow Dragon Mountain" as it has been reviewed by the Fire and Police Departments and found to be acceptable from a 911 prospective. Seconded by Bob Flanders. 4-0-0. Motion passed.

07-39 Chase Road Easement

The Board was asked to schedule a Public Hearing on June 18 regarding the Chase Road Easement. The Town Manager advised that the Board move forward, post a notice, and notify abutters of the public hearing on the matter. All material has been reviewed by legal counsel and is in order. Full information will be presented at the public meeting.

Colette Worsman motioned to schedule a public hearing for June 18 on the Chase Road Easement. Seconded by Bob Flanders. 4-0-0. Motion passed.

The hearing will be held at a regular Board of Selectman 5:30 meeting.

07-40 Public Works Baler Grant

The Town Manager recommends that the Board accept a grant from New Hampshire the Beautiful in the amount of \$5,000 for a new baler for the Solid Waste Facility. The acquisition of a baler was not included in the Public Works budget, but the Department would like to take advantage of the funds available. Additional funds in the amount of \$9,200 from the existing Public Works budget will be used in order to purchase the baler.

Public Works Director Mike Faller told the Board that he has been working to streamline the production of scrap metal and generate more revenue. Scrap metal has gone from \$3 - \$5 a ton to \$85 - \$110 a ton. In an ongoing effort to better manage the material, \$8,000 was budgeted this year to replace two rusted storage boxes. He planned to request funds for a new baler in next year's budget. In order to take advantage of the grant money that has been offered to the Town, he would like to use the \$8,000 budgeted for the storage containers toward the purchase of a baler. There is no assurance that the grant monies will be available next year. He asked the Board for their support to move forward.

Miller Lovett moved that the Board accept the \$5,000 grant and proceed with the purchase of the baler as presented. Seconded by Bob Flanders.

Dialogue ensued regarding the condition of the storage boxes and the increased efficiencies of a new baler. Colette Worsman questioned why the Board did not hear about the need to replace the baler during the budget process. Mike explained that the Board requested that he look for ways to decrease his budget so he did not include the purchase of a new baler this year. Selectman Brothers recognizes the potential cost savings over the next two years if the Town takes advantage of the grant to purchase the baler this year and purchases the storage containers next year. The fact that scrap metal represents an increasing source of revenue supports the Board moving forward to approve

the request. The Board was in agreement that taking advantage of the grant is a good business deal and they should support it. Selectman Flanders reiterated that department heads should keep in mind that budget items will be watched more closely from this point forward.

4-0-0. Motion passed.

Bob Flanders motioned that the Board go into a Non-Public Meeting pursuant to RSA A:3, II(a) and will adjourn the Regular Meeting from there. Seconded by Colette Worsman. 4-0-0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol M. Granfield, Town Manager

Peter F. Brothers, Acting Chairman

Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

Robert C. Flanders

Miller C. Lovett

Colette Worsman