

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MAY 9, 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: John Chiarella, Don Hill, and Leigh Callaway.

Others Present: Judy & Mike Lawlor, Brooks Weathers, Tom Duling, Ed Belfield, Justin & Noah Hastings, William Huntoon, Pete Abair, Katie Richardson, Todd Fleury, Malcolm Patten, George McCusker, Marie Patten, Scott Gambino, Bryan O'Day, Emily Cleaveland, John Trachy, and Tim Julian.

Public Comments:

Malcolm Patten: Application for variance denied by the zoning board. He felt there could have been an adjustment of the setback. He addressed his concern that zoning board did not follow their own laws. All through his meeting the zoning board said the voters approve the laws and the zoning board has to follow them. At town meeting the town voted to replace a member of the zoning board and at the very next meeting the board voted to put that person right back on the board as an alternate. He felt this was against the wishes of the voters. John Chiarella stated he received several phone calls following the ZBA hearing. It appears the board did not apply this to their own laws but he has looked into State laws and what they have done is legal. He noted the Planning Board develops the Zoning Ordinance and suggested Malcolm discuss the ordinance with the Planning Board. Don stated that while it appears this went against the will of the vote by the people, the Selectmen have to stand behind the ZBA decision. They have no authority over the ZBA.

Justin Hastings reported that an excavator has been moved to property on George Hill Road and noted it appears they cut some trees and may have dug in a wet area and dug a drainage swale. John noted the Selectmen have no knowledge of a building permit for this property and will look into this further. Janet reported they had applied for a driveway permit and a house number. Pete did not think a driveway permit was required as there was an existing driveway there.

Scheduled Appointments:

Brooks Weathers reported he and his wife would like to build a new house behind his existing house on Route 4A. They would like to use the existing well and septic. He intends to tear the old house down. He questioned whether there was anything particular he needed to be aware of. He has no information on the existing leachfield. The Selectmen indicated the expanded use for septic is a State issue and not a town issue. Prior to the town issuing a building permit he will need to prove that the existing septic supports the proposed expansion. If not, a State Approved design is required for the proposed new construction. Don stated the building permit application will need to clearly indicate that the old house is going to go away after the new house is built. The Board spoke to Brooks about being aware of setbacks and wetlands.

Conservation Commission:

Leigh asked Brooks what the status was for logging the town-owned Brooks Lot. Brooks stated that bid packets are going out in the mail, with a site visit scheduled for May 19. He would like to get the logging started as soon as possible after that.

Minutes: Motion (Leigh) and second (Don) to approve the minutes from April 25, 2011.

Bill Huntoon asked for the results of the Selectman's wage decisions. Leigh reported at Town Meeting the message was loud and clear the Selectmen needed to review police wages. Don stated the Selectmen reviewed a complete list of wages and salaries in keeping with the directive from Town Meeting. Statewide averages and comparisons of towns of similar sizes were reviewed. Information from the LGC, and other towns and similar positions were all included in the decision making process. At their meeting on April 25, the Selectmen approved a 7% increase for Tim, 5% for Mike, and 7% for Cynthia Anderson. Bill asked if there would be any more raises this year. John stated the Selectmen will be doing performance evaluations in the fall and could not say what the status of other raises may be.

Updates:

Dumpster – letter has been sent to property owner. No response has been received.

Jack O'Lantern Park – Selectmen met with town counsel. Per law they have to proceed with the full 90 day requirement. July 19 is the soonest the town can dispose of the mobile home whether it be by auction, sealed bid, or some other option. Options are currently being reviewed.

Swing set – Justin Hastings bid \$20.00 to purchase the swing set at the kindergarten playground. Motion (Leigh); second (Don) to approve the sale. Motion unanimously passed. Justin will be responsible for removal of the swing.

Property maintenance list- Selectmen agreed to table prioritizing the list until they finish property walk-through. Walk through scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at 7:00 a.m.

Landscaping: Leigh questioned what needed to be done before Memorial Day. Peter reported Frank has done a big share of cleaning brush at the cemetery. Mowers have been started and are ready to use. Raking needs to be done. Inmates from Sullivan County will be coming two days next week.

Carpet runner at top of Town Hall stairs needs repair. Board agreed to contact flooring company to have it repaired for safety at the lowest minimal cost.

Pete stated he has not looked at the work that needs to be done at the recreation field since it has been so wet.

There has been an offer of help with weeding and sprucing up the flower gardens around the town buildings. The selectmen unanimously approved the expenditure of up to \$100.00 for that purpose.

Board and Department Updates:

Highway: Pete hopes to have the full-time position filled by the end of this month. He has asked Clint if he is interested. The daily custodial duties will change with the loss of the kindergarten. The part-time highway person would assist with highway department and could be responsible for grounds maintenance, mowing and inside of buildings, and would also plow snow with the blue truck in the winter. Selectmen will compose another ad to go in the shopper, and they will review the resume's they previously vetted to see if any of those are still interested. The selectmen supported promoting Clint into the full-time position if he is interested. Leigh will work with Pete to put together job descriptions for the full-time and part-time positions. Don stated the selectmen are interested in hiring someone local if possible. Selectmen will post an ad for full-time position in the shopper, on the website and on the bulletin board.

