

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Minutes of 11-07-11
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 -56 Minutes of the October 3, 2011 Workshop and BOS Meeting and the October 17, 2011 Workshop, BOS and Non-Public Meeting.

Selectman Torr moved to accept the minutes of the October 3, 2011 Workshop and Board Meeting and the October 17, 2011 Workshop, Board Meeting, and Non-Public Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Brothers.

Selectman Vadney requested that the October 17 Board Meeting minutes, page 3 of 5, Visitor's and Resident's Comments, be amended to refer to Bill Blanchett as the Chamber of Commerce representative. The Board will sign the minutes and the Town Manager will insert the change on the final copy.

October 3, 2011 Meetings: 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously

October 17, 2011 Meetings: 4-0-0. Motion passed unanimously. (Selectman Lovett abstained - Absent with Notice)

The Chair announced that the Agenda items were reordered to accommodate staff meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

11-57 Hearing - Acceptance and Appropriations of Unanticipated Funds per RSA 31:95-B

Selectman Brothers motioned to open a public hearing on the acceptance and appropriations of unanticipated funds per RSA 31:95-B at 5:35 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Torr.

The Board must accept and appropriate unanticipated funds in the following amounts for the specified purpose of the Child's Park Project:

Friends of Parks & Recreation - three grants totaling	\$ 11,500.00
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Meredith Rotary	\$ 7,500.00
Mr. Lou Kahn	\$ 30,000.00

Paula Trombley, president of the Friends of Parks & Recreation, explained that the donation from the Meredith Rotary was made to the Friends of Parks & Recreation. The donation will be amended to read "Meredith Rotary through the Friends of Parks & Recreation". In addition, she informed that the donations totaling \$11,500 are pledges as opposed to grants. The Chair explained that from the town's perspective, a donation is considered a grant regardless of the source.

Selectman Torr moved to close the public hearing at 5:40 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Brothers.

Selectman Brothers pointed to the project as an excellent example of how private/public partnerships can succeed. The project is moving along well, with the playground equipment to be installed soon and the ball fields scheduled to be completed in the spring. Selectman Brothers expressed appreciation for the efforts of all those involved in the project and the excellent example that it has set.

Selectman Lovett pointed out that there have been approximately 30 individuals that contributed to the fund, including Lou Kahn's donation in memory of his late wife.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair expressed appreciation for the participation of the community in coming together to make the project a reality. It is a valid project that has been talked about for a very long time.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

11-58 Rural Sign Replacement Program

The Town Manager was notified by Stuart Thompson of the NHDOT that the town must decide whether it wishes to participate in the rural signing and delineation program in order to be included in the next round of funding. The Board was provided with staff reports from Director of Public Works Mike Faller and Police Chief Kevin Morrow. Based on those reports, the Town Manager recommends proceeding with the program. The department heads will work with the program consultants when they are on site to make eliminations or adjustments where necessary. Windsong Place has been identified as a location where adjustments should be made. The town will benefit by having existing signs brought into compliance with standards that will go into effect in a few years. If the Board wishes to proceed with the project, an outreach program will be instituted through the Town Manager's office to notify residents when the work will take place in their neighborhood.

The Chair received comments from residents that are grateful that signs will be placed in high traffic areas or around dangerous curves, however, there have been a number of complaints regarding sign proliferation. The Board and staff have worked hard to reduce the number of signs, and the project will be monitored to ensure signs are not placed in the middle of a lawn.

The Town Manager received an email requesting a "pavement ends" or "dead end" sign on Cattle Landing Rd.

Selectman Lovett is hopeful that there will not be a vast proliferation of signs and inquired if the town is assured that isn't going to happen. The Town Manager explained that while there are new signs that will be erected, a number of existing signs will be deleted, and referred to a color coded map that was provided for the Board's review.

Selectman Brothers inquired about the process for addressing specific sites. The Town Manager reiterated that the outreach program will be in place, and that residents can contact Mr. Faller, the Town Manager, or the construction manager to pursue the adjustment of a sign location or excessive signage. In addition, signs can be adjusted after they are placed.

Selectman Torr pointed out that retro reflective signs are extremely expensive, and that this is an opportunity for Meredith to comply with the new codes.

Dialogue ensued regarding the movement towards larger street signs. The Town Manager informed that as of 2013 or 2014, existing street signs will have to be replaced with 6" lettering. The signs can be replaced incrementally.

Selectman Vadney is concerned about the number of signs, and pointed out that the town will be responsible for replacement signs as they become necessary for a very long time. He encouraged Mr. Faller, the Town Manager, and the Selectboard to air on the side of fewer signs. He believes there are far too many new signs slated for Windsong Place and Meredith Neck, and pointed out that accidents are rarely attributed to a lack of signage. In addition, he has received comments from residents concerned with the rural atmosphere being destroyed.

Chief Morrow believes that by working with Mr. Faller, the state, and citizens, the placement of signs can be monitored and kept at an acceptable level.

