

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Minutes of 05-16-11
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 -22 Minutes of the May 2, 2011 Workshop and Board Meeting.

Selectman Brothers motioned to accept the minutes of the May 2, 2011 Workshop and Board Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Torr.

The final version of the Regular Meeting Minutes were amended to reflect that the committee on which Chair Worsman serves is the House Finance Committee. The Chair requested that Board members amend their copy to reflect the change.

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

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- The tax liens for 2010 were issued last week in the total amount of \$587,962.60, which is an approximate \$20,000 increase from 2009.

- Work will begin tonight on the water line that connects to the Meredith Village Savings Bank Complex and the road box at the corner of Route 3 and Main Street. Work on the sewer system in the same area is scheduled to commence next Monday, May 23 and continue through Thursday, May 26. Friday, May 27 is the contingency date for completion of the project. The project will have to be abandoned if there is an entire week of rain.

- Flushing of the water system will take place in the next couple weeks. The water that is flushed is accounted for and de-chlorinated so surrounding areas are not contaminated.

- The Community Park bathrooms are open for the year. The Town manager thanked Buildings & Grounds for getting them in operational condition.

- The Friends of Meredith Parks & Recreation requested that a solicitation of donations for Child's Park be included in the newsletter mailed with the tax bill. The Town Manager explained

that the practice of mailing a newsletter was never approved by the Selectmen, and has not been implemented since he has been employed by the Town. The Town Manager recommends that a solicitation be included in the weekly message emailed to local papers. Dialogue ensued regarding various ways to get a message to residents such as posting it on the website. While the Board supports the project, there was an agreement that the message should be distributed in the most efficient way.

- The Department of Environmental Services (DES) has informed the Chairman of the Winnepesaukee River Basin Advisory Board that an additional \$631,488 has been received to be applied to the proposed ultraviolet disinfection project. At the recent Advisory Board meeting, there was a discussion of the proposed UV system, but no vote was taken. The Director of the Water Division at DES indicated that a letter will be sent to participating municipalities stating the benefits of the program, the need for it, and the actual costs. The letter has not been received at this time. The Town Manager and Water and Sewer Superintendent Dan Leonard do not support the upgrade of the disinfection system because it is not necessary at this time and a comprehensive assessment of the entire system needs to be done.

- The Conservation Commission notified Robert Berthelette, an abutter of the Page Pond Town Forest, to immediately cease and desist from driving motorized vehicles on the property. The practice is an unauthorized use of the property, and is causing significant damage to the hiking trails.

- Mark Billings has expressed his desire to serve as Interim Treasurer for the Town of Meredith. The position became vacant upon the recent passing of Chuck Palm. The Town Manager recommends that the Board consider Mr. Billings request and the process it wishes to follow to make an appointment to the position. While the Board agrees that Mr. Billings is a qualified candidate, an effort needs to be made to identify others with an interest in filling the position. The appointment will be made until the next election, at which time an appointment will be made for a full three-year term. The Town Manager will work with Director of Administrative Services Brenda Vittner to compile an application for the position. The Board will review the applications of interested candidates at its June 6 workshop, and make its decision at the regular meeting following the workshop. The Town Manager strongly recommends that a Deputy Treasurer be appointed by the newly appointed Interim Treasurer.

VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Resident Duncan McNeish thanked the Board for the letter sent to DES endorsing a higher lake level for Lake Waukegan. The information included with the letter was a determining factor in the decision for a higher lake level. Resident Chuck Braxton also thanked the Board for committing the resources and making a tough decision. The Board's action allowed the Town to file an appeal on a complicated, challenging issue. The ZBA has not yet deliberated on the results of the rehearing. Mr. Braxton inquired how organizations and residents can be kept informed of matters concerning the watershed going forward. Selectman Brothers suggested reviewing the Zoning and Planning Board agendas, notices, and minutes that are posted on the town website, as well as appointing representatives or liaisons to commissions and other groups. Mr. McNeish suggested that the words "within the Waukegan Watershed" be included in appropriate Agenda items.

Resident Jim Hughes is satisfied with the operation of the transfer station facility and the helpfulness of employees, but would like to see improved signage at the facility. The Town Manager pointed out that the rules and regulations are posted on the website, and a paper version

is available at the Town Hall. The Town Manager will confer with Mr. Hughes to identify where signage can be improved.

