

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of 09/08/08
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.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- The management team and departments met this morning to begin their work on the budget. Guidance for budget preparation was provided from the Selectmen, including an increase in the overall pay schedule by 3%, with a COLA being incorporated into the annual merit evaluation. Employees will be eligible for a 0-3% increase based on performance. The final version of Town goals, based on modifications approved by the Board at the last workshop, was provided to the departments to assist in the preparation of their budget. The Town Manager will present her budget to the Board in late November. The Board's budget workshops are scheduled to take place in December.
- FEMA issued a disaster declaration for severe storms and flooding that includes Belknap, Coos, and Grafton Counties for the period of July 24 through August 14. The paperwork that needs to be completed by the Town will be available at an upcoming informational meeting.
- The next time the Board will meet is on Monday, September 15. In lieu of the regularly scheduled Board meeting, they will hold a workshop at 4 p.m.
- The excavation taking place at the Community Center is in preparation for the perennial garden project funded by the Greater Meredith Program. There is no cost to the Town for the work being done.
- Tomorrow is the state primary day. The polls will be open at the Community Center from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- The American Legion will conduct a ceremony on Thursday, September 11, at noon, at Hesky Park honoring victims of 9/11, emergency personnel, and those now serving the country. The public is invited to attend.

- The Meredith Conservation Commission is looking for volunteers to relocate a trail in the Town Forest across from the Community Center. The work will take place on Saturday, September 13, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Volunteers should dress appropriately and bring food, water, and insect repellent. Please preregister by calling the Conservation office or emailing them through the Town website.
- The Parks & Recreation fall brochure is now available. It can be picked up at the Community Center or downloaded from the Town website.

VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Ken Goldberg, of Rock Island, told the Selectmen that there has been a recent rash of break-ins and vandalism on Bear Island. Additionally, there has been an ongoing problem with this kind of activity during the winter months. He asked the Selectmen to fund the purchase of equipment to enable the police department to access the non-bridged islands for police protection purposes. 85 signatures have been collected asking for approval of the emergency budget item. The Selectmen will review the packet of information provided by Mr. Goldberg and confer with the Police Chief and Town Manager regarding the matter.

Resident Holly Tetreault, of Chemung Road, addressed concerns with cutting trees in connection with the Boynton Road workforce housing project. The trees act as a natural means of cooling a tomb that was built in 1876. A petition is being drawn up to address the cutting of the trees or any other changes to the cemetery because of its historical value. The Board will take the matter under advisement.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Selectmen Worsman asked to be provided with the final figures for the Waukegan bathhouse. The Town Manager will confer with Director of Administrative Services, Brenda Vittner, and provide final figures to the Board.

Selectmen Worsman inquired about pending changes to employee pay periods. The Town is looking into a timekeeping system that will automate better and include direct deposit. Additionally, the pay period will close earlier, allowing more time for the payroll department to complete the payroll.

Selectman Worsman asked for an update on the fund raising efforts for Page Pond. The Town Manager will provide the Board with an update on the figure. Selectman Lovett spoke with the Vice Chair of the fund raising committee this afternoon, who is very encouraged with recent efforts. An open meeting will be held at Moulton Farm in the near future. The date and time of the meeting will be publicized.

Selectman Lovett reported on the Water Study Committee. They meet every other week, with their next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 16. They are gathering information to report to the Capital Improvement Committee, which will meet for the first time on Wednesday,

September 17, at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex. The Capital Improvement Committee will meet again on Wednesday, September 24th. The public is invited to attend.

The Town Manager highlighted the items scheduled for next week's workshop including: potential grant funds and a match through a federal agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service emergency watershed program, work at the Lake Waukegan boat ramp, establishing an energy committee, and dialogue with the Capital Improvements Committee that will allow them to get feedback from the Board prior to beginning their work.

The Chair announced that Edith Mitchell Searles Mongo, a former Selectman and active volunteer committed to Town activities, passed away. Calling hours are September 10, from 5-6 p.m. at the Dewhurst Funeral Home. Funeral services will immediately follow the calling hours. All are invited to attend.

NEW BUSINESS:

08-72 Acceptance of Easement – Wall Street Road

The Board of Selectmen conditionally accepted the dedication of the Wall Street Extension, which includes the need for an easement, on July 21, 2008. The proposed easement has been reviewed by Town Counsel and is in final format for acceptance. Public Works Director, Mike Fallner, verified that the roadway has been re-graded and rolled to the Department's satisfaction, and that all areas have been addressed with regards to the road, cul-de-sac and drainage areas. The area was reviewed after the recent flooding to be sure everything is in place before acceptance of the easement. The costs associated with the easement are being borne by the grantor of the easement. A check has been received by the grantor. The portion of roadway granted by the easement will be called Wall Street.

Selectman Worsman motioned that in the matter of the proposed road maintenance and facility easement on Wall Street, shown as Lot No. 1, Lot No. 2, and Lot No. 3 on the Subdivision Plan, Tax Map S 25 – Parcel 27 J, recognizing the Town has completed a legal review of the proposed easement, the final language before us incorporates the recommendations from Town Counsel, the applicant's attorney having certified good title to grant the easement deed prior to recording, I move the Board of Selectmen accept the easement as presented. Seconded by Selectman Palm. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

08-73 Certificate of Authorizing Resolution – Insurances

The Town Manager introduced the matter. Upon review of legal documents by the Local Government Center (LGC), they requested that the Town of Meredith adopt authorizing resolutions pertaining to the health insurance, property liability, and workers' compensation coverages in effect. The documents were effective in January and should have been updated at that time. The Town Manager has authorization for signing these agreements. She asked the Board to take action to authorize the resolution so she can sign the documents based on what is currently in place. The Board would like to discuss the resolution in a workshop before authorizing the Town Manager to sign the document. The Town Manager will arrange for a

representative from LGC to be present at the workshop to answer questions. The public is invited to attend the workshop.

Selectman Flanders motioned to table the matter for a workshop with a representative from LGC present. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Selectman Worsman received an invitation to attend a workshop on subdivision permitting. The cost is over \$300. The Board agreed that if there is an interest in the seminar, John Edgar, Community Development Director, would be the most appropriate person to attend.

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman Flanders motioned to move into a non-public meeting per RSA 91-A:3 II(c) at 6:20 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Palm. Selectmen 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