Selectman Brothers motioned to proceed with the New Hampshire Rural Signing and Delineation program, with attention paid to the comments made, under the supervision of the Town Manager and staff. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recapped the workshop held prior to the Board meeting. The MS-1 has been filed and certified with the state and the MS-4 has been filed with the state. The MS-5 was signed in the workshop, and will be delivered tomorrow. Once the MS-5 is filed, the tax rate can be set for the 2011 tax bills.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- The Town Manager was notified that the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association received official notice that the group was awarded grants for computer aided dispatch and simulcast systems. The directors received unofficial notification of the award on November 2, and voted to rescind a previous vote establishing a five-year assessment for capital improvements to the communications system at its Directors meeting on that day. As a result, the budget for the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association will have a slight decrease this year.

- The New Hampton conservation commission received a grant to purchase another piece of property along the Snake River to further protect the Waukewan Watershed. Meredith's conservation commission has been working with New Hampton, and anticipates participating as they did in the last purchase by contributing in-kind resources and \$10,000 from monies accumulated in an expendable trust fund when land changes from current use. The Town

Manager recommends that the conservation commission be invited to a future workshop to discuss the matter.

- School and business members have not been appointed to the cable committee at this time. A questionnaire has been distributed through Metrocast. Information regarding the meeting scheduled for December 5 will be sent to all stakeholders this week.
- The library Board of Trustees will be attending the next workshop to update the Board and present their budget.
- The Town Manager met with representatives of the health insurance consultant and was informed that the town is utilizing health care services as it should. A majority of employees are utilizing wellness programs and seeking care through their primary care provider rather than the emergency room. Open enrollment for the plans is scheduled for next week.
- It has been determined that options offered by the health insurance consultant to further reduce costs have little gains for a significant risk. An increase in the self-funding town portion from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per member would save less than \$7,000 annually if utilization was perfect. A change in the prescription plan was also considered. The Town Manager noted that the annual increase for the past two years has remained below 10%, which is excellent when compared to the increase of 12-18% from other carriers, and this year's original proposal of 22%.
- The Town will not move towards self funding unemployment insurance at this time. While the risk is very low, there is an added staff burden if it is taken on. Although the gain for self funding is in the vicinity of \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year, the town manager does not recommend doing so until there is sufficient history to rely on.
- The construction at Cattle Landing has begun. Two canoes, a tin boat, and a paddleboat have been removed from the construction area and are being held for safe keeping at the police department. Construction is proceeding according to plan. The old structures will be removed in the process.
- The Child's Park project is on schedule and on budget. The playground is scheduled to be installed this weekend utilizing a group of volunteers organized by the Friends of Parks & Recreation. The skating rink will be available for use this winter. Landscaping and the resurfacing of the basketball court will take place in the spring.
- Power outages on Wednesday, November 2 affected approximately 6,500 New Hampshire Electric Coop members in Meredith. The first power outage was restored in 50 minutes, but a second outage, caused by the failure of the Meredith substation transformer, took place around 5 p.m. The transformer was installed in 1986, and is not at the end of its useful life. A temporary mobile unit will remain in service while the transformer is being tested and repaired.
- Participation in the Household Hazardous Waste Collection for 2012 will be \$6,221, which is the same as last year. The Town Manager will execute a commitment letter that indicates the town agrees to participate subject to funding at town meeting.

VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Resident Nick Layton approached the Board looking for suggestions or a solution to a problem with his water and sewer bill. The Town Manager directed Mr. Layton to contact him, either by

email or in person regarding the matter. Once that has been done, the Board will review the information at hand and act on the matter.

- Resident Dave Sticht asked to be updated on the Winnepesaukee River Basin Project. The Town Manager informed that the UV project passed, and the cost will be tacked on to the rate. Water & Sewer superintendent Dan Leonard attends all job meetings for the construction project to be sure it is proceeding as best it can. The town will be reimbursed for all work on the force main this summer out of the sinking fund WRBP maintains for such items. The Town Manager and Mr. Leonard are actively participating in the advisory board process and capital improvements program review by attending monthly meetings with an eye towards efficiencies in keeping the budget down. There is an ongoing discussion concerning the metering project, upcoming budget years, and the capital improvement program. The metering and rate study is moving ahead slowly. An RFP to install meters at specified locations will be put out next year. Once the meters have been installed, data will be collected for an 18 month period showing what each town is actually using. Although an I&I study is not scheduled at this time, the Town Manager and Mr. Leonard are going to suggest that it should be a priority.

- Resident Karen Sticht inquired if the town has paid the punishment fines levied by the DES. The Town Manager informed that the town purchased furniture for WRBP and held workshops and training. The remaining requirement is the scholarship program, which is anticipated in late December or early January. The punishment fines will total \$30,000 when all requirements are met. Ms. Sticht informed that she will be attending the school board meeting later in the evening, and asked for the Board's input regarding the scheduling of the school district meeting. The consensus of the Board was to encourage at least one more year of scheduling the meeting on a Saturday.

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

The Chair informed that the Board received the budget books and supporting documentation at the workshop prior to this meeting. At this point, it appears that the budget will be level funded for the third year in a row, which means that the amount to be raised by taxation is essentially the same. On behalf of the Board and management, she thanked staff for the remarkable job that has been done with limited funding for capital projects. In addition, she announced that Representatives Bob Greenmore, Jeannie Forrester and herself will be at the Wickwaus Grange in Meredith Center for an open forum question and answer session on November 16 between 5:30 and 7 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNAMENT:

Selectman Vadney motioned to adjourn the Workshop at 6:20 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 4-0. 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