

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

APRIL 13, 2009

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: Selectmen John Chiarella, Don Hill and David Tucker.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Tom Duling, Code Enforcement Officer, reported he has been working with the Denison's. It appears they will need to apply for a variance for the storage shed. Tom stated the Denison's have contacted their neighbor, and she does not have a problem with the location of the shed. An application packet for a variance has been sent to the Denisons.

KRSD: Superintendent of Schools, Jerry Frew, met with the Selectmen at their request. Enrollment for Springfield Kindergarten is 11 students so far. There will be one session, most likely in the morning. Enrollment caps off at 15 students. Mrs. James will probably be teaching the Kindergarten class. Miss Lull will be teaching another grade in the district. Other changes made as a result of the budget approved by the voters in March were discussed.

John Chiarella stated the voters approved of the Selectmen negotiating with the school board for a 5 year contract. The Selectmen would like to work with the district in making that commitment. Mr. Frew stated he previously brought this idea forward to the school board. He thought the current economy may impact the school board's willingness to enter into a long-term commitment. He will discuss this further with the school board. Jerry stated the district will begin projected enrollment and demographic studies. The Selectmen suggested the Town might be able to come up with some projections for future Kindergarten numbers.

Don asked about the status of the State Budget. Jerry stated the State's final budget is not known yet. There has been some discussion by the State eliminating State building aid and shifting 5% of the contribution toward teacher retirement to the school districts. The final KRSD budget numbers will depend on what the State is going to do.

Historical Society: Brandt Denniston requested permission for the Historical Society to have the war monument outside the Town Hall painted. He presented a proposal for the how the monument would be painted. The Historical Society will hire Mauer Sign Werks from Sunapee to do the restoration. The Board approved the proposal.

Brandt also discussed clearing the trees along the Historical Society wall. They block the view of the building and look unsightly. The Society has someone from Davey Tree who volunteered to cut the trees and grind the stumps. They would like to have these cleaned up before their 25 year anniversary celebration on July 11. The Selectmen approved the request.

Recreation Committee: Laura Patten, Cynthia Bruss, and Brandt Denniston met with the Board. Laura stated a group of volunteers have been working to schedule an Old Home Day event and parade in Town. They would like to coordinate this with the Historical Society activities proposed for July 11. She would like to have as many town departments as possible participate in the event. The first organizational meeting was April 6th and there will be another one on April 20th. Many suggestions have been made as to the activities that may be offered. The Conservation Commission, represented by Cynthia Bruss, has agreed to participate. The Historical Society has plans to celebrate their 25th Anniversary on July 11 and has reserved the Town Hall for their annual meeting and other activities. Laura stated she has spoken to Tim about traffic control and the firefighters are willing to participate. She is waiting to hear back from the town insurance company. Dave Tucker suggested the State Police or Sherriff's Department be asked to assist with traffic control. Promotion and advertising were discussed.

Laura also discussed the Recreation Revolving Fund and whether it could be activated for fund raising for the Old Home Day Event. Janet will ask for a ruling from the Department of Revenue.

The Selectmen would like to review the plan when the details have been worked out.

Newport Food Pantry:

Rich Chappell, the Administrator of the Newport Food Pantry has contacted the Town seeking monetary donations from the Town of Springfield. He has received donations from all other towns whose residents seek assistance through the food pantry, and will be forced to turn Springfield residents away without some support. The organization has provided assistance to 22 people per month throughout the winter. Some of these people also seek assistance through the KREM pantry in New London. Laura Patten, Local Assistance Director, will be scheduling a meeting with Mr. Chappell, and will report back to the Selectmen.

Town Maintenance:

Brad met with the Board to seek approval for the purchase of a new vacuum cleaner for the Town Office building. The rebuilt Electrolux currently being used will be taken to the Town Hall to replace the vacuum there that is not working well. The Board reviewed the information. A purchase order was reviewed and signed.

Brad reported Lisa Morcom is completing continuing education studies, and will soon be resigning from her custodian position. Advertising will begin for a replacement.

Brad stated he has looked at the railings on the handicap ramp at the Town Office. The railings are rough and some of the posts need replacing. He will look into replacing the railings and posts here and at the Town Hall.

Highway Department:

Brad reported Henry Bresnahan has been hired as the new part-time Highway Assistant.

Brad asked if one of the Selectmen could meet with Highway Personnel to discuss the Selectmen's decision not to make raises given this year retroactive to January 1. John agreed to meet with the Highway Department.

Public Comments:

John Trachy asked to meet with the Board. John stated he was unhappy with how a recent situation was handled by a town representative. The Selectmen will look into this.

Police Department:

Tim Julian, Police Chief, reported he has been researching information relative to the complaint that was received a couple of weeks ago from a resident of Eastman Access Road. He has contacted the Town of Newport regarding their ordinance relative to campers being used as residences. He hopes to have more information for the next Selectman's meeting.

Tim reported the new cruiser should be here the end of May.

The Board reviewed activity statistics for the Police Department.

Dave Tucker suggested the Police Department should start keeping mileage and hour logs. Tim questioned the necessity of this since this information is available through dispatch logs. A great deal discussion followed. Dave felt it would give the department a means to justify departmental needs. Installing hour meters in the cruisers was discussed. Tim agreed to bring back the use of cruiser logs for the time being. The Selectmen agreed it would be a good idea to eventually install hour meters in the cruisers.

Fire Department:

Erik Rollins met with the Board. He has received a quote for the remaining 4" hose the department needs for the new engine. The price of the hose has risen 6%, but the vendor has agreed to sell it at the previous purchase price since the statement for that hose was paid within 10 days. The Board approved the purchase order for the hose.

Erik discussed the purchase of the front-loading washing machine for the department. He also reviewed the purchase of detergent with dispenser. The Selectmen reviewed the quotes. Purchase orders for the washer, detergent and dispenser were approved.

Erik reported the forestry truck is in need of approximately \$1,000 in repairs to pass inspection. The fire department budget was reviewed. There is money available under vehicle repairs. The Board authorized the repair.

Minutes:

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of March 23, 2009.

Old Business:

E911 mapping and renumbering project is all set to begin on April 15, 2009.

The Town is second on the waiting list for the State to remap the entire town and begin work on similar road name issues.

Mr. Sirois has indicated he will not be moving as soon as planned. The Board provided Dave with information regarding the concept of creating a town center and the need for planning for future growth. The Selectmen suggested Tim and Mike should begin to put ideas together as to how the property might fit their needs.

Board Updates:

John attended the meeting of the Zoning Board. John discussed the ZBA's efforts to streamline the application process by amending the Applications, Rules of Procedure and Bylaws, and developing an application process handout for applicants. The Selectmen stated they appreciate all the work the Board has done to accomplish this goal. The Selectmen will review the new forms. The Board discussed the applicant's authorization disclaimer and felt they would like to discuss this further at their next meeting. They may have Town Counsel review the disclaimer. The Selectmen also questioned whether an application for a Use Variance is appropriate if there is nothing in the Zoning Ordinance to support it.

John stated he also attended the Conservation Commission meeting. The Commission was reviewing the proposal for Star Lake Properties to enroll their property in a Conservation Easement.

Computer update: NH Computer Specialists has been working to correct a problem with wireless synchronization of the computers in the police cruisers. They have agreed to only charge out 5 hours of the amount of total time they have spent trying to find the problem. This will be taken from prepaid computer support hours. NH Computer Specialists have offered another package of reduced price support hours. Don felt there should be a way that computer support gets billed to the individual department. This may need to be looked at for another budget year. The Board approved a purchase order for additional computer support time.

FEMA: Reimbursement has been received from FEMA for the December ice storm.

The Board approved Frank Anderson's request to install two flag holders on the outside of the Town Hall door for two special flags he has ordered for Memorial Day.

Review of outstanding issues:

Each Selectman was given a binder and lists of projects that have been in process during the past few of years. Board members will review the information and develop plans to work on some of the projects contained in the lists.

Signatures:

The Board approved and signed a building permit application, request for use of the Town Hall, and an Abatement to the Tax Collector.

Miscellaneous Business:

Corporal Brookens from the County Prison is in the process of scheduling a day for inmates to help clean up the cemetery for Memorial Day.

The Board voted to adjourn at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant