

**Board of Selectmen
14 April 2008
Minutes**

6:02 p.m. - Chairman Don Guarino called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Guarino, Selectmen Rachel Hatch and Betty Ann Abbott, Town Administrator Tim Warren and Clerk Lois Dionne.

After attendance, everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

State Representative Dave Russell – At a prior meeting, the Selectmen had asked to have Representative Russell meet with them. Representative Russell stated that he was unclear as to what the Selectmen had wanted of him. Chairman Guarino explained that the Selectmen felt they should meet with Representative Russell to open up a line of communication so they would be aware of things that are happening in the State that might affect the Town, such as a subject that had arisen at the Planning Board meeting, that he felt the Selectmen didn't know about, "work force housing". Representative Russell said the State has taken no formal action requiring the Towns to make "work force housing" available, but they are in the process. Dave asked if the Selectmen receive the LGC Newsletter. Tim Warren replied that they do, and also the Legislative Bulletin. Dave said that usually has all the bills that come before them that affect municipalities.

Dave said he felt it would be a good idea to come in every couple of months or so to speak with the Selectmen, and he could come in with a prepared statement of what they are doing. He said that right now they are still "messaging" with the school funding; there is supposed to be something coming out the Senate this week. He said they had passed the "cross over", which is when the House finishes all their bills, and the Senate finishes all their bills, and they cross over. Dave said they have to have public hearings, work sessions and ultimately committee and floor votes. He said that generally happens in the middle of March; they are about half way through the legislative sessions.

Representative Russell stated that an immediate problem that has to be dealt with is the budget deficit, which is larger than the State has ever known. He said the revenue estimates at the beginning of the session year were way overblown, and New Hampshire had just raised the tax on cigarettes, which he felt would hurt us, and you couple that with the downtrend in the economy, New Hampshire is hurting. Dave said that even though we had a good snow season, so revenues are up, the revenues will be outbalanced by the

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increase in nursing home costs that the State no longer provides the Counties. Chairman Guarino noted that the change that allowed the change in nursing home expenses was a Senate bill, and asked why the House of Representatives had allowed that bill to pass. Representative Russell said he doesn't remember having anything coming before them, as a whole body, to vote to approve or not approve the changes, so he was unsure.

Chairman Guarino asked what committees Dave works on. Dave replied that he is on the Resources, Recreation and Development Committee that deals with water issues, which include ground water, surface water and a mooring bill that is back for the third time. He said this is a controversial bill that would allow people on a lake to apply to join a mooring program; every mooring put on a lake would have to be registered with the State for an initial fee of \$125, and a \$25 per year fee for a decal to be placed on the mooring. Dave said they have been having an issue with USA Springs in the Wentworth, Nottingham area regarding groundwater withdrawal because they were bottling the water, then shipping it overseas. He said they had gotten DES involved in the matter.

Dave said the two important committees are the Finance Committee, who is in charge of everything that the legislative body buys or spends money on, and the Ways and Means Committee. He said the two committees work hand-in-hand.

Dave said the he has gone on record as being in favor of legalizing gambling in New Hampshire, especially in the North Country. He said there is a forum at UNH later this month, with an expert who was with Harrah's club in Las Vegas, and an official from the State of Delaware who will discuss the pros and cons of gambling. Dave said he would like to learn more about the downside of gambling.

There was talk about the State using funds from the Highway Department for things other than the Highway Department. It was also stated that money from the lottery tickets was supposed to have been used for education, and if the State would use money from gambling, if it were legalized, for other than its intended purpose. Dave felt the State had made a mistake when buying Temple Mountain. He said that about 30% of the acreage in the State of New Hampshire is either owned by the State or has a conservation easement of some kind on it, or is federal property, and can't be developed. Dave felt one of the worst mistakes the State had made was that in the Purchase & Sales Agreement for Temple Mountain, the owner of the mountain kept the rights to develop a cell tower on the mountain.

Representative Russell will meet with the Selectmen again in a couple of months to update the Selectmen on what has been happening.

Trash – Dave Russell said he had a matter of concern. When he had been on the Board of Selectmen there had been a problem with our Town trash collector. He said he has been getting complaints from Ralph Goodwin's neighbors about the condition of his yard, and what they had done when he was selectman, was to take Ralph's key to the

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dump away, and was told he could have it back when the selectmen were satisfied with his yard. Tim Warren stated that Code Enforcement Officer Bob Flanders has spoken with Ralph, and some progress has been made. Tim said he would ask Bob to speak with Ralph again.

