

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Minutes of 05-02-11
5:30 p.m.

Selectmen:

Colette Worsman, Chairman
Peter F. Brothers, Vice Chairman
Miller C. Lovett
Nathan J. Torr
Herbert R. Vadney

Town Manager:

Phillip L. Warren

Recording Clerk:

Karin Landry

Call to Order: Chair Colette Worsman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. She introduced the Board, Town Manager, and the Recording Clerk, and made announcements pertaining to fire exits, listening assisted devices, the use of microphones, and cell phones.

ACCEPTANCE AND/OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

11 -20 Workshop, Board Meeting, and Non-Public Meeting of April 18, 2011

Changes suggested prior to the meeting will be incorporated in the final versions.

Selectman Brothers motioned to accept the Minutes of the April 18, 2011 Workshop, Board Meeting, and Non-Public meeting. Seconded by Selectman Torr. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- The Town Manager requested the Board's authorization to sign an Acknowledgment drafted by counsel that cures the improper taking of property located at R35, Lot 3, off Pinnacle Ridge Rd. Research shows that in 1972, a notice of tax assessment and tax collection steps were never given to the record owner of the property, and the deed is purported to be taken from owner unknown. The current owner has owned the property since 2000, and there is clear custody of title. The property is valued at \$84,900. The Board agreed to give the Town Manager authorization to execute the document.

- The RFP's for asphalt paving services, Cattle Landing docks, Parks & Recreation grounds maintenance, and community flowers have been issued. The contract for asphalt paving services will be awarded to Bryant Paving, LLC, in the total amount of \$355,650. A background check has been conducted, and it was verified that the contractor is qualified and able to do the work. Due diligence and the confirmation of permitting requirements for Cattle Landing Docks is underway. Due diligence is in process for Parks & Recreation ground maintenance. The contract for community flowers has been awarded to Simple by Nature Landscape in the amount of \$4,390, which is \$1,605 less than the contract awarded last year. The Town Manager confirmed that Simple by Nature is able to do the work for that price while meeting the town's needs. Seeing no opposition from the Board, the Chair authorized the Town Manager to complete the due diligence and sign the contracts.

- The contractor hired to identify the source of unaccounted for losses in the water system identified two likely spots - Jenness Hill Rd. and Oak Street. A circumference crack in the water pipe on Jenness Hill Rd., located just before the culvert in front of Public Works, was repaired last week. The water that was being lost at that location is estimated have been approximately 50 gallons per minute, which recovers the unaccounted for losses. It is estimated that the break on Oak Street will recover another 10-20 gallons per minute. That break is scheduled to be repaired on Thursday. Dialogue ensued regarding monitoring for leak detection and the cost of monitoring vs. the cost of producing water. The Town Manager explained that leak detection is monitored on a regular basis through the quarterly billing process.

- The WRBP Advisory Board will meet tomorrow. The program director is firmly in favor of the installation of a UV disinfection system for a number of reasons including the building climate, but the Town Manager and Water & Sewer Superintendent Dan Leonard believe there are less costly alternatives, and that this is not the best time to invest a substantial amount of money in a program that has not reached its intended use life cycle. As a member of the Advisory Board representing the Town of Meredith, the Town Manager will vote against the installation of a UV disinfection system. Selectman Lovett inquired if there are any steps that can be taken to stop the direction the matter is taking, which seems inevitable at this point. The Town Manager will summarize the information from tomorrow's Advisory Board meeting and deliver it to Representative Gene Chandler and Executive Councilor Ray Burton's office in the next few days.

- The cable TV RFP for legal services will go out this month. More information will be available in June.

- The septic pump at the Public Works office failed due to ground water infiltration. Dan Leonard is working on a solution to stop the infiltration.

- The Town will take advantage of a program offered by Lakes Region Planning Commission for energy assessments on newer buildings in the community. The community center, police station, and fire station are eligible for the program. A comprehensive list of action items that will lower energy consumption will be compiled. An assessment is scheduled for the community center on May 5.

- The Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools Phil McCormack recently met with a representative from Global Energy. Global Energy electrical rates are approximately \$10,000 a year lower than the Coop's new rates. 10 million kilowatt hours must be consumed in order to move into a more cost effective tier. The school is very interested in the program, and the Town Manager will continue to pursue the matter once information from the school is submitted.

