

APPROVED

**Board of Selectmen
26 March 2012
Minutes**

6:00 pm - Chairman Rachel Hatch called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Hatch, Selectmen Ralph Lavin and Brett Currier, Town Administrator Tim Warren and Clerk Lois Dionne. Also in attendance were Marshall Bishop, Wayne Ogni and Doug Isleib.

After attendance, everyone stood for the "Pledge of Allegiance".

6:02 pm- Selectman Lavin moved to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II(c) - Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person unless such person requests an open meeting; however, this cannot be used to protect a person who is a member of your Board, Committee or Subcommittee. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed a tax issue.

6:06 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

6:08 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II(c) - Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person unless such person requests an open meeting; however, this cannot be used to protect a person who is a member of your Board, Committee or Subcommittee. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed a tax issue.

6:12 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Roger & Elena Ball and Bernadette Gallant joined the meeting.

Approval of Minutes – Selectman Lavin moved to accept the minutes of the March 19, 2012 meeting as amended. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Recycling Center will be closed Easter Sunday, April 8th to allow employees time to celebrate the holiday with their families.

A Certificate of Insurance was received from the company who will be handling the items containing Freon at the recycling center. Selectman Currier felt it would be a good idea to get a certificate from all vendors that do business at the recycling center.

Selectmen Seminars – Tim informed the Board of seminars available for selectmen, specifically ones for new selectmen.

Recycling Sticker Fee – Tim informed the Selectmen that a resident, who is a disabled veteran, had been in last week and wanted an allowance for the \$3.00 fee for his recycling sticker.

Selectman Currier stated that he would like to remove the fee for the sticker; the sticker is to prove residency, and should be given when residents register their motor vehicles. Selectman Lavin agreed with Brett. Tim suggested that the Town Clerk (Deb Cornett) be asked to come in and address the board and explain the reason for the fee.

Deb explained that the fee was to cover the cost of the stickers and to pay for the paper and toner used, as well as the clerk's time to process the sticker.

There was considerable discussion on the issue. No decision was made at this time, but the Selectmen will address the issue later this evening.

Marshall Bishop – Current Use – Last week Tim Warren had informed the Selectmen of the request made by Mr. Bishop to put 5.43 acres of land into current use under a section of the law that allows a person to put less than the required ten acres if they sell \$2,500 worth of crops that are produced on that land.

The assessor had informed Mr. Bishop that he doesn't qualify because the products he is selling are not derived right off the soil; they are processed and changed before they are sold. Marshall asked if, since the land and buildings are in his wife's name, they could qualify by having her sell the grapes to him. There was a brief discussion, but the Town could do nothing unless the current-use laws were changed; the consensus was that Mr. Bishop's only recourse was to appeal to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals.

Pete Pinckney joined the meeting.

Smokey-the-Bear Sign – Tim reported that the fire department would be replacing the Smokey Bear fire sign, and asked if there was a specific place the sign should be placed at the safety-building site. Brett felt the department should have the discretion of where the sign would be placed, and they could figure out where it could be placed so as not to

block the line of sight for vehicles. Chairman Hatch stated that they would need a permit for the sign.

Public Input

Current Use – Douglas Isleib referred to Marshall Bishop's situation, and asked how it would be handled if he were taking sap out of his maple trees and was making syrup on his farm. Chairman Hatch stated that the Selectmen don't usually have to deal with those issues unless someone is not satisfied with the decision they received from the assessor. Tim said usually when you have maple syrup, there is a tree farm or grove of maple trees that qualifies for the ten acres.

Surplus School Monies – Doug Isleib wanted clarification of what happens with the \$521,000 surplus money in last year's school budget. He spoke with the Department of Revenue, but still doesn't understand it; where did the money go? Tim said the money is used to reduce the school's portion of the tax rate. Tim couldn't explain what happened to the money; it is a DRA (Department of Revenue Administration) formula. Doug wanted to know where the money is now, and felt the Town should look into it to find out what happened to the money. Selectman Lavin will check into it.

