

**Board of Selectmen
5 November 2007
Minutes**

Present were Chairman Brian Forst, Selectman Don Guarino, Administrative Assistant Tim Warren and Clerk Lois Dionne.

6:00 p.m. – Town Clerk Deb Cornett swore part-time police officer Evan Boulanger in as a full time police officer. After Officer Boulanger was sworn in, Chief O'Brien presented Officer Matt Currier with his Senior Patrolman stripe.

Friends and family of both officers were present for the ceremony, and light refreshments were served immediately following the ceremony.

Capital Improvement Plan Budget – Steve Latici was present to discuss the capital improvement plan for the Selectmen's budget.

Tim Warren stated that the Selectmen have never had any major projects, but the Academy building would be in need of major work in the next five to ten years. He said one of the big things would be new windows and front doors for the building to make them more energy efficient. Tim said when we had an energy audit done for the building, they had estimated about \$5,000 per window to replace them. Mr. Latici asked if a cost benefit analysis had been done. Tim was unsure if that had been done when the energy audit was done. Brian felt the audit had been to look at the structure, and inform us what our major energy costs were, and the windows were a major source of energy loss.

Mr. Latici said one solution to the windows that is cost effective is to put interior glass panels. He felt this is a cheap alternative to replacing the windows, and would leave the exterior of the building unchanged. Mr. Latici asked if there should be a capital reserve fund set up specifically for the capital improvement of the building. He asked if there were any things other than the energy issues. Tim felt we might want to look at a new heating system at some point; the current system was put in when the building had been redone in 1989. Brian felt it was hard to look at the Selectmen's budget in terms of capital reserves, unlike the highway, police and fire departments that have major items that have to be replaced every so many years. Mr. Latici felt it would be better to put everything from the Selectmen's office together in a bond issue and get it done all at once rather than address it through a capital reserve fund.

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Other items that were discussed were the eventuality of stripping the building or replacing the siding on the Academy building and the maintenance of the old town hall. The issue of lead paint, if the building should be stripped was discussed, and Mr. Latici stated that there are special ways of stripping the building and getting rid of lead paint that doesn't create a hazardous substance. Mr. Latici asked if there would be any bridges that need to be replaced within the next twenty years. It was stated that there are bridges on the twenty-year plan, but it wasn't know which ones they are.

710 p.m. – Public Input

Flag – Half Staff – Israel Willard addressed a conversation he said he had with Chairman Forst last week regarding the flag being at half-mast after the death of Selectman Clairmont. Mr. Willard said he had been told the Selectmen had made the decision after being told they had called the Governor's office and were told it could be flown half-mast at their discretion. Mr. Willard said he had talked with the other Selectman, and he knew nothing about it. Mr. Willard added that Governor's office had said the flag could be lowered only by the President or the Governor, so asked where Brian was coming from. Tim Warren said he had called the Governor's office, and was told that the President and the Governor were the only ones who could lower the flag. He said the Governor cannot order it lowered for one specific Town; it has to be done state wide, but they felt under the circumstances if the Selectmen wanted to lower it, they could.

Mr. Willard felt it was a disgrace to all veterans to do that, and for all veterans who have died for that flag. He felt Chairman Forst showed no respect for the flag, and bounds had been overstepped by lowering the flag. Chairman Forst took exception to Mr. Willard's statement that he had no respect for the flag. Mr. Willard felt it showed no respect, and also the decision was supposed to have been a joint discussion of the Selectmen. There was a brief discussion whether there had been a Selectmen's discussion.

Bridges – Heating System – Mr. Willard stated, that after listening to tonight's discussion, he wondered why we don't have a list of bridges that are going to be replaced within the next twenty years. He also asked why we would replace a heating system because it was put in place in 1989. Mr. Willard felt before replacing a system, we should have the efficiency of the system checked.

There was a brief discussion during which it was stated that we aren't planning on replacing the furnace, but planning for the future. Mr. Willard felt we should be having preventive maintenance, such as having the chimney checked, which he didn't feel was being done. Cindy Houghton asked if there had been something in the paper about having smoke in the Academy building, and asked if that had been a chimney problem, and it (the paper) said it was because it hadn't been worked on in quite a while; she asked why. Tim replied that had been an issue with the furnace, and the furnace has been being serviced, but probably not as good as it should have been. Don stated that we have

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just signed an agreement with a new company, and the maintenance service is part of the agreement.

