

**Board of Selectmen Meeting
Minutes of 05/12/08
5:30 p.m.**

Selectmen:

***Peter F. Brothers, Chairman
Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman
Robert C. Flanders
Charles G. Palm
Colette Worsman***

Town Manager:

Carol M. Granfield

Recording Clerk:

Karin Landry

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

ACCEPTANCE AND/OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

**08-39 Minutes of April 28, 2008 Workshop, Board Meeting, and Non-Public Meeting;
April 30, 2008 Non-Public Meeting; and May 5, 2008 Non-Public Meeting.**

Selectman Worsman motioned to accept the Minutes of the April 28, 2008 Workshop, Board Meeting, and Non-Public Meeting; April 30, 2008 Non-Public Meeting; and May 5, 2008 Non-Public Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Palm. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- National Police Week is observed this week. The Town Manager encouraged the public to thank the officers for the good work they do.
- Work has started on Water Street. Signage has been placed indicating one-way traffic.
- The Water System Committee is meeting this Thursday at the Town Hall Annex from 5-7 p.m. The public is welcome.
- The Town will meet with the State regarding the pilot testing of alternatives to the Meredith Center Road intersection once they complete preliminary survey work.
- Volunteer recognition will take place at the Board meeting on May 19 at 5:30 p.m.
- Work will begin soon to connect water & sewer, solid waste, and the police station to fiber optic cable. Once completed, all Town facilities will be connected.
- Work will begin on the Meredith Center fire station on May 19. The facility houses the Public Works loader and will accommodate storage during the fire station renovation.

The company working on the project will also complete the Waukewan bathhouse facility.

VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Resident Pat Mack posed questions about the quality of the work that was done on the Waukewan bathhouse, the costs associated with the project, the scope of the project, and who is completing it. The Board answered Ms. Mack's questions and explained that the situation is a difficult one for everyone. The Town will follow through with the Attorney General's Office and insurance company in an attempt to recover funds. A procedure has been put in place for a more extensive reference check on contractors working on projects under \$100,000. Those projects are typically not bonded.

Ms. Mack asked for an update on the Water Committee. The Town Manager told Ms. Mack that the Committee meets approximately every two weeks at the Town Hall Annex from 5-7 p.m. Dave Thorpe is serving as Chair, and Richard Roman is serving as Vice Chair. The Board hopes to tap into the experience of the individuals on the Water System Committee to supplement the work being done by existing Boards and hired professionals to assess, evaluate, and ultimately make recommendations on the water system. Ms. Mack is concerned that the approval of the Laconia Area Land Trust and Senior Housing developments will add to the capacity issues the Town faced last summer. The Chair explained the progress that has been made on the water system since that time. There is a reasonable level of confidence that the projects can be added to the system. There will be continued review of the system, and improvements will be made that may result in a slight increase in capacity.

Ms. Mack asked about waivers on the Laconia Area Land Trust project. Although there could be potential waivers for connections, none have been granted at this time.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Selectman Lovett reported on the Capital Improvement Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for May 28 from 7-9 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex. The Committee looks at a ten-year period to schedule infrastructure improvements in such a way as to avoid a spike in the tax rate. The Committee makes its recommendations to the Planning Board and Board of Selectman. One of the major items that is going to be coming before the Committee is the Water System Committee's recommendations on the expenditures that need to be made for the water system over the next 20 years. The public is encouraged to attend the meetings.

Selectman Worsman requested a full accounting for the Waukewan bathhouse including the entire expenditure, the Town's contribution, the subcontractors' contribution, and the loss associated with the project. The Town Manager will provide that information next week.

The Town Manager was notified late in the day that the railroad tracks along Lake Waukewan will be sprayed with herbicides. The members of the Waukewan Watershed Committee have been notified. The Chair asked the Town Manager to report to the Board once additional information is available.

NEW BUSINESS:**08-40 PUBLIC HEARING****Acceptance of Gifts, Grants and Donations per RSA 31:95-b III (b)**

Based on RSA 31:95-b III(b), a Public Hearing must be held for donations over \$5,000 in value. The hearing was properly noticed in the newspaper.

Selectman Flanders moved that a Public Hearing be opened under RSA 31:95-b III(b) at 6:06 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

The Town has been offered ten workstations from Meredith Village Savings Bank as a result of a renovation project at the Bank. The Town purchased similar workstations three years ago at an approximate cost of \$1,000 each. The workstations can be utilized at the Town Hall and Fire Station. Pending comments from the public, the Town Manager requested that the Board accept the donation of the ten workstations at a total value of \$10,000.

No comments were made by the public.

Selectman Palm moved to close the Public Hearing at 6:08 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Flanders. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Worsman thanked Meredith Village Savings Bank for their generous donation.

08-41 Abatements

Town Assessor Jim Commerford made a recommendation to approve 14 abatements presented for 2007 in the total amount of \$9,382.60, and approve an abatement settlement for 2006 in the total amount of \$179.36. He provided the Board with a summary of the appeal process to date. There are still several appeals outstanding.

Selectman Worsman motioned to approve 14 abatements presented for 2007 in the total amount of \$9,382.60, and further moved to approve the abatement settlement for 2006 in the total amount of \$179.36. Seconded by Selectman Flanders.

Mr. Commerford provided the Board with additional information on the Young abatement. The property includes a boathouse and two slips next to Y Landing that provide access to island property on Pine Island. No adjustment was given for the property being located next to a marina or being a non-buildable piece of property. The same adjustment was applied that was used when the property went before the Board of Tax and Land Appeals in 1998.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

Resident Pat Mack asked what guidelines are used to decide if an employee placed on administrative leave receives pay. The Town Manager told her that the guidelines fall within the Town's personnel policy, and that each case is looked at on an individual basis. Ms. Mack made a recommendation to keep an employee working if they are going to be paid.

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman Flanders motioned to move into a Non-Public meeting under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) at 6:20 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. Selectman polled. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol M. Granfield, Town Manager

Peter F. Brothers, Chairman

Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman

Robert C. Flanders

Charles G. Palm

Colette Worsman