

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JANUARY 22, 2008

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.

Present: Neal Huntoon, and John Chiarella. Absent: Bob Anderson.
John Trachy was also present.

Neal called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Sunapee Transfer Station:

Donna Nashawaty, Sunapee Town Manger, and Tony Bergeron, Sunapee Road Agent, met with the Board to review transfer station costs. Donna reported Sunapee has been looking at expenses and revenue for operation of the transfer station. With the dissolution of the NH/VT Solid Waste District, there should be some revenue being returned to the towns, but she is not sure how much or when. The Sunapee Board of Selectmen recently formed an Alternative Waste Committee to review costs and money saving measures. Donna provided the Board with a breakdown of Sunapee Transfer Station expenses and revenue relative to the three base functions the facility provides.

The Alternative Waste Committee has looked at the contract between Sunapee and Springfield. The original arrangement was based on population, with Springfield having roughly 20% of Sunapee's population. Now the population figures are closer to 25% and 75% versus 20/80. Springfield's portion of revenue and expenses would increase from 20% to 25%. When the money is returned from the NH/VT Solid Waste District, Springfield's portion would be based on 25%. She expects this most likely will be returned in 2009.

Tony Bergeron reported they see about 40% recycling at the facility. The Concord Area Recycling Committee is looking into building a Materials Recovery Facility for single stream recycling with mechanized sorting. There are 27 communities that participate in the Concord Area Facility. The Concord Area Recycling group is prepared to build a facility of its own, but will likely need more tonnage. He is looking into what the benefits of the community will be to participate with them.

Computer Support:

Brandt Denniston met with the Board to discuss computer needs. Brandt stated, after discussing computer needs with Town Office and Police Department personnel, he and neighbor Leigh Callaway compiled a list of computer needs for the office. He provided the Board with an estimate of costs for technical support and equipment upgrades. They are seeking estimates from other vendors. The Board discussed the needs. Computer instability has caused substantial lost work hours at the office. Technical support is needed to assist personnel in the operations of the systems.

Brandt reported Leigh Callaway has also volunteered to work on a disaster recovery program for town departments. This would provide procedures for documents and computer back ups as well as alternative sites of operation, should an event occur that would disable the workings of the department. The Board agreed this is an important area to address and welcome the assistance.

Minutes: The Board unanimously approved the Minutes of January 8, 2008 and January 15, 2008.

Conservation Commission:

John Trachy met with the Board to discuss a warrant article proposed by the Conservation Commission; "to see if the Town will vote to deposit 25% of the revenues collected (up to \$5,000) from the Land Use Change Tax into the Conservation Fund." John explained that the purpose would be for land acquisition or to assist someone in paying for surveys and legal fees involved when creating conservation easements.

The Board discussed this at length. Neal stated once funds go into the Conservation Fund they cannot come out of for any other purpose, and he did not think the money should be tied up in this way. John Chiarella stated appropriating these funds to the Conservation Fund would take them from the revenue side of resources for the Town and could impact the amount the State recommends as a guideline for a surplus fund balance. Operating expenses for the Town continue to increase, while the revenue side seems to be decreasing.

John Trachy stated, at the rate the Town is growing, the Town may need some resources to preserve open land if an opportunity were to arise.

John C. stated the Selectmen need to find ways to keep expenses and revenues in line to keep costs down for tax payers. He does not feel there are enough revenues to consider this at this time. Both Board members agreed they support the concept, but were concerned with the impact.

John Trachy reviewed the resignation of Ken Downes as a Conservation Commission Member. Jane Seekamp, currently an alternate, will replace him as a regular member.

Department Updates:

Neal discussed the possibility of an addition to Town Office building to expand the Police Department and address space issues for the Town Office under one building plan. John stated the Building Needs Committee had discussed this, but felt that the Police Department should be located off site, due to safety concerns for the kindergarten and town office. The conclusion of the building committee was to locate a new building near the public works building, to create an emergency center, and make use of the emergency generator if needed.

Ross Stevens will be asked to provide the Board with an idea of engineering costs involved with addressing drainage issues, relocation of equipment and the salt shed at the site, and the possibility of adding a 40' x 60' building at that site

New Business:

Neal reported Andy D'Amico called him to inquire as to whether there was a change of use at the Evarts property on Main Street. He had noticed several vehicles there and electric meters being installed. There is no knowledge of any change of use.

Neal did not have information for costs associated with adding a fuel tank at the highway garage.

He did not have information regarding the audit. Janet has spoken with the DRA and the statute requires an annual audit, which must be done by an elected official or a CPA firm. The DRA recommends the former. The estimate for the audit is similar to other towns in the area.

Correspondence:

The Board reviewed and accepted, with regret, the letter of resignation from Ken Downes.

Land Use Change Tax Assessments were approved.

A purchase order for the Highway Department was signed.

The Board reviewed a letter received in response to a driveway issue on Stoney Brook Road. The Board will review this further.

The Board reviewed possible upcoming capital expenditures for the next 5-6 years.

The Board reviewed the amortization schedules from Lake Sunapee Bank. They recommend the five-year term.

Proposed budget appropriations were reviewed.

The Board voted to adjourn at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant