

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING**  
**Minutes of 07-18-11**  
**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: (Absent with Notice)*

*Karin Landry*

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

**ACCEPTANCE AND/OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES:**

**11 -36 Minutes of the June 6, 2011 and June 20, 2011 Workshop and Regular Meeting, and the July 11, 2011 Non-Public Meeting.**

*Selectman Torr motioned to accept the June 6, 2011 and June 20, 2011 Workshop and Regular Meeting minutes, and the July 11, 2011 Non-Public Meeting minutes. Seconded by Selectman Lovett.*

Two modifications were offered by Chair Worsman:

June 6 Board minutes, page 7: "Representative Gene Chandler"

June 20 Board minutes, page 5: "The chair has pointed out that the Board has kept an eye on capital expenditures and that the Town has maintained roads in good condition."

Minutes accepted with minor modifications.

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

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- Code Enforcement determined that a permit is not necessary for the welcome sign at the old Christmas Loft. It is not a town sign, and no town funds were expended.

- The July 4 fireworks went well and as planned. In accordance with safety regulations, the fireworks were ignited from an offshore barge and no issues were identified in doing so.

- The Board was provided with the response from Nancy Mayville of the DOT regarding maintenance of non-numbered state roads. The Town Manager is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Ms. Mayville, affected residents, the Board, and Representative Greenmore to discuss the matter at an upcoming meeting. In accordance with Ms. Mayville's response, while the town is free to spend funds it has available on its non-numbered state routes, typically, when an unnumbered state road is reconstructed, the road is reclassified to being a classified town

owned road when the project is completed. Dialogue ensued regarding the scope of the work that needs to be done on Meredith Neck Road, and how far the funds available from the town would go to meet the 2:1 match. The Town Manager will eventually have a better unit cost price estimate, but pointed out that the \$461,000 available from the town will not get the road the full depth reclamation it needs. Selectman Vadney expressed concerns that a full depth reclamation of Meredith Center Rd., or even bringing it up to state standards, would affect the rural character of the road.

- At the direction of the Board, the Town Manager put together a charge for a proposed cable advisory committee for the Board's consideration. He will present the agreement for legal services in the Intermunicipal Agreement for the legal TV consortium he has been working on at the next Board meeting. He is pleased to inform the Board that the town is getting great representation at very favorable terms. In addition, the town will negotiate its own contract while negotiating as a collective body.

- The Town Manager announced that going forward, the Board's agenda is extremely full, and leaves little room to address additional items.

- The Town Manager met with Bear Island resident Betty Hinckley concerning the cyanobacteria bloom earlier this year, and they agreed that it is a good idea to have an informational session on cyanobacteria. The Town Manager is working with Director of Community Development John Edgar to plan the session, which is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, at 5 p.m. at the community center. It will cover the causes, identification, and public health risks of the bacteria, as well as water quality trends, sewage disposal, water quality maintenance alternatives, and watershed planning. The speakers for each discipline will be announced this week.

- Granite State Rural Water performed leak detection work at the Interlakes Mobile Home Park and found some significant leaks. It became known today that the data provided by Granite State does not necessarily tie back to the amount of water being consumed by the Mobile Home Park, however, Water & Sewer Superintendent Dan Leonard feels there are significant leaks in that system. At some point in the future, Selectman Brothers would like the Board to explore strengthening the ordinances to encourage owners to improve those sources in a reasonable timeframe. They are a drain on the system and there is a cost to the town to produce a gallon of water. The response in the past has been to pass along costs to tenants, and there has been little success in pursuing an educational approach. The time will come when there will be a greater demand on the system, and dialogue with the entities that ultimately use the resources should be considered. The Town Manager informed that Mr. Leonard and the Water Committee is exploring necessary additions to the Water and Sewer Ordinance, including the suggestion made by Selectman Brothers. There is nothing precluding the town from including a section in the capital improvement program that says any small water system that is attached to the town shall present some type of leak detection and maintenance plan to the town to ensure that their system is free of leaks.

#### **VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

Resident Jim Hughes asked the Board to contact Peter Russell in an effort to research an agreement that was never followed through on with the state of New Hampshire to replace the culvert between the Lincoln and Prescott Farm on Meredith Neck Rd. and fill the area to make it smoother. The Town Manager inquired if Mr. Hughes has noticed an improvement in the audio at the Board workshops and meetings. Mr. Hughes informed that while the tonal qualities at the

Board meetings have improved, the work sessions are worse than before. Selectman Lovett inquired about the progress on 150th anniversary celebration of the town, which will take place in 2018. Mr. Hughes informed that he continues to work on plans for the celebration.

Resident Dave Sticht is concerned that the signage program will meet a lot of opposition from the public. Most of those who drive the rural roads of Meredith live on them and don't obey the speed limits. In response to the conservation commission's efforts to explore conservation easements on town owned property, Mr. Sticht believes that the commission has enough power at this time and that they don't need any more easements.

