

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Minutes of 12/20/04

Selectmen: *Frank Michel, Chairperson*
Robert C. Flanders
Peter Miller

Town Manager: *Carol M. Granfield*

Administrative Assistant: *Wynette DeGroot*

Call to Order: 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call:

Frank S. Michel, Chairman, Robert Flanders, Peter Miller, Carol Granfield, Wynette DeGroot

ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- *Peter Miller made a motion to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of 12/06/04 and the minutes of the meeting of December 03, 2004, as presented, Bob Flanders seconded the motion, approved unanimously.*

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT:

Budget Status - The Board of Selectmen and the Department Heads had met 3 days last week to review the preliminary budget of \$10,709,022 which is a reduction of \$40,197 of the initial one proposed. There will be a public hearing in January and the budget will be adopted by February 1st in order to be included as a warrant article.

Town Meeting Date is March 8, 2005. We are now in the process of developing the various warrant articles. The articles will then be reviewed by the Town's legal counsel. If there are any petitioned articles submitted, February 1st is the last day to submit. There is a certain format and if anyone is interested, Carol will review to be sure the requirements are met.

Volunteer Recognition - Possibly to begin in January for an annual event to recognize the volunteers throughout the town such as the various boards and committees. Dates will be sent to the Board to see what works best.

Insurance Changes - As part of our negotiations, we have been able to reduce the rate over \$20,000 and with no increase over a three-year period. We are still looking at health insurance coverage.

Cable Coverage - Thanks to our volunteer from the InterLakes High School, we are able to have our meeting taped tonight. LRPA is working with us to develop coverage and provide assistance.

Revaluation - Meeting took place last week with the Vision, Board of Selectmen, DRA, and BTLA regarding the contract. This was a coordination meeting. Work will begin in late January - early February. There is a tentative date for an informational meeting for the public in January.

VISITOR'S AND RESIDENTS COMMENTS: (Non-Agenda items)

Mr. McGowan requested an update on where we are in the hiring process of an Assessor.

Carol responded that we are currently contracted through Corcoran Associates and they have been working with the State to keep us up to date. We are still looking to get the right person. The Data Collector position will be recruited for which was included in this year's budget.

Mr. McGowan asked if it is usual for the Town Meeting to follow the School Board meeting. Carol indicated in speaking with Dr. McCormack, it was determined due to scheduling conflicts, the meeting would be held after the Town Meeting on March 16th.

Pat Mack asked if there would be an article on the website regarding the petition article dates. Carol indicated it would be on the web.

Discussion followed regarding the number of registered voters that must be submitted on the petition relative to the changing of the number of selectmen.

Carol will verify and let Pat know as well as put the information on the web.

Peter Miller asked if counsel would be reviewing all warrant articles and Carol indicated they will all be reviewed.

SELECTMEN COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Board: Bob Flanders gave an update that there was a presentation of the Zoning Rewrite at the Planning Board meeting that went well.

Conservation Commission: Peter Miller reviewed grant relative to the purchase of the Eames property. The Grant is complex with unusual conditions and requires considerable detail study. Grant is for \$60,000 and assumes it would be applied to loan principal.

Waukegan Watershed Committee - The consultant will extend her involvement through January to be able to assist with the recommendations for the group. The group is narrowing the list and brainstorming solutions.

InterLakes School Enrollment Advisory Committee - The group has been meeting on a biweekly basis and also brainstorming 12 - 15 solutions relative to the Sandwich School issue. The group has reviewed the pros and cons of each solution. Possibly, the next meeting will come up with recommendations while continuing to work toward long-term solutions. They will also seek legal counsel to take a look at the questions and solutions raised. This committee has a difficult and complex charge.

Peter G. Russell asked for an update on the Hodgson Farmstand.

Peter Miller explained the Town purchased the easement on the property and Mr. Hodgson chose to invest some of the funds to put up a new farmstand. LCHIP and the Planning Board were included in the design of the new farmstand. Hopefully the stand will be up and functioning by late spring, early summer.

Community Center - There is still an tenant at the site and there is a deadline of December 22 whereby he has to pay a certain amount to the court in order to proceed on to the Supreme Court. If the payment is made, it will continue on to the Supreme Court. We are still on track for going out to bid by late January. The Fundraising Committee continues to work on programs and there is a new sign at the site for the fundraising efforts.