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

MOTION – Selectman Hatch moved to accept the minutes of April 7, 2008 as drafted. Selectman Abbott seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Recycling Committee Update - Stan Bean, Recycling Committee Chairman, was in to discuss the Recycling Committee and Single-Stream Recycling.

Stan stated that in May the Co-Op in Concord would be voting on whether or not to go to single-stream recycling. Stan said he is going on a field trip tomorrow to Auburn, MA to visit a single-stream recycling facility. He said after his visit, he would review the single-stream recycling with the Selectmen, and ask for their direction for the recycling committee. He said a good deal would have to do with the vote of the Co-Op.

Tim Warren distributed copies of Budget Analysis done by Liz Bedard. One was Conversion from Source Separation of Recyclables to Single Stream Recycling – Existing Equipment Option; the other was Conversion from Source Separation of Recyclables to Single Stream Recycling – Compactor Option. Stan reviewed the budget analysis on Conversion from Source Separation of Recyclables to Single Stream Recycling – Compactor Option, which is supposed to be more beneficial to the Town.

Stan noted that the analysis was based on being able to run the recycling center with one less employee than is currently employed at the center. He said if we weren’t able to eliminate one employee, it would cost us approximately \$12,000 more to operate a single-stream system. Stan noted that the analysis showed we would save on tipping fees, but he felt if the Town went to pay-as-you-throw, there would be no advantage to single-stream recycling. The analysis also stated that doing away with the existing glass crusher would save \$408, but Stan said that by doing away with the crusher we would have to pay for crushed aggregate to use in place of the crushed glass, which we are now using in our road projects, so he felt that would not be a savings.

Tim Warren asked if the crushed glass, when used as an aggregate held water or allowed more water to flow through. Stan said it is supposed to allow more water to flow through, and cut down on frost heaving. There was a brief discussion on using the crushed glass as an aggregate, and that it could be either mixed with the gravel, or the glass could be laid down first then a layer of gravel and then the asphalt.

There was considerable discussion as to whether you could eliminate one person by single-stream recycling, and if single-stream recycling would promote greater recycling,

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or if more people would just throw everything into the compactor. The addition of a second compactor and the way the center would have to be set up to handle single-stream recycling, and the affect if would have on the revenue we receive from recycling were also items of discussion.

Stan will meet with the Selectmen again after his visit to the single-stream recycling facility, so they could have his input before making a decision as to how our representative should vote (for or against single-stream recycling) at the May meeting.

Selectman Hatch asked about the status of the recycling committee. Stan said they could resurrect the committee, but the vote of the Co-Op would influence what the recycling committee does. Rachel stated that she would like to see the Recycling Committee become active, and how important it is that we teach the next generation how to take care of their land; she would like to see the committee try to bring back the pay-per-throw, and also would like to see a member of the Board of Selectmen on the Recycling Committee.

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

Bob Flanders – Private Roads – Tim Warren informed the Board that Building Inspector Bob Flanders was here to discuss private roads, and how the Planning Board thought that this might be one way to regulate building permits with the new zoning amendment.

Bob said there had been two permits applied for that previously would have had to go before the Zoning Board, but with the change, he had to issue a permit because it has a State-Approved septic design and meets the setbacks. He said he had spoken with Dick deSeve the day after the joint Planning Board/Selectmen meeting, and Dick had told him that they (the Town) couldn't count on the State to regulate building permits. If the State can approve a septic system, they will; their only concern is if the land will handle the load of the septic system, and if it will, they will issue a permit. Bob added that Dick told him that he had been to one of the Planning Board meetings, and had told them that.

Bob felt the intent of the amendment was to ease up on some cases that would have to go before the ZBA. An example was if the setbacks were met, and there was proper road frontage, but not necessarily the acreage, they wouldn't have to go before the Zoning Board. Betty Ann referred to the two cases for which Bob had said he had to approve building permits because of the change in the ordinance, but previously would have had to go before the Zoning Board. She asked Bob if, in his opinion, the Zoning Board would have turned them down. Bob felt one of them would probably been approved, but felt the other one would never have passed.

There was discussion as to whether private road issues could regulate the issuance of building permits. Private road regulations were discussed, and the fact that the Police

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Chief and Fire Chief have to agree that they could safely get emergency vehicles down the roads, but it is not a vehicle to deny building permits. Selectman Abbott and Bob Flanders will do a site visit to some of the private roads in town on Wednesday, April 16th at 9:00 a.m.

