

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of 06-15-09
5:30 p.m.

Selectmen:

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

Co-Interim Town Mgrs.: (Absent with Notice)

John C. Edgar
Brenda L. Vittner

Recording Clerk:

Karin Landry

Call to Order: Chairman Peter Brothers called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He introduced the Board, Co-Interim Town Managers, and the Recording Clerk. He made announcements pertaining to fire exits, listening assisted devices, microphones, and cell phones.

ACCEPTANCE AND/OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

09-33 Acceptance June 1 Workshop and Regular Meeting

Selectman Flanders moved to approve the minutes of the June 1 Workshop and Regular meeting. Seconded by Selectman Worsman.

The first page of the Workshop minutes must be amended to reflect the appropriate date, June 1, 2009.

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

CO-INTERIM TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Co-Interim Town Manager Brenda Vittner reported on the following:

- The Board was updated on revenues and expenses through May 31 at the workshop prior to the regular meeting. Approximately \$465,000 worth of expenditures were put on hold earlier in the year. Once the Governor's budget is finalized and affected, the Town will know what revenues they will receive from the state. Non-property tax revenues including motor vehicle permits and solid waste are lower when compared to last year at this time. The revenues will continue to be monitored. Expenditures should be at approximately 42% at five months into the year. Most departments are under that level at this time. Ms. Vittner credited the departments for taking steps such as holding the purchase of equipment. It is expending more to get rid of scrap metal and plastics than in the past.

- Ms. Vittner updated the Board on the posting of public restroom locations. A small map will be available by the end of this week that sets forth the location of public restrooms, as well as hours of operation, whether they are seasonal or year around, and whether they are a portable or stationary. The map will be available on the Town website, the Town Hall, and kiosks and bulletin boards throughout Town. She acknowledged Rusty McLear of Hampshire Hospitality Holdings for allowing public use of some of his facilities.

VISITOR AND RESIDENT COMMENTS:

None

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Chair Brothers reported on the Town Manager Search Committee. The Committee consists of five citizens, the Co-Interim Town Managers, and two Selectmen designees. The Committee has been working diligently and has almost completed the preliminary round of interviews. Updates on the work of the Committee will take place as appropriate.

NEW BUSINESS:**09-34 Abatements**

Ms. Vittner opened the matter. Assessor Jim Commerford provided a summary sheet of abatements, as well as backup documentation for each of the abatement requests, for the Board's review. Mr. Commerford was present to answer questions posed by the Board.

The packet includes 18 abatements. Mr. Commerford recommends granting 11 of the abatements, and denying 7. The total taxes for the 18 abatements is \$10,593.62. A total of 52 abatements were received for 2008, 50 of which have been processed at this time. The total taxes abated for 2008 are \$21,299.54.

Mr. Commerford explained the significant abatement for New Hampshire Electric Cooperative in the amount of \$100,000. The figures for utility values originate from the Department of Revenue. Those figures were supplied to the Town in September of last year, just prior to the completion of the MS-1. On March 1 on this year, the Town received an abatement request from a tax consulting company stating that the DRA's original value of approximately \$5,500,000 was adjusted to approximately \$4,500,000. Mr. Commerford immediately contacted the DRA, and was informed that the value was changed in December '08. Because the Town was not notified of the change in value, there was no opportunity to amend the MS-1, and the tax bills were based on the higher figure. The DRA sent a letter regarding the matter subsequent to Mr. Commerford's call.

Chair Brothers pointed out that assessment synopsis for the Tracy Way property should be Parcel U02-19-7, located at 78 Tracy Way, as opposed to Parcel S21-19-7, located at

56 Tracy Way. He also noted that Parcel U15A-19, located at 27 Barnard Ridge Rd., was not included on the master summary sheet. Dialogue ensued regarding how to handle to inadvertent omission. There was a consensus among the Board agreed that the addition can be made by hand and placed in their box for signature. The amended total amount for the abatement summary sheet is \$11,623.87.

Chair Brothers chose to abstain from voting on the approval/denial of the abatements because his employer has an interest in the Abbey Lane parcels.

Selectman Palm motioned that the Board approve the abatements for 12 properties aggregating \$11,623.87, and deny the abatements for 7 properties, for a total of 19 properties having been reviewed. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 4-0-1 (Chair Brothers abstained). Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

Ms. Vittner reviewed the tentative meeting schedule for the remainder of the month.

Selectman Flanders motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Edgar, Co-Interim Town Manager

Peter F. Brothers, Chairman

Brenda L. Vittner, Co-Interim Town Manager

Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman

Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

Robert C. Flanders

Charles G. Palm

Colette Worsman