New Business:

PUBLIC HEARING

Frank Michel opened the Public Hearing at 7:26 p.m. on unanticipated revenues.

The list includes Police Department - Department of Justice Grant (DWI) in the amount of \$359.76, Department of Justice Grant (Bicycle Patrol) in the amount of \$693.30, Department of Justice Grant (Enforcement) in the amount of \$1,320.80, Fund 15 a State of NH Grant (Landfill Closure) in the amount of \$149,576.27, Water & Sewer Filtration Grant from State of NH in the amount of \$28,144.00, Conservation USDA/NRCS in the amount of \$179,550.00, and Conservation State of NH Conservation Grant in the amount of \$275,000.00. The total amount the Grants; \$634,644.13.

Seeing no discussion, Frank closed the Public Hearing at 7:28 seeking a motion.

Bob Flanders made a motion to accept and appropriate these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$634,644.13. Peter Miller seconded the motion. All in favor.

04 - 109 - Discussion on the number of Selectmen on the Board.

Frank Michel entertained discussion on the matter of changing the number of Selectmen from 3 to 5.

Peter G. Russell spoke on the petition of last year, which was not placed on the ballot, as it should have been, but due to an oversight, the item was only placed as a warrant article. Peter is seeking the Selectmen put the item on the ballot this year without the petitioners having to go out and get the necessary signatures again. He hopes to see the form of Town Government "tweaked" and to see if the citizens wish to have 5 on the Board of Selectmen.

Discussion followed.

Peter Miller made a motion to authorize our Town Manager to draft the language of an article, which is essentially seeing as that contained in the petition brought last year relative to the size of the Select Board. Our Manager draft this article with the assistance of town counsel for placement on the paper ballot the Tuesday before Town Meeting and we also schedule at least one major public debate on the pros and cons of the article.

There was no second to the motion.

Bob Flanders made a motion that the Board of Selectmen take a position that they will not be placing an article with regards to the 5 man board on the warrant this year or on the ballot so that everybody will understand clearly that we are not going to do it.

There was no second to the motion.

Frank Michel announced that petitioned warrant articles are due in by February 1st and tomorrow by noon; Pat Mack will receive a call with an answer to the process of the petitioned articles. (Mr. McGowan and Mr. Russell will also be contacted.)

04 - 110 State Aid Authorization

Peter Miller made a motion to authorize Town Manager, Carol Granfield, to act on behalf of the Town and Selectmen in negotiating and accepting any and all State in connection the water system improvements in the Meredith Water Department. Bob Flanders seconded the motion. Vote all in favor.

04 - 111 Solid Waste Fees

Michael Faller, Public Works Director presented the staff report to discuss the fees at the Solid Waste facility. There are three areas in which the fees need to be adjusted. The first area is the construction and demolition debris. Currently the amount charged is \$85 per ton compared to Laconia the \$150.00 per ton. Mike made a recommendation to increase the fee to \$160 per ton, which will help limit inversion.

The second area is propane bottle disposal. There have been issues regarding the steel propane tanks in which we had received over 400 this year to get rid of. The recommendation for those costs would be to raise the fee for bottles up to 20 lb. tanks to \$5.00, and \$25 for over 20 lb tanks.

The last area is leaves and yard waste from commercial haulers. There is limited space and the recommended fee structure for this would be; no charge for the residents, Pick/up commercial load would be \$10.00 per load, if they had a box on the pickup the cost would be \$25.00, and anything one-ton and larger would be \$45.00 per load.

Discussion on the rates.

Bob Flanders motioned to schedule a Public Hearing on January 17th specifically to discuss the fee structure for the Solid Waste Facility. Peter Miller seconded the motion. All in favor.

Old Business: Telephones

Frank Michel spoke on the issue of the automated attendant at the Town Hall. Carol indicated the number of calls were counter productive and the decision was made to explore the use of the automated attendant. There would be a call put into the company to change it back to a "live" person answering the phone.

Bob Flanders made a motion to enter a non-public session to discuss real estate and personnel issues under RSA-91-A:3 II a & d at 8:45 p.m. Seconded by Peter Miller. Motion voted unanimously.

No actions taken.

Bob Flanders made a motion to exit non-public and adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Peter Miller Unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol M. Granfield, Town Manager

Frank S. Michel, Chairman

Wynette DeGroot, Administrative Assistant

Robert C. Flanders

Peter N. Miller