Tim will ask Town Counsel to craft language for an ordinance for the possibility of holding a special Town Meeting. The ordinance would be sent to the Planning Board and Zoning Board for their input. There was considerable discussion about building permits being issued that should not be issued, and the Selectmen were concerned that this is a serious issue, and they would like to work with the Planning Board and the Zoning Board (who ultimately has to enforce the amendment) to get this situation rectified.

FYI's & Other Business

Spring Walk – Thompson Town Forest – Tim informed the Board that there will be a spring walk in the Thompson Town Forest on Saturday, April 26th 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This walk will provide you with the opportunity to meet Andy Fast, the new Belknap County Extension Forester.

Boston Post Cane – Tim reported that we had received the plate for the Boston Post Cane, so it is now ready to be presented to its recipient. The recipient is to be James Pennock of Bunker Lane, and a tentative date for the presentation is April 28th.

Old Business – Selectman Abbott and Chairman Guarino discussed how often they should address unresolved issues from prior meetings; should they question whether phone calls had been made and certain issues followed up weekly, or should they wait a couple of weeks to address them again so they wouldn't be discussing the same thing every week. Don suggested that each week after the review of minutes, they should establish what is being done so that they could wrap up the previous weeks issues. Betty Ann agreed saying that way even if they had made phone calls and not getting issues settled, they would at least have an update.

Iron Works Intersection – Don asked Tim to write a letter to Mark Morrill of DOT (Department of Transportation) informing them that the Town is planning on repainting the crosswalk from the Iron Works library to the post office, and also the stop line at the end of Elm Street where it meets Rte 140. The State is planning on repaving Rte 140 to Alton, so we will ask if they can address the drainage problem and pave the section of Crystal Lake Road from Rte 140 to the dam, and possibly paint a crosswalk from the Church to the Old Town Hall.

Job Bidding – Selectman Hatch said she had received a call from Israel Willard and he had asked her why we hadn't put the paving contract out to bid. She said she had explained to him what they had done for the paving contract. The Town had received a proposal from Wolcott Construction for the paving, and Tim Warren had called other

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paving companies and got prices from them. Wolcott's was the lowest price, so the contract was awarded to them.

Rachel said Mr. Willard had also commented on the fact that one side of the Academy Building gets painted every year, and that is never put out to bid. She said he had also asked if the replacement of the septic system at the Old Town Hall had been put out to bid. Tim said Bob Flanders had been over to the Old Town Hall today because a gentleman was interested in bidding on the septic system, and when checking to see where the pipe exited the building, they noticed it was a pump system, which requires the tank size to be doubled. Tim said we were waiting for the check to the State to be cut this week, so the plan has not been submitted to the State yet. Mr. Noddin will update the plan, and it will be submitted this week. Tim added that the intention is that the septic system be put out to bid.

Tim said as far as the painting of the Academy Building and Old Town Hall, we have asked for quotes, and have gotten only one person to bid. Tim said the gentlemen we have is contracted to finish this building and one side at the Old Town Hall. Tim added that the gentleman uses a special paint, and is the first person to be able to get the paint to stick to the building.

Tim said he had spoken with Paul Perkins about the highway crew prepping the site for paving at the recycling center, and Paul said they don't have the time, so that will also have to be put out to bid. Chairman Guarino suggested asking Wolcott Construction to help us with specs for the bid, and to ask if we could utilize the crushed glass in the base.

Detail Pay – Don said he had talked with Jen, our accounting clerk, regarding the cost to the Town when our police cruisers are used for detail work. It is costing the Town each time one of our cruisers is sent out on a detail. Don felt they should speak with Chief O'Brien about the rates we charge.

Two-way Radios – Recycling Center – Selectman Abbott noted that last week the Selectmen had talked about the need for walkie-talkies, a safety policy and tetanus and hepatitis shots for the employees at the recycling center. She asked if anything had been done about any of these items. Tim replied that he would have to get prices for the two-way radios, and talk with Doug Kaplain. For the shots, he would have to contact LRGH, and that we have a basic safety policy that he felt he could amend for the recycling center.

8:23 p.m. – Enter into Non-Public Session as per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)

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

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The Selectmen discussed a personnel issue.

8:47 p.m. – Out of Non-Public Session

Selectman Hatch moved to come Out of Non-Public Session. Selectman Abbott seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

MOTION – Selectman Hatch moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Selectman Abbott seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

8:50 p.m. –MOTION – Selectman Hatch moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Abbott seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lois Dionne
Recording Clerk