

APPROVED

**Board of Selectmen
24 September 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 was Fire Chief Joe Hempel.

After attendance everyone stood for the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

Fire Dept. Update & Preliminary Budget

Warrant Articles and Budget Review– Chief Hempel had three warrant articles he proposes to put forth this year that he asked the Selectmen to support when it came time to prepare the budget. The articles are for the lease purchase of a new fire engine to replace Engine 1, to replace worn and retired hose and to purchase a new forestry unit.

There was considerable discussion of the need to replace Engine 1.

On review of the fire department budget, Chief Hempel pointed out that his request had come in under last year’s budget request. There was discussion of life and disability insurance for call firefighters. The firemen’s association used to pay the whole cost. The last couple of years the Town had been paying a portion of the cost; now the association would like the Town to cover the complete cost. Gasoline, telephone expenses and the cost of protective clothing were also discussed.

Tim Warren informed the Board that he had received notice that the NH Retirement expense would be going up the second half of next year.

Dept. Update

New full-time firefighter Chris Griffin is working out great. He had been working for us part time before being hired full time.

Boot drive this past weekend was successful. They will be purchasing an automatic defibrillator for Forestry One.

Employment Requirements - Chairman Hatch said she noticed that Chris's employment letter said he had to complete EMT I training before the end of his probationary period. She asked if this was standard; was this required of the other two full-time firefighters?

Chief Hempel said it is his goal to have it as a minimum standard. While it had not been a standard in place, one of the other firefighters has completed the training and got his certification, the other has completed the course and will be taking the final exam.

7:00 pm – Public Input – No one was present for public input.

Speed Grant Details – Police Chief Collins requested that the Select Chair sign a grant application to obtain money for speed details.

MOTION – Selectman Lavin moved to have Chairman Hatch sign the Highway Safety Grant application. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

Email Commendation – Tim had a copy of an email from Jeff McCormack congratulating Chief Collins on “getting the thief’s” on Allen’s Mill road, and welcoming him as chief.

Crystal Lake Association - Chairman Hatch asked if Chief Collins had been working on the issues that the Crystal Lake Association had brought up. He replied that he has been.

Crystal Lake Association Memo – Chairman Hatch told Tim that at the meeting with the Crystal Lake Association last week Jean Martin spoke of a memo she had sent to Tim that was to have been given to the Selectmen prior to the meeting so they could be ready to address their concerns, but the Selectmen hadn’t received it. Chairman Hatch felt not having the memo had put them at a disadvantage in being able to address the concerns, and asked if Tim had received the memo. Tim acknowledged that he had received the memo, but had neglected to include it with the backup he had given to the Selectmen.

Chairman Hatch said Mrs. Martin was disappointed that they weren’t prepared to answer her questions, but Selectman Lavin had seen Conservation Chair Tracy Tarr in the building, and they were able to get her to begin conversation about water protection. Chief Collins is addressing the speed issue. They had talked about the Town considering owning, what is now the state-owned portion of the road from rte 140 to the dam on Crystal Lake Road. They had discussed the dam issue.

Chairman Hatch said there is still an issue that Daniel Webster Council had an agreement that they were going to have their campers alternate using Crystal Lake Road and Mountain Road. Due to road construction, they were not able to do that last year, but she said they had not done it this year either. Lois said she had seen the signs out this year,

but the residents said the repeat campers ignored the signs. Chairman Hatch felt if that is the case, it becomes a police issue.

Tim Warren said the agreement was that the Daniel Webster Council would ask their campers' parents to alternate, not that they would make them. At the time the agreement was made, we were shown a copy of the letter they would be mailing out to campers, but we don't know if that is still being done. They are also supposed to inform us of the number of campers each year, but we haven't been getting that information.

Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) – Selectman Lavin said he has been getting some letters from the LRPC about not attending their meetings because he is the Selectmen's rep to the committee. His problem is that their meetings are the same night as the Selectmen's meeting.

Selectman Lavin was told not to worry about not attending; inform them that the days and times of their meetings conflict with the Selectmen's meeting. Tim said that Stan Bean attends so there is a link between them and the Town.

Canney Hill Road – Selectman Lavin said a resident had been concerned about the construction on Canney Hill Road. It was reported that the road was blocked by piles of fill and there was no one directing traffic. Selectman Lavin asked who was doing the work.

Tim said a lady had been in last Friday asking if the Town was planning to pave Canney Hill Road because the highway crew was up there, and had done ditching and installed drainage pipes. She said the worker she had spoken with had told her they were going to pave the whole road; currently part is paved and part is not. She said there were road-closed signs at Halls Hill, and wanted to know who had made the decision to pave the road. Tim said he had told her that she would have to speak with the road agent. Tim noted there are only one or two houses on the unpaved section of the road.

Current Use - Selectmen Lavin asked who had made the decision that some land could be put into current use, and pay less taxes on the property. He was told it was a state law; it was enacted to protect large parcels of land in its natural state.

Selectman Lavin asked if there is a way of reducing school taxes for people receiving social security. He was told we have an elderly exemption, but it is based on income and assets. Selectman Lavin asked if there is a way that people who don't have children could stop paying the school taxes for extra curricular activities such as football, etc. He was told that could be done only through the state legislature.

7:30 pm – Selectman Currier 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 Lavin seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

The Selectmen reviewed an employee evaluation.

7:45 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

7:45 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. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

The Selectmen discussed a tax issue.

7:50 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

7:50 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. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

The Selectmen discussed a tax issue.

8:16 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

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 a tax issue.

8:40 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

8:40 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. The Selectmen discussed a tax issue.

8:55 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectmen Lavin-yes, Selectman Hatch-yes.

8:55 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.

9:02 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

9:02 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. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

The Selectman discussed a personnel issue.

9:13 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

Town Clerk Software Vendor – Town Clerk Deb Cornett informed the Selectmen that her key support person from BSMI had left, and since she has been gone, Deb is not happy with the support she has been getting. Deb is asking for a quote from Interware for the town clerk portion of her work. She has also asked if their tax package could do what she needs it to do; if not she will not switch that portion of the program.

Approval of Minutes-MOTION- Selectman Lavin moved to accept the minutes of September 17, 2012 as written. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

Old Town Hall – Tim reported that the trees had been taken down and the painting was supposed to be started today at the Old Town Hall. He said the painting should take a couple of weeks, and then the painter would be doing the Academy Building.

Bingham Road – Tim reported that Bingham Road had been paved, and the paver had suggested that we put down a 2' gravel shoulder, which was not part of the paving contract. The Town owned half of the road, and Mr. Thomasian owned the other half. Tim said Mr. Thomasian asked if the Town would be willing to pay a portion of the cost for the gravel shoulder, as it had not been part of the bid price for paving. The consensus of the Selectmen was to share the cost with Mr. Thomasian.

Grape Ave – The Town had sent a letter to Mr. Hickey regarding allegations of conditions on the property he owns on Grape Ave in Gilmanton. The property is rented out, and we had received complaints about wood blocking the roadway and junk in the yard, and allegations of possible health hazards because it was felt there is not a septic system. We had the health inspector go out there. He was unable to determine if there is a septic system. The wood issue is a Sawyer Lake issue because Grape Ave is a private road.

Tim had a letter tonight from Mr. Hickey informing the Town that there is no foundation to any of the assertions, and no further action would be necessary on his part or ours. There is no construction being done, so there should be no visits by the building inspector. If any further action is proposed, he wants notification to allow time to consult with his attorney.

The Selectmen agreed there is nothing more they can do, unless it should become apparent that the septic is going onto the ground.

Selectman Currier said he had spoken with Byron Dalton and has told him that there is nothing more the Town could do. Tim was asked to send a letter to Mr. Dalton.

Plowing Bids – Tim asked if the Selectmen wanted the plowing for the safety building to go out to bid. They do.

Tax Relief – Tim noted that Marshall Bishop had asked for tax relief for his business. Tim said he had forwarded the question to Town Counsel, and had a reply. Town Counsel said that after reviewing the statute, he found that there is no statutory authority for Gilmanton to enter into such an agreement. Tim will notify Mr. Bishop.

Plow Rates – Tim presented the Selectmen with plow rates he had gotten that other towns pay to compare with Gilmanton's rates. Selectmen Currier and Lavin will review the rates.

Tim asked if we wanted to advertise for people to plow this winter. He was told they did.

9:37 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. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

The Selectmen discussed a personnel issue.

9:40 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

MOTION-Selectman Currier moved to seal the minutes of the above non-public session. Selectman Lavin seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

9:41 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II(b) – Consideration of the hiring of a public employee.

The Selectmen discussed the interviews that were held for the equipment operator position.

10:03 pm – Selectman Lavin moved to come out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Currier seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

10:04 pm – MOTION – Selectman Currier moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Lavin seconded. Motion passed 3-0. – Chairman Hatch-yes, Selectman Lavin-yes, Selectman Currier-yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Dionne
Recording Clerk

