

**Board of Selectmen**

**April 11, 2011**

**Memorial Building**

**7:00 p.m.**

*Minutes are considered draft until approved by the selectmen at the next meeting.*

Present: Leigh Callaway, John Chiarella, Don Hill

Also in attendance: Bill Huntoon, Marie Patten, Scott Gambino, Byron O'Day, George McCusker, John Trachy, Angela MacCreighton, Tim Julian, Tom Duling, Justin Hastings, Katie Richardson, Natallia Whiting, Ron Whiting, Tom Buckwold

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comments: Bill Huntoon commented that in past minutes he did not say that the Road Agent had been hired at a higher rate than the previous one but instead higher than the spreadsheet stated. He also asked if he would only be able to comment during the public comment session, was under the impression that the selectmen did not want to hear from him at all. Selectmen requested that an individual requesting to be heard raise their hand instead of just speaking out.

John Trachy asked about the Jack O' Lantern issue, is the town responsible for lot rent, and taxes on the property?

Bryon O'Day questioned if it was in fact the Park owner that should be responsible for the taxes on the property since the owners had not paid. She had said in the past that she would bid \$1 and remove the trailer.

Selectmen responded that if taxes to the town were not in the picture then she could have had it towed. Question came up if the lot fee and taxes were paid did it need to be moved? March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes reference that the Park owner will not allow the trailer to stay in the park.

John Trachy questioned about taking the property due to the back taxes owed. Why did the town have to take it at the expense for the town? Shouldn't the selectmen be looking at saving the town money? Selectmen thought it would be better for the neighbors and the town in the long run to remove the property and start receiving taxes again. John Trachy thought the town should come before the neighbors of the property. Selectmen have a protocol to follow and they must follow it regardless of the property and the location.

New highway employee: Peter will be supplying the selectmen with a job description for the new employee to be hired. The selectmen will have final say in who it hired but Peter will have some say. Will applicants be questioned if they have any pre-existing conditions? Selectmen don't feel they are able to ask that but can add a statement on the application to the effect of "Do you feel you are able to perform all of the requirements of the job you are applying for?", down the road a condition surfaces the town will have much better footing. Also requesting a pre-employment physical can be required.

Minutes of March 28<sup>th</sup> approved.

Carpet condition at the top of Town Hall stairs needs attention. Selectmen will look at it and decide what to do.

Donations to Conservation Commission in the past the Selectmen have approved the amount and the use. Will look further at this at the next meeting.

Requests for website additions need to be put in writing to reduce confusion as to what was wanted and what actually is posted. Town will only post content, no programming. Selectmen have the final say as to what it posted to the town website.

Leigh moved John seconded Board passed.

John Trachy: Boards can't post their own pages? No, not on the Town website.

A message to inform the viewer that they are no longer viewing pages directly related to the Springfield website needs to be added to the links and the Historical Society page.

Bill Huntoon asked if bids would be accepted for replacement of windows. Buildings Committee would be meeting to prioritize what needs to be done. Bids would be taken once the decision is made.

Building at the Recreation field. Could it be moved to the cemetery to use to store mowers etc.?

Zoning Meeting April 5<sup>th</sup> Malcolm Patten application variance, site visit April 27<sup>th</sup> next meeting May 3<sup>rd</sup>. John chaired the meeting until called to order and Bill Sullivan was appointed at Chair. Term of position should be until the meeting following Town Meeting so that there is always a Chair.

John Chiarella received at least 3 phone calls over the weekend in regards to the Board appointing Cynthia Hayes when she was not voted for at Town Meeting. People are asking why I voted if the Board is going to go against my wishes. Selectmen have no control over what zoning Board does so people with questions should go to the Zoning Board.

Fire Department: Have use of infrared camera, questions about liability on calls, do they have to respond to a location they know poses dangers to firefighters, cross bridges they feel or know are unsafe. Found they are not required to respond. Tim requested that Fire Department let police know of locations they will be asked to accompany to prior to calls.

Bussing meeting: Looking to save money. Costs district \$45,000 to run 27 buses in Springfield. Looking at options to include cluster stops, eliminating stops and or routes. District is not legally required to bus to high school. Hogg Hill is an example of where a cluster stop may be done. The district has no standards for what roads they will/not travel. Will not travel Nichols Hill but will travel Hogg Hill.

School Board: Lost kindergarten, No word was heard from Pam Laurie (Springfield school board member) prior to, during or since meeting. Closing was not about the cost. Payment to distinct is figured on the number of students eligible to go not the number that actually do. Bussing and Food Service is not included in the cost. George McCusker felt the football program was more important than the kindergarten program. Three years ago the selectmen asked the school board to control spending but they have continued to spend. Sutton school has 80 students and they are adding an 80,000 gallon fuel tank at a cost of \$16,000, this school is only 1.8 miles from the new middle school.

Springfield pays the most of all towns in the district.

A number of years ago Croydon approached Springfield with questions of schooling. The town needs to look at the economic and educational options that are best for all. Pam Laurie's term ends next year.

John moved to start looking at how our kids are being served and what is in their best interests and the costs of that. Request that the schools committee start looking into this. Leigh 2<sup>nd</sup> Board passed.

Taping of minutes: expense to the town is not needed at this time. Don moved, Leigh 2<sup>nd</sup> Board passed.

Space committee/Buildings committee last met in 2009 ask them to reconvene to look at how best to use the Town Office/ Police Station. Keith Cutting should be included.

Signatures: Building permit Star Lake awaiting on septic approval  
Waite Letter (mailing Wednesday)  
Solar Exemption  
Current Use  
PO Fire, Highway  
Timber yield taxes due

Correspondence:

Wage review will be done at next meeting.

Tom Duling shared current pictures of trailer at Jack O'Lantern Park additional damage due to winter and trespassers. He has posted the property.

John Trachy asked if the Selectmen would like him to return the Class VI road signs to Peter from Deer Hill and School House Rd property that was returned to the property owner. Selectmen appreciated that.

John also thanked the selectmen for the job they do and knows that it is a difficult job.

Natallia Whiting asked about the kindergarten ever returning to Springfield or if it would be possible to start one up. John did not think it would be possible because of the expense of it. When the kindergarten was not part of Kearsarge it was part of Grantham.

Adjourned at 9:10pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Tamara Butcher