VISITOR'S AND RESIDENTS COMMENTS:

Resident Ralph Pisapia inquired if the septic pump failure at the Public Works Department is a threat to groundwater. The Town Manager does not believe there is a threat to groundwater at this time.

SELECTMAN COMMENTS: (Reports on Committees 2nd Meeting each Month)

Selectman Lovett reported that the Capital Improvement Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Planning Board, will begin its work in about a week. The public is invited to attend the first meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex.

NEW BUSINESS:**11-21 Conservation Commission - Proposed Letter Regarding HB1**

Conservation Commission member Mark Billings explained that the Commission is concerned with the proposed elimination of five DES programs, and two in particular - the Lakes Voluntary Assessment Program (VLAP) and the River Volunteer Assessment Program. The elimination of these programs, as set forth in proposed HB 1, could greatly affect the quality of water in the Lakes Region and ultimately affect the economy in the region as well as the State. The programs monitor the waters coming in and out of the Lakes Region, and are a profitable venture for the State as a result of water testing that is conducted in various communities. The Commission drafted a letter for the Board's signature to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee that compellingly states the reasons for reconsidering the elimination of these programs and how important they are to the Town of Meredith and the Lakes Region.

Chair Worsman explained that the legislature allocates resources for each department, and it is up to the department head, in this case Commissioner Burack, and his department to decide which programs stay in place and which won't. She believes that the Commissioner recognizes the value the programs have for the Lakes Region, and how eliminating them will have a detrimental effect. She does not see additional allocations being made to departments because the revenues reported for the month of April are all down.

Selectman Torr has been involved in water testing in Lake Waukegan for a long time, and would like to see the programs continue. Discontinuing programs of this nature would be cutting our own throats, environmentally speaking. He would like to get the attention of as many people as possible on this matter.

Selectman Vadney suggested addressing the letter to Commissioner Burack as opposed to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, because it is up to him and his staff to decide how to determine the relative importance of the resources allocated to the department. He agrees that the programs have been around for a long time and should be retained, and suggested that DES consider streamlining the programs as opposed to eliminating them.

Selectman Brothers pointed out that water quality is connected to every Town goal the Board has. He believes the letter should be addressed to the DES Commissioner. The letter is well written and expresses the importance of the situation without asking for cuts to other programs.

Conservation Commission Member Ralph Pisapia wants to make sure that the concerns are stated to the broader Senate, and suggested addressing the letter to the Senator with a copy to the DES. The Commission believes a very strong expression of concern for the future is appropriate.

Selectman Brothers pointed out that there will probably be many similar letters sent to the Senate Finance Committee requesting funding for various programs and services, and suggested the best way to bring attention to the matter is to address the letter to the DES Commissioner with a carbon copy to the Senate Finance Committee. Selectman Vadney agrees, but believes the letter would have been more effective eight months ago because it will be hard to put the funding for the programs back in HB 1 at this time. Selectman Torr thinks getting the attention of as many people as possible is the best approach. Selectman Lovett agrees with this approach.

Chair Worsman believes that in the future, private organization will have to provide some of the services currently provided by the state. She suggested contacting Jody Connor of the New Hampshire Lakes Association for suggestions on who to address the letter to. Chair Worsman serves on the House Finance Committee and is not comfortable signing the letter. She would be more comfortable with the letter coming from the Conservation Commission.

Selectman Lovett pointed out that the problem is much wider than the cutting of these two programs. This is a very painful time that must be played out. The next elections will be an indicator of what the public wants. Although he is in favor of sending the letter, he is resigned to the fact that no action will be taken.

Selectman Lovett motioned that with unanimous recommendation from the Conservation Commission, the letter be executed by the Board, with the exception of Chair Worsman, and sent to the Senate Finance Committee, with the understanding that the Board will consider forwarding the letter to additional parties.

Although Selectman Brothers is of the personal opinion that the letter should be addressed to Commissioner Burack and the Water Resources Division, with a copy to additional parties, he will vote in favor of the motion.

The letter will include signature lines for individual members of the Board, with the exception of Chair Worsman.

4-0-1. Chair Worsman abstained. Motion passed.

The Town Manager will place a copy of the letter in the signature file for execution.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNAMENT:

Selectman Torr moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Vadney. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip L. Warren, Town Manager

Colette Worsman, Chairman

Peter F. Brothers, Vice Chairman

Miller C. Lovett

Nathan J. Torr

Herbert R. Vadney