

APPROVED

**Board of Selectmen
30 November 2009
Minutes**

6:03 p.m. - Chairman Rachel Hatch called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Hatch, Selectman Betty Ann Abbott, Town Administrator Tim Warren and Clerk Lois Dionne. Selectman Don Guarino was not in attendance.

Also present was Budget Committee Chairman Stan Bean.

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

Budget Changes – Last week Selectman Abbott had brought a copy of the Budget Committee's Capital Reserve Computation Sheet for review and update. Tonight Budget Chairman Stan Bean was present to discuss the proposed changes.

Stan distributed packets he had prepared on capital reserve accounts. Included was the criteria they use for setting up capital reserve accounts. Stan said they used to only include equipment that was \$10,000 or more, but that has been changed. He said the idea of the capital reserve accounts is to level out the tax rate. Also in the packet were computation sheets for each department.

The computation sheets, and capital reserve accounts were reviewed and discussed. A few changes were made to the amounts in some of the accounts. Changes included a change of name to one account, and a couple of new capital reserve accounts were added. Added accounts were a radio replacement account for the police department, and a radio replacement account for the fire department. Another capital reserve account that was requested to be added was to build a storage barn at the recycling center to store recyclables. This would replace the dilapidated trailers that are currently being used.

There was also a brief discussion on the budget.

Best Way MSW Proposal – Recycling Manager Justin Leavitt explained that Mark from Best Way was unable to make the meeting tonight due to illness. Justin presented the Selectmen a draft with information he would like to get out to the public regarding recycling. It included information on what it costs on a yearly basis to get rid of our trash including hauling and tipping fees, as well as revenues brought in from recycling, the need for more residents to recycle, the benefits, both financial and ecological, that we

receive by recycling, and the need to institute either mandatory recycling or a pay-as-you-throw program.

There was considerable discussion about the cost of disposing of our trash, and the need to make people more aware of the necessity of recycling. It was felt that it would be good to try to get the school children involved and be made aware of the need to recycle. Rachel and Justin will try to set it up for Justin to talk to the school children, and to possibly have the students go on a field trip to the recycling center to see how it operates.

Selectman Abbott will review the draft that Justin wants to get out to the public. Chairman Hatch asked when Betty Ann reviews the draft, if she could also do a version that could be presented to the school children.

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

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

MOTION – Selectman Abbott moved to approved the minutes of November 23, 2009 as amended, which included inserting the word “she” on page 2, adding a missing “r” to the word “manage” on pages four and five and adding an “s” to the word “account” on page 7. Chairman Hatch seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Letter – Forester – Tim had a copy of a letter (copy attached) that Conservation Chair Nanci Mitchell had sent to Brian Cutter in response to the letter she had received from Mr. Cutter regarding his timber cut on the Tonnesen Property.

Mr. Cutter had felt Nanci was saying there was timber trespass in the Pine Hill Town Forest while harvesting the Tonnesen timber. Nanci’s letter explained that the letter she had sent had been sent to all abutters of the town forest, because they had noticed some timber trespass, but it hadn’t been intended to cause concern with the Tonnesens about Mr. Cutter’s harvesting. She said the Conservation Commission appreciated the fact that Mr. Cutter had worked cooperatively to delineate the boundary between the Tonnesens and Pine Hill Town Forest, and there were no issues related to the Tonnesen timber cut.

Support – Conservation Commission – Tim was asked if he had spoken with anybody about working to support the Conservation Commission. Tim replied that he hasn’t yet.

Belknap County Commissioners – Tim reminded the Selectmen that the Belknap County Commissioner’s meeting would be tomorrow afternoon. He and Chief Lockwood are planning to attend.

Tim also had a copy of the Belknap County Commissioner’s recommended budget for 2010. He said because of unanticipated stimulus funds, which neutralized the capital

impact and resulted in a decrease in recommended appropriations, there is a 1% decrease in the county taxes for 2010.

