

**Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Minutes of 01/21/08  
5:30 p.m.**

***Selectmen:***

***Frank S. Michel, Chairman  
Peter F. Brothers, Vice Chairman  
Robert C. Flanders  
Miller C. Lovett  
Colette Worsman***

***Town Manager:  
Recording Clerk:***

***Carol M. Granfield  
Karin Landry***

Call to Order: Chairman Frank Michel called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Chair introduced the Board, Town Manager, and Recording Clerk. He made announcements pertaining to fire exits, listening assisted devices, and the use of microphones. Comments and questions are to be directed through the Chair. The Chair thanked the Board for the time they spent at a lengthy budget workshop earlier in the day.

**ACCEPTANCE AND/OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES:**

**08-03 Minutes of December 17, 2007 Workshop and Board Meeting; and Minutes of January 7, 2008 Non-Public Meeting, Workshop, and Board Meeting**

*Selectman Brothers motioned to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2007 Workshop and Board Meeting, and the minutes of the January 7, 2008 Non-Public Meeting, Workshop, and Board Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Lovett.*

Chair Michel proposed the following changes:

- January 7, 2008 Workshop, Agenda Item W08-01, 1<sup>st</sup> T Development: Amend the minutes to reflect that Selectman Flanders recused himself from discussion because he has a business relationship with Mr. Jutton.
- January 7, 2008 Regular Meeting, Town Manager's Report: The preliminary reassessment report from Cindy Brown of the Board of Tax and Land Appeals should be amended to read: "The overall median of assessment is 97% of value and the co-efficient of disbursement is 11.82, both within the recommended guidelines established by the Assessment Standards Board."
- January 8, 2008 Regular Board Meeting, Selectmen Comments: The four page position paper with respect to the budget that was submitted by Selectman Worsman should be appended to the minutes instead of incorporated into the body of the minutes.

Selectman Worsman has no objection to her budget notes being added as an addendum. In addition, she would like the minutes to reflect that she changed her approach this year because roughly 95% of her suggestions were not utilized last year.

*5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- The Town received a report from the Retirement Commission evaluating the state Retirement System. The New Hampshire Retirement System Board of Trustees received legal advice that employee earned contributions can no longer be reimbursed in the same way they were in the past. The Retirement System Board made the decision to take contributions to fund the medical subsidy from the employer. LGC believes this is unconstitutional and is asking for the support of localities to move forward with litigation challenging the decision of the Trustees. Each political subdivision is being asked to contribute from legal funds ½ of 1% of what they paid the New Hampshire Retirement System during 2007. The Town of Meredith's estimated contribution is \$1,346.67. The Town Manager asked the Board for authorization to advise LGC that the Town will participate with the contribution. The Board was in general support of contributing to the suit led by LGC to require the state to follow through with representations made by them in the past.

*Selectman Flanders moved to authorize the spending of money to participate in the class action suit by LGC in regards to the New Hampshire Retirement System. Seconded by Selectman Worsman.*

The Chair clarified that by passing the motion the Board is authorizing an expenditure of \$1,346.67. Any request for additional contributions will be brought before the Board for consideration.

*5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

- The POW/MIA monument in Hesky Park has been declared as a state memorial. The legislation making it a state memorial requires that signage be approved by the Department of Transportation. The Town Manager wishes to testify in support of making the site a state memorial, but would like assurance that final approval for signage within the Park comes from the Town. Chair Michel briefly reviewed what has transpired at the monument site. The proposed language in Section 1 of the Bill says "Design, construction, or installation of any signage and/or markers authorized under this Act shall be approved by DOT." The Board was in agreement that approval of signage within the Park should come from the Town. The Board directed the Town Manager to testify accordingly.
- The Board finished their budget at a workshop today. A public hearing will be scheduled on February 4 at 5:30 p.m. to allow for public comment. The Town Warrant will be discussed at the same meeting.

- The next workshop is scheduled for January 28. The agenda items will be finalized and posted by the end of the week. Some of the items that will be included on the agenda are the naming of a mountain presented by the Conservation Committee, an update on the Happy Homes project from Attorney Nix, and the development agreement with Laconia Area Land Trust on the Boynton Rd. project. The Leasing Commission will seek input and provide information on leasing dock space. A water line easement and draft charge for the water committee might also be included.

Selectman Lovett asked the Town Manager to announce the percentage increase in the operating budget and the percentage increase in the total budget as approved by the Selectmen. The operating budget increased by 1.75% and the total budget increased by 3.38%. There is additional information forthcoming that might affect the budget numbers. The Board briefly discussed the scheduling of meetings regarding the budget. There will be a budget presentation on what has been agreed to thus far at the February 4 Board meeting. Selectman Lovett called for a vote on the total budget by the Board.

*Selectman Worsman motioned that the Board approve the total budget in the amount of \$12,756,457.23. Seconded by Selectman Brothers. 3-2. Selectmen Lovett and Worsman opposed. Motion passed.*

#### **VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

None.

