

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**MAY 23, 2011**

**MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**7:00 P.M.**

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

Selectmen Present: Chairman John Chiarella, Donald Hill, and Leigh Callaway.

Others Present: Mike & Judy Lawlor, Justin Hastings, John Trachy, William Huntoon, George McCusker, Bryan O'Day, Emily Cleaveland, Alison Patten, and Robin Corbett.

Chairman Chiarella called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comments: John Trachy asked about website access to Avitar's assessing database. John Chiarella stated Selectmen haven't approved it due to costs.

Bill Huntoon noted May 9 minutes did not accurately reflect his question regarding Star Lake's Building permit. What do Selectmen do if building is started before the application process is complete. Discussion: Applications received and were in process. Pouring footings is different than being at the point of putting a roof on. There have been cases when construction has begun without permits in process that Selectmen have had to deal with.

Bill asked what the process for sale of the sand going to be? John Chiarella stated Pete is interested in getting rid of it. Pete was to make determination of price and get back to the Selectmen.

Scheduled Appointments:

Schools Committee/School Board Report: Emily Cleaveland reported she and Janet Booker attended the school board meeting last week. She presented the Board with a summary of what took place prepared by Janet Booker, (who was unable to be here at 7 pm). School Board members reviewed the Selectmen's request to reconsider reopening the kindergarten at zero cost to the district. Board voted 2 in favor of reopening, 6 opposed. The previous vote to close the kindergarten had been 5 in favor of closing, 3 opposed. She reported they were approached by the member whose vote had changed and he indicated his decision to change the vote was because one more parent had withdrawn their child's enrollment as they needed a full day program. He did not feel he could support keeping the classroom open for 5 students. Emily reported the school board indicated they would absolutely reconsider a classroom in Springfield in the future if the enrollment increased. The school board spoke positively about the idea of a pilot program for full-day kindergarten and might consider it in Springfield, except they would need to offer lunch to the students and that would be a problem. Emily reported the school board did vote to leave the play structure on the playground. Selectman discussed the reality of kindergarten returning to Springfield. Motion (John) second (Leigh) to accept the donation of the playground structure. Motion unanimously passed. Selectmen thanked Emily for attending the school board meeting and representing the town, and her report back to the Selectmen.

Leigh reported the Municipal Budget Committee (MBC) held their first meeting May 17. The MBC and School Board have planned some joint meetings to take a look back financially at school budgets. The joint boards will be meeting with school principals and others involved in the budget preparation process as well.

Leigh noted the MBC will be reviewing what the State votes in terms of revenue. There will be a \$450,000 loss of revenue to the school if the State reduces their contribution to the NH Retirement System from 25% to 0. The school board has indicated that this loss could mean more layoffs and cuts in transportation costs.

Schools Committee: Selectmen thanked Emily for organizing and moderating the recent schools committee meeting. John reviewed key points made by those attending that meeting. (Schools Committee minutes are on file).

Next Schools Committee meeting is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the town office lower level.

Leigh noted the last school board meeting of this fiscal year will be either June 23 or 30. The school board at that time will vote what to do with surplus monies. For the past 4 years the school board has encumbered the funds for special projects.

Minutes: Motion (Don), second (Leigh) to approve the minutes from May 9, 2011. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Old Business:

Property project list: Leigh noted there are still some trees at the cemetery that Frank would like taken down. John reported there were three trees that were taken out last year. There are some others that need to come down. Leigh will add this to the projects list.

Carpet runner @ town hall: Janet reported she has not heard back from carpet people she contacted. John Chiarella will see if he can get in touch with Sunapee Bedding.

Discussion regarding property maintenance list. Selectmen need to further review the list and categorize 1. Projects needing capital expenditures; 2. Inexpensive/safety related; 3. Immediate need. Selectmen will individually categorize the list and agreed to meet at 7 a.m. on Friday May 27<sup>th</sup> for board review.

Swing set: Leigh reported on prices for new swings for the town office/library playground. Discussion regarding purchasing a new set or moving the set from the recreation field. Noted the swings get a lot of use with the library here and parents stopping by with their children to play. Motion (John); second (Leigh) to replace the old set with a new set. Motion unanimously passed. John then moved to authorize the purchase of the heavy duty modern tripod 12' swing

with 4 sling seats at a cost of approximately \$1768 plus delivery, Motion seconded (Don) and unanimously approved.

