

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of 10/06/08
5:40 p.m.

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

Co-Interim Town Managers: *John C. Edgar*
Brenda L. Vittner

Recording Clerk: *Karin Landry*

Call to Order: Chairman Peter Brothers called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. He introduced the Board and the Co-Interim Town Managers. Selectman Flanders was absent with notice.

ACCEPTANCE AND/OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

W 08-74 Minutes of the September 8, 2008 Board Meeting and Non-Public Meeting; September 15, 2008 Workshop and Non-Public Meeting; and September 24, 2008 Non-Public Meeting.

Selectman Palm motioned to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2008 Board Meeting and Non-Public Meeting; September 15, 2008 Workshop and Non-Public Meeting; and September 24, 2008 Non-Public Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 4-0-0. All in favor. Motion passed.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

RSA 37:8 provides that any vacancy in the office of Town Manager shall be filled as soon as practicable by the Selectmen; and pending the appointment of a permanent manager, the Selectmen may appoint a person to perform temporarily the duties of that office. As a result of the current vacancy in the office of Town Manager, the Chair announced the intention of the Board to appoint John Edgar and Brenda Vittner as Co-Interim Town Managers.

Selectman Palm moved to appoint John Edgar and Brenda Vittner as Co-Interim Town Managers until the office of the Town Manager is filled. The Co-Interim Town Managers will perform all duties as outlined in RSA 37. Seconded by Colette Worsman. 4-0-0. All in favor. Motion passed.

VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Resident Michael Dickinson of 79 Village Drive urged the Board to move forward with the licensing of the junkyard on Philbrook Ave. The process has been underway since 1998, and a

license has not yet been granted. Mr. Dickinson's father owns property abutting the junkyard, and he is concerned with the safety of that property and the property along the river. The junkyard is not inspected, and he is concerned that hazardous materials leaching from the site are carried by rainwater to the nearby brook and deposited in Meredith Bay. He expressed concerns with the Town being responsible for cleaning up the site if Mr. Hoyt should become unable to maintain his property.

Co-Interim Town Manager John Edgar shares Mr. Dickinson's concerns with endangering water quality. Code Enforcement Officer Bill Edney and a representative of the Department of Environmental Services have inspected the property. He believes Mr. Edney has been in touch with the Wetlands Bureau relative to wetlands issues. The project is on the Project List for 2008, and Mr. Edgar recommends that the Board take Mr. Dickinson's comments under advisement. The Board will apprise Mr. Dickinson of any updates on the matter.

SELECTMENS COMMENTS:

The Chair received notification from Richard Juve that he has been called out of the country for many months and desires to resign his position as a Trustee of the Trust Fund. The RSA's provide that vacancies in the office of the Trustee of the Trust Fund must be filled by an appointment made by the Board of Selectmen for the remainder of the unexpired term. Mr. Juve's term expires in 2011. The Chair directed Co-Interim Town Manager Brenda Vittner to solicit parties interested in filling the position.

Ms. Vittner told the Board that in an effort to promote community involvement, the ladies at the Town Hall suggested having a photo contest for the cover of the Annual Report. Photographs must be of events, scenery, and/or people in Meredith. The photographs will be displayed at the community center during the national election, and remain on display through Friday, November 7. Residents coming in to vote will be asked to vote on the photo of their choice. The Board was in full support of the photo contest.

NEW BUSINESS:

08-75 Authorization for Expenditure of Funds for Fire Truck

Since 1998, funds have been set aside in an ETF for the financing of fire equipment. In order to meet the demands of a growing Town, the Fire Department is seeking to authorize the use of existing funds in the ETF to purchase an aerial ladder truck. Fire Chief Ken Jones explained how the decision was made to purchase a Pierce 100' aerial ladder. The Department spoke with different manufacturers and viewed apparatus at the New England fire chief's annual meeting in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Pierce model includes a bucket that provides for more safety than a traditional ladder. It is anticipated that the truck will serve the Town for 25-30 years. If the Town authorizes a payment of \$727,000 within 10 days of the signing of the contract, it will save roughly \$40,000 on the total cost of the truck. This represents a greater savings than what would be realized if the funds remain in an interest bearing account for the ten months it will take to build the truck. The balance is due upon delivery of the truck. A performance bond guaranty will be issued to the Town for the \$727,000 payment.

Dialogue ensued regarding purchasing a demo model at a lower price. Upon investigation, the Department learned that it would be more costly to purchase a demo model because they include many extra features that the Town does not need.

The Board agreed that setting funds aside in an ETF for the purchase of the equipment has worked extremely well for the Town. The Chair directed Co-Interim Town Manager Brenda Vittner to investigate what bank the irrevocable letter of credit will be drawn on.

Selectman Palm moved that the Board authorize the expenditure of \$760,897 from the ETF, and signing of the bid proposal by Administrative Services after their review, and obtain a completed performance guarantee from Pierce and their bank. Seconded by Selectman Worsman.

Resident Dave Sticht understood that a demo truck was going to be built to the Town's specifications, and the Town would purchase it at a reduced cost. Selectman Palm told Mr. Sticht that upon further investigation, the Company was not interested in that option.

Resident Keith True commended Selectman Palm and the current Chief for saving the Town money on the purchase. The purchase of a replacement truck was a dream ten years ago, and is now a reality.

4-0-0. All in favor. Motion passed.

08-76 Waukewan Bathhouse Final Report

Brenda Vittner presented an accounting of the final costs for the Waukewan Bathhouse. The original contractor left Town without completing work that was paid for in advance, and a civil suit has been filed against him in the amount of \$66,866.09. The total cost of the bathhouse is \$137,000. \$60,000 was appropriated at the 2006 Town Meeting, \$40,000 of which would be grant funding. The remaining \$20,000 would be raised by taxation. An additional \$10,000 was spent for in-kind services. The \$40,000 grant will be received by year end. If the Town gets the decision in the civil suit, the actual appropriation will be \$60,000. The additional money needed to complete the project will be absorbed in this year's budget.

08-77 NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

The NRCS Damage Survey Team inspected the Westbury Road and Wall Street sites on September 23, 2008. Contact information has been determined for the two sites. The NRCS civil engineer developed cost estimates based on field measurements for each of the two sites:

Site 1: Westbury Road/Neal Brook

Total Cost: \$17,000

25% match (local sources): \$4,250

Site 2: Wall Street/un-named tributary

Total Cost: \$35,000

25% match (local sources): \$8,750

Assuming the Town sponsors either or both projects, and that either or both are funded, NRCS will provide all necessary survey and engineering design at no cost to the Town or the land owner. Although the Town would be responsible for permitting, NRCS will assist in that process in that it is their design that will be the subject of the permit. NRCS will meet with Town officials and the land owners to review the plans, answer questions, etc. prior to initiating quotes and construction.

Resident Brian Langille, the owner of property identified as Site 2, appreciates the work the Town has done to identify sources of funding to address the damage to his property. However, he believes that the source of the problem is runoff from Waukegan Village and suggested that the contractors for the project be responsible for the 25% match. He presented the Board with photographs of the property two years ago, and a copy of a letter he sent to the Town addressing the problem at that time. He told the Board that the water was just surface runoff up until five years ago. He believes that topographical maps prove that the source of the problem is drainage from Waukegan Village. A walk of the property by Town staff showed that drainage from the complex is not the source of the problem. Mr. Edgar is willing to look at the property again if it is demonstrated by the state or an engineer that there is a connection between runoff from the complex and damage to Mr. Langille's property. The Chair pointed out that this is an opportunity for the community to initiate a program for funding where they are not otherwise able to assist. If there is an interest in availing ourselves to this program, the landowner must grant access and a 25% co-pay by October 14. Mr. Langille is not willing to do so.

The Town has been unable to make contact with the property owner for Site 1. The Town is continuing with its efforts to contact them.

Selectman Worsman moved to direct Town staff to determine whether each of the property owners are willing participants and whether they are ready to sponsor either or both projects, and as a precursor to that decision, to have approval if there is approval from the land owners to authorize Town staff to notify the appropriate individuals that we would like to go forward. Absent that approval, the Board has done all it can do. Seconded by Selectman Palm.

Dialogue ensued regarding whether the Town would be willing to participate financially, in the event the property owner does not have the money readily available. The Chair cautioned that doing so would present legal questions. Brenda Vittner and John Edgar will investigate the legal constraints of what the Town can do to assist the property owner. Mr. Langille is not interested in availing himself of the Town's assistance.

The Chair moved to amend the motion to indicate that should the property owner desire, they will grant the Town access to the owner's property and the owner would need to agree to participate at the full 25% of the financial package as estimated. 4-0-0. All in favor. Motion passed as amended.

OLD BUSINESS:**08-73 Certificate of Authorizing Resolution – Insurances
(Tabled at 9/08/08 Selectmen’s Meeting)**

A representative from LGC answered questions posed by the Board pertaining to the Certificate of Authorizing Resolution at a recent workshop. The Resolution provides for a three-year contract for health and other benefits as may be selected for employees, property and liability, workers compensation, and unemployment benefits. The Chair suggested that the Resolution authorize a party, as opposed to a specific person, to execute the Application Agreement to avoid having to amend the document on a regular basis.

Selectman Palm moved that the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Meredith is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver to the applicable Trusts on behalf of the Town of Meredith for the “Application and Participation Agreement,” including any applicable Schedules thereto, in substantially the form presented to this meeting, together with any related documentation necessary to effect and complete the Application and Participation for the above-authorized protection and benefits. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 4-0-0. All in favor. Motion passed.

Abatement:

An administrative abatement in the amount of \$7.16 has been requested on behalf of Mark and Robert Brady for value included in their assessment that is part of a particular landowner’s value in a cluster development.

Chair Brothers moved that the abatement be approved as presented. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 4-0-0. All in favor. Motion passed.

Letter of Thanks from Wamoset Engine Company.

The Chair read a letter of thanks from Wamoset Engine Company for allowing them to temporarily store the refurbished 1929 Ford Model AA fire truck in the Town Hall Annex garage until it can be displayed at its permanent spot at the new fire station. The truck is the Town’s original piece of fire apparatus.

Selectman Worsman moved that the Board allow the 1929 Ford Model AA to be stored in the Town Annex garage on a temporary basis. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 4-0-0. All in favor. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman Worsman motioned to adjourn the workshop at 7:15 p.m. Seconded by Chair Brothers. 4-0-0. All in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Edgar, Co-Interim Town Mgr.

Peter F. Brothers, Chairman

Brenda L. Vittner, Co-Interim Town Mgr.

Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman

Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

Charles G. Palm

Colette Worsman