Adopt-a-Family – Tim said he and Deb Cornett had been talking tonight about helping needy families at Christmas. He said last year the employees in the Town Clerk's Office and the Selectmen's Office had pooled their money and adopted three children. Tim said he thought the police and fire departments had done something on their own. and he and Deb had wondered if they would like to pool their money with the employees at the Academy, or if they preferred to do something on their own.

There was a brief discussion, after which it was determined that the police and fire departments would prefer to continue as they have been doing. Chairman Hatch explained that there is an application that parents must complete, and it is matched with what the guidance counselors know, so we know they are families that are in need.

Fire Department Budget – Fire Chief Lockwood's budget was presented for review. Chief Lockwood explained the changes to the budget. The biggest changes were increases in the amount requested for on-call salaries and for training, but decreases in repairs and maintenance of the Iron Works and Corners Stations, as well as in prevention programs. There were other minor changes, but the overall increase to the operating budget was 2%, which was the percentage the department heads were asked not to exceed.

Safety Building -The Selectmen, Chief Lockwood and Chief O'Brien discussed the needs and space requirements for the fire and police departments in order to get specs to submit an RFP for site, structure, layout and design of a safety building.

The discussions included a conference call to Selectman Guarino to discuss the floor space. Don, Chief O'Brien and Chief Lockwood will meet this week to finalize the requirements.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be sent to the paper this week. Bidders will be required to attend a pre-bid meeting at the Academy Building at 10:00 a.m. on December 14, 2009, at which time the specs will be presented to the prospective bidders. This meeting will be followed up by a site walk. All bids are to be submitted by noon on January 4, 2010.

Police Department Budget – The Selectmen reviewed the police department budget with Chief O'Brien. The overtime budget and call pay were increased slightly. There were slight decreases in other items, but the majority of the budget remained the same as last year. The biggest increase was for "other programs", which includes public relations. Phil said this includes a public safety day, the DARE program, and items that the department gives to schoolchildren. His operating budget request was within the recommended 2%.

11-30-09 BOS

APPROVED

Health Insurance – Chairman Hatch asked when the employees were to meet regarding their health insurance plan. Tim informed the board that Tammy Croft of LGC would be meeting with the employees on Tuesday, December 8th at 9:00 a.m. to explain changes and options to the health insurance programs.

9:30 p.m. - MOTION – Selectman Abbott moved to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Hatch seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Dionne
Recording Clerk



Gilmanton Conservation Commission

PO Box 550
Gilmanton NH 03237-0550

November 30, 2009

Brian Cutter, LPF
PO Box 481
Tamworth, NH 03886

Dear Mr. Cutter:

I am replying to your letter of November 20, 2009 to me expressing concern about a letter I sent to Glenn and Meredith Tonnesen dated October 16, 2009 on behalf of the Gilmanton Conservation Commission concerning timber trespass in the Pine Hill Town Forest. That letter was sent all abutters to the Pine Hill Town Forest because we had observed some timber trespass on the town-owned land. This did not occur along the Tonnesen boundary and we do not have any concerns regarding the Tonnesen timber harvest. If we had concerns about what you did during the Tonnesen timber harvest we would have contacted you and the Tonnesens at that time.

The referenced letter was sent as a gentle notice to all abutters that we had observed some timber trespass, that the "Conservation Commission assumes that this wood was removed accidentally and will not pursue any further action at this time", and that the boundaries had been painted making it clear to everyone where the boundaries were. It was never our intention to "raise undue concern with the Tonnesens", reflect badly on your ability, lead to the loss of valued clients or jeopardize your license to practice forestry as you stated in your letter. Our intention was to let the abutters to the Pine Hill Town Forest know that we were aware that there had been some timber trespass and to let all know that the boundary had been painted.

The Conservation Commission appreciates the fact that you worked with us cooperatively to delineate the boundary between the Tonnesens and the Pine Hill Town Forest in December of 2008. The Tonnesens should be reassured that we had no issues related to their timber harvest with Intents-to-Cut filed in late 2008. Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Nanci Mitchell, Chair
Gilmanton Conservation Commission
603-581-2696
conservation@gilmantonnh.org

cc: Glenn and Meredith Tonnesen
Gilmanton Board of Selectmen