Representative Robert Greenmore informed the Board that a constituent has asked him to endorse a Bill naming the steel bridge located on Route 3 just below Hart's Turkey Farm the "POW/MIA Vigil and Freedom Ride Bridge". All costs will be covered by individuals through fundraising efforts. There will be no costs to the Town or State. The Board has no objection to the matter.

Resident Paula Trombley, President of the Friends of Meredith Parks & Recreation, inquired if the Board will reconsider its decision not to include a solicitation letter for Child's Park in the tax bills because a precedent may have been set when fundraising was taking place for the community center. The Friends are willing to pay for postage incurred by the additional weight of the letter. Selectman Brothers explained that the Board wishes to use the resources that are available to get the best possible result, rather than debate whether a precedent has been set. Selectman Vadney does not think that soliciting donations with a tax bill is effective. An additional \$10,000 to \$20,000 must be raised for the project, depending on engineering costs. Secondly, Ms. Trombley asked the Board to consider coordinating a meeting of the town's state representatives to explain what is taking place in Concord and how it will affect residents of Meredith. The Board pointed out the difficulties involved with scheduling such a meeting and Representative Greenmore explained that it is impossible to know how the budget will affect the Town until after it has been passed, which is the end of June. The Board suggested a regular review of newspapers and attending legislation hearings in Concord as ways to be kept abreast of what is happening with the budget. Chair Worsman gives a legislative update during the Selectman's Comments portion of the meeting. Resident Jim Hughes does not believe it is the responsibility of the Town or Selectmen to keep the public informed of what goes on in the State House or Senate unless it directly affects the Town's budget and the taxing of residents.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS (Reports on Committees 2nd meeting each month)

Selectman Torr reported that the Waukewan Watershed Association is working with the DES on a buffer zone around the Lake. Six places around Lake Waukewan, all located in Meredith, have been secured to stop runoff going into the lake. The project is in its early stages.

NEW BUSINESS:

11-23 Authorize DES Consent Decree

The Town Manager reported that the Town of Meredith, in conjunction with the New Hampshire DES, is in the process of negotiating a Consent Agreement relative to alleged violations of the New Hampshire Water Pollution and Waste Disposal Act. In November 2008, it was brought to the attention of town management that employees had been improperly disposing of municipal sewage that was collected using the town's jet vac trailer in the course of routine maintenance of the town's sewer collection system. Disposal of this material took place in the area known as the snow dump on Jenness Hill Rd. Upon this notification, the town self reported this action to New Hampshire DES and assured that the practice ceased immediately. Since that report the following actions have been taken: a thorough investigation into the matter was concluded, and a correction action plan including testing of the affected areas was formulated and approved by DES. A thorough analysis of both areas resulted with the final findings being that there is no public health or environmental risk. There will be the establishment of policies and procedures to assure compliance with our federal, state and local regulations and laws regarding the collection and disposal of similar materials, and training of staff to ensure that those policies and procedures are

followed. As a result of this violation, the Board was asked to give the Town Manager the authority to execute the Consent Agreement rather than risk the uncertainty and expense associated with litigating the matter. The decree requires the town to perform certain actions in lieu of payment of a civil penalty of \$30,000, including certification of employees as collection systems operators in the sewer system, performing regional training on relevant sewage disposal and handling subjects, assistance to the Franklin Training Center located at the WRBP treatment facility, and sponsorship of a grant and scholarship program that supports environmental programs in local schools. The plan includes actions that will benefit the town, actions the town surely would have undertaken independent of this agreement instead of paying a civil penalty that would offer no benefit. The Town Manager asked the Board to grant him the authority to execute the Consent Decree.

Selectman Brothers motioned that the Board authorize the Town Manager to sign the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Consent Decree and directed him to do so at the earliest convenience and forward the document to the DES. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

11-24 Appointment to Lakes Region Planning Commission

The Planning Board has requested that Herb Vadney and John Dever III be appointed as regular members of the Lakes Region Planning Commission, and Bill Bayard be appointed as an alternate commissioner.

Selectman Lovett motioned to appoint Herb Vadney and John Dever II as regular members of the Lakes Region Planning Commission, and appoint Bill Bayard as an alternate member. Seconded by Selectman Torr. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

ADJOURNAMENT:

Selectman Torr moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 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