Alison Patten commented regarding advertising for the sale of the old swing. She was not aware the swing was being sold and knows others who would have been interested in bidding. John stated the Selectmen made a decision not to incur the expense of advertising and decided to post the notice locally. Alison suggested advertising on the town bulletin board.

Hazard Grant Workshop: Leigh reported on a workshop he attended regarding what types of grants may be available to towns for hazard mitigation. The budget committee encouraged the Selectmen to seek grants for funding of projects. Selectmen discussed possibly applying for additional drainage and gravel around the highway/fire building. Leigh will send a letter of intent.

Leigh reported he has given a copy of a handbook published by the Local Government Center for local officials "Knowing the Territory" to Steve Klein to have on file at the library.

Preservation Easement Application: The Selectmen agreed to table the application from Bill and Sara Ellis for a Discretionary Preservation Easement until their next meeting.

NH Energy Code: Don reported on the NH Energy Code workshop that he attended. The State of NH, through a grant, effective January 1, 2010 has adopted an energy code that requires certain compliance with energy measures for renovations and new construction. Builders and homeowners are obligated to meet compliance measures. Discussion regarding how to get information to the public. Selectmen will do further review and look at additional information to make available with the building permit application process.

Joint Loss Management- Leigh reported Joint Loss Management Committee requirements were discussed at the recent Selectperson Institute meeting he attended. Per RSA each Town is required to have an active committee of employers and employees that meets quarterly. John Chiarella noted the town has had a committee that should be reactivated. Discussion regarding membership. John Chiarella will speak to Dallas Patten, Fire Chief, about scheduling a meeting in conjunction with the fire department.

Planning Board Report: Don noted he was not able to be at the Planning Board meeting. John Trachy reported the Planning Board developed a schedule of work projects. There were a couple of consultations.

Schools Committee: Janet Booker wished to commend Emily Cleaveland for her presentation to the School Board regarding closing the kindergarten. The School Board indicated they would be open to reopening the kindergarten if enrollment or other conditions warranted.

40-50 people attended the Schools Committee Meeting. Emily is working on putting together an e-mail list to spread word of the committee. Minutes of the meeting are on the website. Those

in attendance at the meeting had overwhelmingly voted in favor of approaching the school board about reopening the kindergarten. On other issues, those in attendance were supportive of the district. Several people reported they had made conscious decisions to move to Springfield because of what the school district offers. The next schools committee meeting is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>.

John Chiarella stated he would like to see the Selectmen endorse a town-wide census every couple of years inquiring about why, how, and what people think about how the school or town is doing.

Department Updates:

Highway: Selectmen will review applications. Peter to review applications from there and then performs interviews. Hiring happens by the Selectmen. Successful candidate will be contingent on fit for duty medical exam, background check, and drug test.

Selectmen unanimously approved the job descriptions for the highway department.

Building Permit Application Review: Selectmen will individually review and refine the draft for their meeting on June 13 and then forward to Planning Board and Zoning Board for recommendation.

Correspondence: Letter from Steve Klein regarding a seminar he attended recently speaking to the use of volunteers. The information is currently being reviewed by legal counsel. Selectmen discussion: Volunteerism in small towns is essential to services. Selectmen will continue to use volunteers as at present, pending other information from the library trustees.

Library elevator has been scheduled for annual inspection.

Report from Mr. Rifkin at RSM @ Camp Sunapee. One of his storage buildings was destroyed by a tree falling on it. He plans to replace within the year. Discussion: Selectmen agreed if he is putting the same size building on the same location and footprint as the present building, he did not need a permit to do so.

Newsletter and meeting notice from Kolelemook Lake Protective Association regarding their meeting on May 28.

Notice from Kearsarge Regional School District regarding estimated monthly payments to the school district July 2011 through June 2012.

Signatures:

Abatement applications (4)

Hazzard Road South and Hazzard Road North notification of name change; Effective date of change June 27, 2011.

Report that Grace Children's Home did not sell by public auction on May 21.

Building Permit Applications (3)

Land Use Change Tax Assessments (2)

Intent to Cut Timber (3)

Yield Tax Assessments (2)

Notice of Failure to file Report of Timber Cut (3)

First bill assessments are complete. Exemptions and credits will be checked and Tax Collector's Warrant should be ready for Selectmen to sign on Friday morning.

At 9:25 p.m. Selectmen agreed to continue this meeting to Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 a.m. to review project list, highway applications, and signing of warrant.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Roberts