Selectman Replacement – Candace Willard asked if the Selectmen had given any thought to replacing the third member on the board so they would have a full board; it is a busy time of year, and would be hard for two people to handle. Mrs. Willard felt they should look for someone with experience.

Chairman Forst said he had spoken with three former selectmen to see if they would be willing to fill the position until the elections in March. He said all three had indicated their willingness to serve, and he and Don would be making a decision tonight.

Forestry/Clear Cutting – Israel Willard told the Selectmen he had an interesting article on forestry clear cutting he had meant to bring to the Selectmen, but had forgotten. He hoped the Selectmen would read the article before allowing cutting of the Town forests. Chairman Forst wasn't sure if the Conservation Commission planned to pursue cutting the Thompson Town forest this year.

FYI's and Other Business

Approval of Minutes – The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of last week's minutes.

MOTION – Selectman Guarino moved to accept the minutes of October 29, 2007 as written. Chairman Forst seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Places Mill Road -Tim presented the Selectmen with the Potter's final bill for the work done on Places Mill Road.

There was considerable discussion on the road. Issues mentioned in the discussion were the headers have not been approved by DES, and there are still some issues with the grading of the road. After considerable discussion, it was decided to pay the Potters an additional \$10,000 at this time, and retain the remainder until we are sure that we have received all invoices for gravel, etc, and that we are satisfied with the headers and the grading, as the invoice had stated that the bill was for the completion of the project on Places Mill Road. There was also a very brief discussion as to how much money we have received thus far from the Boy Scouts for the upgrade of the road.

LGC Conference – Tim informed the Selectmen that he would be at an LGC Conference in Manchester on Wednesday and Thursday.

Replacement Positions – Chairman Forst asked Selectman Guarino if he would take over the representation of the Board of Selectmen on the Planning Board for the rest of the year to replace Dave Clairmont. Don will fill the position.

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Chairman Forst noted that Dave had also been on the Class VI Road Committee, but as Dave had been on the committee prior to having been a selectmen, he was considered a member of the committee and not a Selectmen's representative, so it was decided we did not need a selectman to replace him.

Selectman Replacement – Chairman Forst asked Tim if he felt the discussion about a replacement for Dave was to be non-public, but when they make a decision about the replacement, it be made in public. Tim felt it should be because it is basically a personnel issue; the hiring of an employee.

Brian, in an attempt to get the policy information to the public, asked if the Selectmen vote on this, or just make a decision between the two selectmen. Tim said it is his understanding that the two Selectmen go over a number of candidates and agree on a candidate; if they couldn't agree on someone, the court would appoint someone from the list. Brian asked if it is required that the appointment be a prior selectman. Tim said it wasn't a requirement, but would be helpful to have someone with experience. Don was concerned about how this appointment would affect the rotation of the Selectmen. Tim explained that one person would be elected to fill out the two years left in Dave's term, and someone would be elected for a three-year term to fill the position of the third-year selectman, whose term would expire in March.

8:00 p.m. - Enter into Non-Public Session as per RSA 91-A:3, II(b)

Selectman Guarino moved to Enter into Non-Public Session as per RSA 91-A:3, II(b) – Consideration of the hiring of a public employee. Chairman Forst seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed a replacement for Selectman Clairmont.

After a lengthy discussion, and a phone call to be certain the individual was still willing to serve in the position, the Selectmen made a decision.

8:32 p.m. – Out of Non-Public Session

Selectman Guarino moved to come Out of Non-Public Session. Chairman Forst seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

MOTION – Selectman Guarino moved to appoint Rachel Frechette Hatch to fill the Selectmen's position left vacant by the death of Selectman Clairmont until March 2008. Chairman Forst seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

8:35 p.m. - Enter into Non-Public Session as per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)

Selectman Guarino moved to Enter into Non-Public Session as per RSA 91-A:3, II(a) - Dismissal, promotion or setting compensation for public employees or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected has a right to a meeting or

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requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Chairman Forst seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

The Selectmen reviewed and signed an employee evaluation.

8:50 p.m. Out of Non-Public Session

Selectman Guarino moved to come Out of Non-Public Session. Chairman Forst seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Town Clerk News – Town Clerk Deb Cornett informed the selectmen that she is on line with the State now to do registrations. She also informed the Board that the person who will be doing the website is looking for pictures of the town buildings, etc to be put on the site.

8:58 p.m. – MOTION – Selectman Guarino moved to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Forst seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Dionne
Recording Clerk