#### **SELECTMAN'S COMMENTS:**

Selectman Lovett reported on the annual meeting of the Greater Meredith Program. The meeting was held last Friday at Church Landing. It was a great opportunity to showcase what the Program has been doing for the community. Several high school students gave brief speeches about their involvement in the school career program involving internships with local businesses. George Bald, head of the Department of Resources and Economic Develop, attended the meeting and made positive comments about the community and how the Program impacts economic development.

Selectman Worsman reported that the Planning Board has been busy. She did not have the materials to report in detail on its work, but a large part of it has been on the Zoning Amendments. A public hearing will be held once they are finalized.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **08-04 Abatements**

The Town Manger recommends the approval of three abatements for 2007 in the total amount of \$2,017.26. The abatements are also recommended by Town Assessor Jim Commerford, who

provided supporting documentation. Selectman Worsman thanked Assessor Commerford for his work and the backup information, which is very helpful to the Board.

*Selectman Worsman moved to approve three abatements presented for 2007 in the total amount of \$2,017.26. Seconded by Bob Flanders. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

### **08-05 1<sup>st</sup> T Development Road Waiver Request**

Chair Michel and Selectman Flanders recused themselves from the discussion because they have a relationship with the developer. Selectman Brothers acted as Chair on the agenda item. Director of Administrative Service Brenda Vittner served as acting Town Manager because Town Manager Carol Granfield is an abutter to the property. A workshop was held on January 7, 2008 to discuss the requested road waivers. The developer is asking for a waiver on two loops within the development. Staff reports by Community Development Director John Edgar and Public Work Director Mike Faller were reviewed at the meeting. Brenda Vittner concurs with their decision to grant the waivers.

Selectman Worsman will vote in favor of the road waivers provided notes for the developer show that the road beginning at Pease Rd. into the development will forever and always be maintained privately and a sidewalk will be installed. She reminded the Board that Mike Faller cautioned them about the serious consequences of leaving the possibility of the road into the development being declared public. She expressed concerns with the costs to the Town of maintaining and repairing that section of the road. Acting Chair Brothers believes that the additional provisions are outside the requests in front of the Board. If the developer chooses to make any further changes, they would have to come before the Planning Board and Board of Selectman. Acting Chair Brothers believes that John Edgar's recommendation in his staff report deals with the issue to his satisfaction: "Given (1) the favorable reviews by the Fire Department and the Planning Board's Consulting Engineer, and (2) the recommendation of the Planning Board to grant the waivers allowing the loops to be treated as private drives, that the Board of Selectmen grant the waivers as requested, subject to the following stipulations that any dedication associated with the shared driveway is void. The shared looped driveways shall forever be privately maintained, and that the subdivision plan and legal documents associated with the condominium shall reflect these stipulations." The Board discussed modifying the motion to include language stating that the main road and shared loop driveway shall forever remain private. Brenda Vittner advised that because the Board is deviating from the request, it must be tabled and go back to the developer for comment.

*Selectman Lovett moved that the matter be tabled and taken back to the developer for clarification on the matter. Seconded by Selectman Worsman.*

Acting Chair Brothers is acting on the time, energy, and expertise of the Planning Department and staff. Dialogue ensued as to whether the Board will have another opportunity to have the portion of the road accessing the development declared forever and always private. Selectman Lovett believes it is timely to table the matter and solve the problem now.

*2-1-0-0. Motion passed.*

**08-06 1<sup>st</sup> T Development Proposed Road Names**

The proposed names are Ironwood Circle and Cottonwood Way. The proposed names have been checked with Public Works and the Fire Department and there is no conflict of interest with 911.

*Selectman Worsman motioned that the Board approve the names as presented for the internal loop roads as proposed on subdivision Tax Map R-4, Lot 5, located on Pease Rd. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 3-0-0-0. Motion passed.*

**08-07 BCEDC Representative Appointment**

The Belknap County Economic Development Commission (BCEDC) is a regional economic development group that serves businesses and municipalities in Belknap County. Their mission is to provide economic vitality in the region. As Town Manager, with economic development responsibility, Carol Granfield has served as the Town's representative, and can continue to serve if reappointed. The appointment does not involve extensive time or regular meetings. Carol recommends continuing to have the Town Manager serve as the Town Representative.

*Selectman Brothers moved to continue to have Carol Granfield serve as Town representative to the Belknap County Economic Development Commission and submit the nomination to BCEDC. Seconded by Selectman Flanders.*

Selectman Worsman inquired if there would be any benefits to a Board member sitting on the Board in place of Carol. She offered to serve in that capacity if it would be helpful to the Town Manager.

*Selectman Worsman amended the motion and submitted her name to serve as representative to the Belknap County Economic Development Commission. Seconded by Selectman Lovett for discussion purposes.*

Brief dialogue ensued regarding Selectman Worsman serving as the Town representative to BCEDC. The position does not require a large commitment of time by the Town Manager, but she is willing to step down if Selectman Worsman is interested.

*Selectman Worsman withdrew her motion, upon complaint from Selectman Flanders filling in for her at two meetings of the Planning Board.*

*The Board voted on the motion to appoint Carol Granfield: 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Selectman Worsman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Carol M. Granfield, Town Manager

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Frank S. Michel, Chairman

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Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

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Peter F. Brothers, Vice Chairman

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Robert C. Flanders

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Miller C. Lovett

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Colette Worsman