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

The Chair encouraged citizens to review the map that will be posted on the website indicating the proposed signs in connection with the high risk rural road signage project that was discussed in the workshop preceding this meeting. Comments should be directed to the Town Manager, Selectmen, or Mike Faller in a timely manner, since a decision whether to participate in the program must be made within a month. In addition, she solicited citizen input regarding the conservations easements on town forests proposed by the conservation commission. While it is very early in the discussion, citizen input is very important.

Selectman Torr thanked the groups involved in the tree beautification of the town. The trees that have been planted blend in perfectly and many people think they have always been there. Selectman Lovett added that there is more money available for plantings in the central parts of town, and ideas for plantings should be directed to Bonnie Ireland or Nancy Levine of the Greater Meredith Program. The funding for tree beautification is raised through volunteer contributions by people staying at the inns, bed & breakfasts, and campgrounds in town.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **11-37 Execution of Health Insurance Documents**

Since it is unclear whether the Town Manager has authorization to sign health insurance agreements, he asked the Board to execute the amendment to the flexible spending account plan and to take action to adopt the resolutions to do so. The plan has been amended to a six month plan in order to get on a calendar year basis. The flexible spending account is 100% paid by employees, who can designate up to \$2,500 of their funds for this period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. The agreement also allows the town to procure dental insurance from LGC and affirms the fact that it no longer has workers compensation, property and liability, or unemployment benefits through LGC. In addition, it affirms participation in retiree billing and COBRA for dental insurance. There is no fee for the town to administer the flexible spending account and the dental insurance is premium based. The Town Manager asked the Board to vote to execute the LGC and flexible spending plan documents as presented.

*Selectman Brothers proposed that the Board sign the document necessary for the certificate of authorizing resolution for our dental, COBRA administrative services for the health trust, and retiree billing administrative services. Seconded by Selectman Torr. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### **11-38 Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee Resignation**

There have been two resignations from the Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee. Bruce Bond is resigning immediately due to personal commitments and Tim Whiting is resigning due to a conflict between his commitment to the Watershed Committee and how he perceives the Board of Selectmen's commitment to the Committee. Selectman Torr thanked both gentlemen for their countless hours of service at the Kiosk and Lake Host Program, as well as many other programs. The Advisory Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 8 a.m. at the Annex, and new members are being solicited. The Chair directed the Town Manager to extend the Board's appreciation to Messrs. Bond and Whiting in writing. Selectman Lovett does not believe that some of the points made in Mr. Whiting's resignation letter reflect Mr. Lovett's position, and believes that they are partly due to a misunderstanding of how the Board operates. He thinks the resignation was prompted by feelings that the Selectboard was not interested in what the watershed committee was doing. The Board honors and respects positions that they may initially disagree with, but that doesn't necessarily reflect how they will vote in the long run. They conduct business by putting matters on the table and soliciting differences of opinion. He is concerned that if Mr. Whiting reconsidered this position, similar problems would arise in the future. Selectman Brothers agrees to some degree, however, the Board has the ultimate responsibility for making decisions and while they employ many kinds of individual and committees, the committees are advisory, and their interests and opinions can be very strong. As managers of the town, the Board must recognize that there will be conflicts, and provide direction to those advisory committees. He does not wish to see the Board apologize for those differences. He thanked Tim and Bruce for their protracted involvement since the committee's inception, but agrees with Mr. Bond's assessment that it is good to have revitalization on the committee. He looks at this as an opportunity to move forward, thank the volunteers for their service, and say that there is plenty of opportunity to continue because the mission is still there. Selectman Lovett clarified that he did not suggest the Board apologize, but that there is a difference of opinion, and that different points of view are respected by the Board, and not necessarily reflective of how they will vote when they get there.

#### **11-29 Conform action taken relative to ZBA rehearing appeal to Superior Court**

The Board met with counsel and voted to confirm the action that was taken relative to the ZBA rehearing appeal in Superior Court. The Town Manager recommended that the Board move to confirm its actions relative to the appeal matter.

*Selectman Lovett moved to confirm the Board's actions relative to filing the rehearing of the Zoning Board appeal matter in Superior Court. Seconded by Selectman Vadney.*

Selectman Lovett had the opportunity to read the appeal document, which is tremendous in spelling out specifically why the Board appealed the matter. The document is currently an attorney-client work product, and can be shared with the public once it is filed with the court. The Town Manager will post the document on the website once it is filed.

Resident Dave Sticht is not familiar with the details of the matter, but believes that the selectmen have gone through an applicational process for ZBA members, and should back up their appointments. The aggrieved parties should be footing the costs of the appeal.

The Chair expressed the Board's great appreciation for those who volunteer to be on the Boards, and respects those positions in a complete manner. That being said, the policies rest with this Board and the overall decision making rests with this Board.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**ADJOURNAMENT:**

*Selectman Brothers moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Seconded by Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Phillip L. Warren, Town Manager

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Colette Worsman, Chairman

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Peter F. Brothers, Vice Chairman

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Miller C. Lovett

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Nathan J. Torr

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Herbert R. Vadney