

**Board of Selectmen Meeting
Minutes of 04/07/08
5:30 p.m.**

Selectmen: (Absent with Notice) *Peter F. Brothers, Chairman
Miller C. Lovett, Acting Chair
Robert C. Flanders
Charles G. Palm
Colette Worsman*

Town Manager: *Carol M. Granfield*
Recording Clerk: *Karin Landry*

Call to Order: Acting Chair Miller Lovett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He introduced the Board, Town Manager, and Recording Clerk. He made announcements pertaining to fire exits, listening assisted devices, and the use of microphones.

Chair Lovett took a few moments to recognize the service to the Town of Harold George Wyatt, who passed away on March 27, 2008 at the age of 94. His many contributions included serving as Selectman, and serving on the Planning Board and Conservation Commission. He was a member of Public Works Department for 25 years, serving as Superintendent for the last 5 years. He and his wife documented various events that took place in the Town for the Historical Society.

ACCEPTANCE AND/OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

08-31 March 17, 2008 Workshop, March 24, 2008 Workshop and Non-Public Meeting, and March 31, 2008 Non-Public Meeting

Selectman Palm motioned to accept the Minutes of the March 17, 2008 Workshop, March 24, 2008 Workshop and Non-Public Meeting, and March 31, 2008 Non-Public Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 4-0-0. Motion passed.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- The Town Clerk's office will be closed on Wednesday until noon in order to tie the computer system into the state's system. Once the process is complete, residents will be able to register vehicles over 25,000 lbs, renew registrations that could not be done in the past, and purchase vanity plates.
- The Water Committee elected David Thorpe as Chair and Richard Roman as Vice Chair at their organizational meeting. They will meet on Thursdays from 5-7 p.m. Notice of the meetings and minutes will be posted on the Town website. The Committee will tour the water plant and get an update on the Waukegan Watershed this Thursday.

- HB 1645 is going before the Senate. If the proposed legislation pertaining to the retirement system is not passed, Meredith property taxes will be increased \$148,069 as opposed to \$13,000 if the Bill is passed. The Town Manager urged residents to contact Senator Reynolds to express support for the Bill.
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, April 28, at 5:30 pm. The Town offices will be closed on that day in observance of Fast Day.

VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Resident Dave Sticht expressed reservations with selectmen and ex officios serving on the Greater Meredith Program Board. Two selectman and two ex officios are involved in appropriating money in the Town budget for the Program, as well as voting how to spend it. He is concerned with a potential conflict of interest, and asked the Board to reconsider their involvement in the Program. Selectman Flanders pointed out that at the time the budget was voted on, there was only one selectman serving on the Program Board. Although the Chair believes it puts the Town in a good position to monitor how the money is spent, there could be a perceived conflict of interest. The Board will take the matter into consideration.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:**08-32 Senior Housing of NH Development Agreement**

The Board met in a workshop prior to the regular meeting, and made suggestions and comments to the Senior Housing of New Hampshire Development Agreement. The Agreement needs to be revised, and will not be addressed at this meeting.

08-33 Abatements

Town Assessor Jim Commerford recommends six abatements for 2007 in the amount of \$2,566.03, along with a 2006 abatement settlement in the amount of \$531.63. He supplied supporting documentation for the requests, which is available for the public at Town Hall. Selectman Flanders thanked Assessor Commerford for his efficient handling of the abatement process.

Selectman Flanders moved to approve six abatements presented for 2007 in the total amount of \$2,566.03. He further moved to approve the abatement settlement for 2006 in the total amount of \$531.63. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 4-0-0. Motion passed.

08-34 Quarterly Financial Review

In view of the heavy winter season, the Town Manager asked Director of Administrative Service Brenda Vittner to come before the Board with a financial review on a quarterly basis. Highlights of trends, both current and projected, will be provided. This will assist with the overall monitoring of the budget, and keep the public better informed. The Director of Public Works is monitoring expenditures to ensure that they do not exceed the budget. The increased expenditures will impact the work that will be done on various roads.

The first quarter closed on March 31. Ms. Vittner summarized expenditures by department and by category with the use of pie charts and bar charts. She explained that some items are paid in full in January or shortly after Town Meeting when the budget is approved. Those items are higher than 25% at the end of the first quarter. Expenditures on other items, such as road repairs, are less than 25%, but will increase as the summer season progresses. She highlighted expenditures to date by department. The total appropriations as voted at Town Meeting are \$12,909,457.23. Appropriation expended and encumbered at the end of the first quarter are \$2,377,865, or 18.420%. The appropriations remaining are \$10,531,592.23, or 81.580%. Ms. Vittner used pie and bar charts to summarize non-property tax revenues in the first quarter. She provided a 7-page report that groups revenues together by category. The information contained in the report translates into the MS-4 that is prepared in September. The total non-property tax revenues at the end of the first quarter are \$808,463.93, or 16.582%.

The Board praised Ms. Vittner for her clear, concise, and easy to read report. Selectman Worsman asked if the prior year's encumbrance can be incorporated into the master expenditure report. Although the information cannot be incorporated into the master report, Ms. Vittner will generate a separate list. Selectman Palm questioned over-expenditures for electricity by various departments. He suggested that the quarterly meetings be held at the second meeting following the close of the quarter, which will allow department heads time to review expenditures for errors in posting.

Resident Richard Juve expressed concerns that the public does not have access to the detailed report that includes expenditures for electricity. The Chair explained that the report is very lengthy, but is available to the public at the Town Hall or through a Board member.

Resident Richard Roman inquired if the Town negotiated a reduction in the contract price for fuel. Ms. Vittner explained that propane, heating oil and gasoline go out for bid yearly. The Town locked in a price for oil and propane that is substantially less than the current market value. The same will be done this summer. The Town has the option to contract with the State if that price is lower than local bids.

ACCEPTANCE OF MILFOIL MONEY:

The Town received the first donation for the treatment of milfoil in Lake Winnisquam in the amount of \$500. A municipality must legally accept a gift or donation in an amount under \$5,000. The motion must accept the donation and appropriate it for the purpose of treatment of

milfoil in Lake Winnisquam. The Town Manager will come before the Board with similar motions should the Town receive future donations.

Selectman Flanders motioned to accept the donation and appropriate the same amount for the purpose of Lake Winnisquam milfoil treatment. These funds will only be applied to the Winnisquam project. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 4-0-0. Motion passed.

Resident Richard Roman suggested that the state designate \$1 for every boat registration to a fund for milfoil assistance. Selectman Flanders explained that the designation would be a statewide effort, and would have to be addressed by the legislature. He urged residents to contact their state representatives regarding the suggestion. At a previous Board meeting, Mr. Roman suggested that the Town alter the boat launch fee to designate \$1 for the treatment of milfoil. The Town Manager told the Board that the Ordinance must be amended in order to do so. Chair Lovett directed that the matter be addressed at an upcoming workshop. He pointed out that the Town has designated considerable funds for the treatment of milfoil, and significant contributions must come from the public.

Resident Karen Sticht is in favor of raising the boat launch fee by \$1 so the amount that goes to the general fund will not be affected.

Resident Richard Juve suggested increasing the portion of the boat registration fee that goes to the Town for the treatment of milfoil.

Further comments regarding the matter will be taken at the upcoming workshop. The public is urged to contact their representatives regarding the treatment of milfoil and HB 1645.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman Worsman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Chair Lovett. 4-0-0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol M. Granfield, Town Manager

Miller C. Lovett, Acting Chair

Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

Robert C. Flanders

Charles G. Palm

Colette Worsman