

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

APRIL 12, 2010

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, Dave Tucker, and Don Hill.

Also present: John Trachy, Cynthia Bruss, Marie Newcomb, Scott Gambino, Billy Huntoon, Police Chief Tim Julian, Superintendent of Schools Jerry Frew, and School Board Rep. Pamela Laurie.

Superintendent of schools report: Mr. Frew reported that enrollment in kindergarten is up in some schools and down in others. New London enrollment is down, Bradford is up. Springfield enrollment remained consistent. The Springfield session will probably be in the afternoon next year. The district will do all that it can to accommodate placement in a morning class somewhere in the district if the afternoon is a hardship.

The superintendent's office should be set to move to the Kearsarge Learning Campus in May or June.

High school graduation is for Saturday, June 19th at 3:00 p.m.

The \$80,000 difference in the school board's recommended budget and the budget approved by the voters has been worked out.

Don extended appreciation to Mr. Frew in his administration of the district. He addressed concerns tax payers have voiced with fiscal responsibility by the school district with the increasingly expanding overhead costs during a time when tax payers are asking for budget reductions and decreased costs. Costs need to be looked at scrupulously. The State continues to cut contributions to towns and schools which will directly impact local property taxes. Tax payers approved the new middle school based on the information that the existing building was condemned and unsuitable for use. Money is now being spent to refurbish this building into the Kearsarge Learning Campus and SAU offices, directly impacting infrastructure related costs. Don asked that Mr. Frew and the school board seriously consider these factors.

John stated he has been hearing positive comments about the programs the district is putting together. The Selectmen are appreciative of the educational progress being made, but are mindful that Springfield residents have been hard hit by the economy and the increased impact on local property taxes.

Conservation Commission:

Green-up day: Cynthia Bruss reported that annual green up day will be May 1. Daphne Klein will be at the fire station to designate road assignments and dispense gloves and bags.

Refreshments will be served. Cynthia asked if the highway department would provide the bags and gloves and provide trash pickup. Brad will be contacted.

Vassar Memorial Fund: Cynthia questioned the \$252.54 remaining in the Al Vassar memorial fund and questioned what guidelines may have been placed on spending the funds. She discussed the possibility of the conservation commission's use of the money for trail markers or toward the services of a forester to review town timber. The Selectmen suggested the Conservation Commission contact the family to let them know how the remaining funds would be allocated.

Dam on Philbrick Hill Road: Cynthia offered the assistance of the Conservation Commission for anything they may be able to do regarding repair/maintenance of the dam on Philbrick Hill Road. Janet reported that Tamara spoke to the State and the dam is owned by Fish & Game. The notice the Town received was for informational purposes.

Intent to Cut forms: Cynthia asked if copies of Intent to Cut Timber forms could be given to the Conservation Commission. Don questioned the necessity of this. This information is publicly available upon request. He explained that these forms are required by the State and used as a tax mechanism, but did not feel they are intended to be used for an automatic check by some town board.

Minutes: The minutes of March 22, 2010 were approved as written.

Old Business:

Bog Road update: Tim reported a camper has been condemned as a residence. The zoning board is in agreement the property does not have proper approvals for business use. The selectmen will write a letter requiring the property owner to seek the property permits through planning and zoning. Scott Gambino questioned non-payment of taxes. The Selectmen discussed the process for seizing a residential property. Compliance issues are being addressed.

Bulletin Board: The town bulletin board has been tampered with three times this year. Letters are missing and some have been broken. The messages have been reworded to include profanity. The Board discussed options:

1. Install a plexi-glass cover
2. Lease space for a bulletin board from the post office
3. Electrical monitoring i.e. motion detector lighting, camera's etc.

The Selectmen agreed to move the bulletin board to the town office property with motion lighting/monitoring. John will speak to Brad about a location and moving the sign.

Old Home Day: Brandt Denniston, Sara Ellis, Emily Cleaveland and Alison Patten were present. Brandt discussed the function of the Old Home Day Expendable Trust. Selectmen must approve the expenditure. The Trustee of Trust Funds cuts the check. None of the funds in the

Expendable Trust are handled through the daily operating accounts of the Town. Brandt stated the Department of Revenue has indicated the Old Home Day Committee could use cash collected to pay related expenses. John Chiarella stated the Selectmen would prefer the accounting not be handled this way. Procedures are continuously being updated to comply with standards required by the Government Accounting Standards Board.

Recreation Field Fund: During the recent audit it was found that the minutes of June 8, 2009 did not adequately reflect the acceptance of the funds to the recreation field fund. Proper public notice was made at the time. Motion by Don, second by John to amend the minutes of June 8, 2009 to clarify the acceptance of the donation from the recreation field fund raising committee, in the amount of \$14,080.68 with the funds to be deposited in the recreation field fund created for that purpose. The motion was unanimously approved.