Road Conditions – Bill Smith of Griffin Road was concerned about the condition of the dirt roads the past couple of weeks. Buses got stuck, emergency vehicles couldn't get to residents, mail had to be suspended and roads had to be closed. He said he isn't trying to point fingers, but felt something has to be done to correct the problem; it is the same areas every year because nothing has been done for thirty plus years to correct the problems. Mr. Smith said he has experience, and would like to help correct the situation.

Selectman Currier suggested setting up a committee that would include Mr. Smith and several contractors who work on roads to address the situation and try to help the road agent. He felt this was an unusual year in that the frost came out of the ground all at once, and then it rained, so the road agent couldn't be blamed, but agreed that the conditions of the roads this year were unacceptable. He felt the problem areas need to be identified, talk with the road agent and the selectmen, and that maybe we could fix only one road a year, but it would be a good start.

Selectman Lavin agreed with Selectman Currier, but was concerned about the possible tax impact. Brett didn't think there would be any reason to raise the highway budget, just use the money differently.

Pete Pinckney stated that the town needs to support the road agent; it was a bad year, but he felt we need to do something each year to better the roads. He felt it would be a good idea to form a committee, and volunteered his services.

FYI's & Other Business

Franchise Fee – The Town received a check in the amount of \$51,040.06 from MetroCast for last year's franchise fee.

NH the Beautiful – We received the application forms to fill out to participate in the NH the Beautiful roadside cleanup program, and to be able to get the fee bags. Tim will sign and submit the form.

Health Officer – Tim informed the board that Chief Hempel has offered to fill in as health officer until we get a new one. He will need to be appointed as a deputy health officer.

Landfill Monitoring Contract – We received a renewal contract from Provan and Lorber for the landfill monitoring at the recycling center. Monitoring has to be done twice a year, reduced from four times a year. Monitoring is required to be done for thirty years.

BCEDC Rep – Tim reminded the board that they had not appointed a representative to the BCEDC (Belknap County Economic Development Council), and they will be holding a meeting on Thursday, March 29th at Church Landing in Meredith.

After a brief discussion, Selectman Lavin was appointed as representative to BCEDC.

Route 140 Corridor – Tim reminded Ralph the Route 140 Corridor Study Committee would be meeting Friday. Brett is Gilmanton's representative on the committee, but Ralph will be attending in his stead this week. Brett said he had been speaking with an individual who expressed interest in being on the committee, and asked if we should get more people involved in it. Tim said the committee would like two or three representatives from the town, and if someone was interested, they should give their names to Tim.

Board Appointments – Last week the Selectmen interviewed applicants who had expressed interest in serving on the Planning and Zoning Boards.

After discussion of the applicants and vacancies, appointments were made as follows:

MOTION – Selectman Lavin moved to appoint Wayne Ogni to serve the three-year term on the Planning Board. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

MOTION – Selectman Currier moved to appoint Laurie Sanborn to the two-year term on the Planning Board. Selectman Lavin seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

MOTION – Selectman Currier moved to appoint Nate Abbott to serve the two-year term on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Selectman Lavin seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

MOTION – Selectman Lavin moved to appoint Felix Barlik to serve the three-year term as alternate on the Planning Board. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Barlik had requested to be a full member on the planning board. Tim will contact him to see if he would be willing to serve as an alternate.

Cut in Town Forest – Tim said the conservation commission had discussed doing a cut in the Thompson Town Forest. He asked if they could use Andy Fast, the county forester, to flag for the cut, rather than hire a forester. Following a brief discussion, it was decided to have Tim propose the idea to the conservation commission.

Roads Committee – Chairman Hatch stated that she would like to have the road agent come in next week and talk to him about establishing a roads committee, making it clear to him that the purpose of the committee is not to govern Paul, but to work with him and help him out.

Selectman Currier will not be here Monday, so it was agreed to meet on Wednesday, April 4th rather than Monday, April 2nd so they can discuss the roads committee.