Pete would like to dispose of the pile of winter sand purchased the winter before last. There is a lot of clay in the sand and it freezes and clumps up in the winter. The Selectmen approved offering the sand for sale.

Pete reported that at some point, something needs to be done with the sand shed. John explained the State has very specific regulations regarding sand and salt storage. Replacing the shed requires engineering studies and plans.

Recreation Field:

John noted the trees in the middle of the recreation field will be removed and the ditch repaired to allow for better drainage of run-off from the field. Water is saturating the field and the ditch can't be maintained with trees growing in the middle of it.

Schools Committee: Emily Cleaveland reported the Schools Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Several former members of the committee have not responded to her. She would like to nominate Jeff and Christine Haley to serve on the committee. The Selectmen voted unanimously to appoint the Haley's to the committee. Emily has prepared a report of committee objectives. She will post an agenda for the May 11 meeting.

EOC/Space Needs Committee:

Leigh shared a schematic of the building electrical system and reported the EOC met and talked about floor space and power sources. He has done a walk-through with an electrician. The EOC recommends a transfer switch tied into the main panel at the library entrance that would power the entire building and the library elevator. The EOC is not recommending a dedicated space for Emergency Operations but a space that could be called into service in the event it is needed. This will all tie in with the Space Needs Committee's assessment of best use of space with the loss of the kindergarten. Cynthia Anderson is organizing a meeting of the Space Needs

Committee. Leigh reported that Keith Cutting, Emergency Management Director, hopes to have the EOC report to the Selectmen by October 1.

Joint Board of Selectmen's (JBOS) meeting:

Don and John reported on Joint Board of Selectman's meeting they attended May 5th. A couple of members of the School Board were in attendance. John stated at the school board meeting he had asked if the board might reconsider their decision to close the kindergarten if the Selectmen reduced the rent. Due to the response of those in attendance at that meeting, and public sentiment since, he would like to pursue the option of offering reduced or zero rent to the district, and requesting that the school board reconsider their vote to close Springfield Kindergarten. At one point the school board indicated cost was not a factor in their consideration, but later in the discussion it appeared costs were a factor in closing the classroom. He has heard from at least two parents who will not be sending their children to kindergarten next year as they are unable to transport them to New London. Motion (John); second (Leigh) to reduce the rent of the kindergarten classroom space to zero, and to request that the school board reconsider their decision to close the classroom. Motion unanimously passed.

Don noted Jerry Frew and Dan Wolfe were not in attendance at the JBOS meeting as expected, nor were there any other members from the general public there. The general comments among the Selectmen there focused on concern of mistrust of what is going on in the schools and the district. JBOS agreed the information they are being given, and how they are making their budgetary decisions are difficult to understand unless someone knows specifically where to look. Some selectmen felt their school board representatives are not being accountable to the voters of their towns. A member of the MBC and School Board indicated that a large portion of the school budget is attributable to contractual obligations; i.e. salaries, benefits, and retirement. JBOS agreed they really want more accountability, and are feeling frustrated as the towns are trying to keep a handle on the expenses they can control and need to find a way to have more of a handle on the KRSD. Also discussed were the rising costs of the State Retirement system and its impact on the school and the towns. The State still has no resolution as to what revenue funding there will be to the towns.

Leigh Callaway stated the MBC meetings start May 17th.

Zoning:

John reported Malcolm Patten's variance request was denied.

Correspondence:

Review of anonymous letter requesting removal of the swing set, which has been taken out of use and also requesting the selectmen consider repainting the skateboard structure.

Review of management report from Plodzik & Sanderson.

DRA Total Equalized Valuation report.

Notice regarding Prouty Ultimate bike ride through town on July 8, 2011.

Letter received from Susan Chiarella to thank the Selectmen for addressing the problem that exists on a property across from the beach. Susan requested a copy of the letter that was sent.

Sullivan County 2012 Budget forms reviewed.

John reported that Susan Chiarella has had a conversation with Charlie Hirshberg of CLD Engineering. Charlie would be willing to hold a public forum to discuss how Shoreline Protection Standards and Department of Environmental standards apply to local Planning and Zoning regulations and his experiences with this. Susan will speak to Planning and Zoning about this. The Selectmen felt it would be of benefit.

Signatures:

Annual Contract for Sunapee Transfer Station

Timber Intent to Cut

Building Permits:

Bara Building Permit Application: Don noted there did not appear to be any reference to wetlands on the property though there was a culvert crossing noted on the driveway. The sketch was not drawn to scale so it was difficult to know if that might be an issue. Tom Duling stated that he had been to the property twice and he thought the culvert was more than 100' away from the proposed building. Tom stated this is a 70 acre parcel and the area of building will be removed from current use. After review the permit was approved and signed.

Permits approved for Smith and Sackett.

Don noted that the building permit application should be updated to correlate with the zoning ordinance.

Bill Huntoon asked if a building permit had been issued for Star Lake Farm. Tom Duling stated he has reviewed a building permit application. The building permit is pending State septic approval. The septic plan has been reviewed and signed off at the town level. Someone from the audience voiced concern that cement is being poured.

John Trachy stated a new driveway on Stoney Brook Road is very steep and he is concerned with run-off from the driveway into the road. He also noted the erosion barrier does not appear to be wide enough.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Roberts