Swim Instructor: The Recreation Department has found someone who may be able to do swimming lessons. Further discussion involved the hiring process. The Recreation Department would recommend the candidate to the Selectmen. A criminal background check will need to be obtained. Janet was directed to contact the LGC to find out if there are other requirements of the liability insurance coverage.

Board Updates:

Zoning: John indicated the Zoning Board discussed what changes the Planning Board might be considering for this year. The Zoning Board would like to make recommendations to the Planning Board and stay involved in the amendment process

Amended application forms for a variance and instructions to applicants were handed out. John reviewed some of the concerns he has and will bring them up at the next Zoning meeting. Don strongly recommended that the instructions to applicants spell out that the zoning board has the right to seek expert opinion, the cost of such to be at the applicant's expense. That issue has not always been made clear to applicants and the town ran into some difficulty with this in the past.

LEOP: John reported on the Emergency Operations Planning activities. Vickie Davis, from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Region Planning Commission handed out details regarding assignments and responsibilities for emergency management. This requirement places a substantial impact on the fire department's resources. John reviewed the Selectmen's responsibilities and addressed his concerns.

The Selectmen formally appointed the Local Emergency Operations Planning Committee. Members are as follows: Keith Cutting, Emergency Management Director; Dallas Patten, Fire Chief; Peter Lacaillade, Assistance Fire Chief; John Chiarella, Selectman; Bradley Butcher, Road Agent; Tim Julian, Police Chief; Tom Duling, Health Officer; Tamara Butcher, Office Assistant; Janet Roberts, Administrative Assistant; Resident and Board representatives: Ken Butcher, Harriet Callaway, Brandt Denniston, and Bob Ruel.

Conservation Commission: Dave questioned if Cynthia Bruss had a report regarding the town forests. Cynthia reported that she has walked the Brook Lot with Sullivan County Forester Chuck Hersey. Her next project is to try to locate the town boundaries for the property in the north east corner of town. The town might need to consider having those lots surveyed.

Appointment of Officials:

Julie Slack was appointed as a Library Trustee.

Susan Chiarella was appointed as a Trustee of Trust Funds.

Timber tax assessments were approved and signed.

Highway Department:

Scott Gambino questioned the hours and purpose of the part-time person on the highway department now that winter is over. He also questioned why so much money is being spent to maintain the cemeteries. The Selectmen reviewed the duties being performed.

Dave Tucker reported the Sullivan County inmates are available for cemetery clean-up.

John Chiarella reported that the Selectmen will be putting together a committee of people who have knowledge of drainage to review further correction of the problems at the highway garage. He would like the committee to include all those who made recommendations during the town meeting proposal.

Building Permits:

Brian Cloud – amended application approved.

Emily Cleaveland; Emily was present. The Selectmen discussed the location of the structure in relation to the pond. The application was denied. The proposed construction does not meet setback requirements. Applicant referred to zoning.

Bryan O’Day- application denied. Construction does not meet setbacks requirements. The property has a commercial business. Applicant referred to zoning. The Selectmen will send Bryan a letter.

Furnace compliance: Irving Oil has done annual cleaning and contracted maintenance, and has noted some required repairs and compliance issues. A representative from Traveler’s has also performed required boiler inspection and noted compliance issues. Irving oil has provided estimates. The Selectmen will seek a second estimate.

The Selectmen discussed the notification that Sullivan County has qualified to receive funding from FEMA from the snowstorm damage in February. The town incurred minimal costs during this event. Don moved not to apply for the FEMA funds, seconded by John and unanimously approved.

Correspondence:

The Board reviewed a copy of a letter from a property owner who has land located at the Wilmot Town Line regarding boundary issues. The Selectmen discussed perambulation of the line. This will be discussed with Pierre and the Wilmot Selectmen. Don suggested a town line perambulation in August.

John discussed a conversation he had recently regarding difficulties the Town of Croydon has had with their school supervisory union.

The Selectmen approved purchase of an extended warranty on the Ford Taurus.

Town Ordinances: Dave reviewed the packet of town ordinances that were in his mailbox. John stated the Selectmen need to add review of the ordinances to their ongoing project list to see if they are in compliance.

Signatures:

Veteran's exemptions approved.

Sunapee Transfer Station annual contract approved and signed.

Cemetery Deed approved (Longley).

Tax abatement approved (Sevigny).

Intent to Cut Timber approved (Cote & Reney property)

The Board voted to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Roberts
Administrative Assistant