7:50 pm – Recess

7:55 pm – Back in Session

Recycling stickers – The Selectmen continued discussion on charging a fee for recycling stickers, which had been addressed earlier in the evening.

There was a lengthy discussion as to whether or not to charge for the stickers.

MOTION – Selectman Currier moved to repeal the charge for the recycling sticker. Selectman Lavin seconded for discussion.

MOTION – Selectman Lavin moved to amend Mr. Currier's motion to read that the current charge for stickers for the recycling center be repealed, and that there be two free stickers per family, with a fee of \$1 for any additional stickers. Selectman Currier seconded the amendment. Amendment passed 2-1. Selectman Currier-Yes, Selectman Lavin-Yes, Chairman Hatch-No.

Original motion was withdraw after the passage of the amended motion.

Change to be effective immediately.

Tax Deeding Properties – Town Clerk Deb Cornet met with the Selectmen to present them with a list of properties scheduled to go to tax deed for non-payment of taxes.

Before discussing the properties, Deb asked if the Selectmen had made a decision on a fee for the recycling stickers. When informed of their decision, Deb asked that they reconsider their motion, and if they stick with their decision, they not make it effective until the first cycle is over, which would be December 31, 2013.

After a brief discussion, a new motion was made.

MOTION – Selectman Currier moved to go with Deb’s recommendation to go with the December 31, 2013 date to enact two free dump stickers per family with a charge of \$1 per sticker for three or more stickers. Selectman Lavin seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

8:16 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II(c) - Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person unless such person requests an open meeting; however, this cannot be used to protect a person who is a member of your Board, Committee or Subcommittee. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed scheduled tax-deeding properties with the town clerk.

8:39 pm. – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Budget Cuts – Last week Chairman Hatch had asked each member of the board to study the budget and make suggestions where they could make cuts to come up with the bottom line number voted at town meeting because of recommended cuts by the budget committee.

Tim presented the Selectmen with recommendations he had come up with adjustments he had made in departments that he felt would be best for the town.

There was considerable discussion and a careful review of all the numbers. Adjustments were made in the building department and land-use clerk’s hours due to a low volume of building permits, and HDC and Zoning applications. Selectman Lavin was against the cuts because it was not what was voted at town meeting. The budget committee had recommended cuts in the police department and building department. Tim said the residents had voted on the bottom-line number; it is up to the Selectmen to make cuts where they feel it would be best.

MOTION – Selectman Currier moved, based on current economic conditions, with lack of building and reduced permits, to reduce the land-use clerk position to a part-time position based on a 25-hour work week, and to offer the position to the employee currently in the position. Change to become effective on April 15, 2012.

Selectman Hatch seconded for discussion.

9:15 pm-Selectman Lavin moved to enter into Non-Public Session 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 requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
The Selectmen discussed a personnel issue.

9:21 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Vote on Motion – Chairman Hatch called for a vote on the motion made before non-public session. Vote passed 2-0. Selectman Currier-yes, Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin abstained from voting because he felt they were voting against what residents voted for at Town Meeting.

MOTION – Selectman Currier moved to accept Tim Warren’s recommendation on the adjustments to the budget to come up with the bottom line figure that was voted in at Town Meeting. Selectman Lavin seconded.

There was a brief discussion of the motion.

Chairman Hatch called for a vote on the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

9:24 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II(e) - Discussion of pending or threatened (in writing) litigation against the Town or Town Officials, Board Members or employees. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed a legal issue.

9:26 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

9:27 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to enter into Non-Public Session 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

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meeting or requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed a personnel issue.

9:30 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

9:31 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to enter into Non-Public Session 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 requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Chairman Hatch seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Selectman Currier did not stay for this non-public session.

The Selectmen discussed a personnel issue.

9:37 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Chairman Hatch seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

MOTION – Selectman Lavin moved to seal the minutes of the above non-public session. Chairman Hatch seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

9:38 pm – MOTION – Selectman Lavin moved to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Hatch seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Dionne
Recording Clerk

