

Minutes
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Tuesday February 25, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

Selectmen Present:
Robert Lang, Ernest Hartley and Colin Stubbings

The meeting was called to order @ 7:00pm by Chairman Lang. He announced that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of preparing the minutes.

Minutes – The minutes for the February 11, 2014 Selectmen’s Meeting were reviewed by the Board. Corrections were made. Selectman Stubbings moved to accept the minutes as amended. Selectman Hartley seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of this motion.

Chairman Lang commented the Board had spoken with Road Agent Frank Rodimon regarding the two warrants articles that he wanted to do this year and they decided to include the \$54,000 Indian Pond Road paving project in this year because the project was contingent upon the Indian Pond Bridge Project being done. Mr. Rodimon feels that if the paving project is done at the same time as the bridge project then the Town might be able to save some money. Resident Helga Mueller asked for clarification as to why the project was now being included on the warrant when the Board said at the last meeting that it would not be on the warrant. Chairman Lang stated that before the prior meeting he had tried to reach Mr. Rodimon to discuss the project, but he was unable to reach him. After the last meeting when he was finally able to speak with Mr. Rodimon, it was brought to the Board’s attention, by Mr. Rodimon, that if this project was done at the same time as the Indian Pond Bridge project it was possible that the paving project could be done for substantially less than the \$54,000. Therefore, the Board felt it was best to keep this project on the warrant this year. Ms. Mueller also wanted to know the status of the Church Street paving project; she thought that the projects were connected. Mr. Rodimon clarified that the projects were in fact two separate projects and the Town would not be putting an article on the warrant for Church Street paving.

Resident Barbara Fowler asked Mr. Rodimon if the area that he intended to pave on Indian Pond Road was from the new bridge up to Neil Robie’s home. Mr. Rodimon said that statement was correct. She also wanted to know if this had been part of the plan for the road when Mr. Rodimon originally rebuilt the road a few years ago. He said that it was always part of his plan. He wanted to wait a couple years before paving that section to make sure that there were no deficiencies in the road. Mr. Rodimon feels that this section of road is holding up really well and paving will help to ensure it last a long time. Ms. Fowler thanked Mr. Rodimon for clarifying.

Manifests – There were no manifests tonight. They were done early since the Treasurer was leaving on vacation.

Highway Department – Frank Rodimon reported that logging has started on the Schwaegler property (R03-20,20A & 36) on Piermont Heights Road. Mr. Rodimon noted that he had looked at the operation and found that it was being done in a dry area and there is no need for a culvert as he originally thought. Mr. Rodimon stated that forester that called him today and said that the truck drivers are concerned that it road is so narrow up there that they would like to take a row of trees of both sides of the road as well as making a few turnouts. Chairman Lang asked if the intent to cut needed to be amended to account for this work. It was noted that they could file a supplemental intent if they ended up going over the original amounts approved on the first intent, but if they didn't the original intent was fine as is. Mr. Rodimon said that he has no issue with this. According to Mr. Rodimon, they would also get rid of the stumps and rocks as well. The Board didn't have an issue with this either, but Chairman Lang asked that Mr. Rodimon get something in writing that outlines that work that will be done so they can keep it with the property file.

Mr. Rodimon stated that during the last snow storm, there were four mailboxes on Mazzilli Drive and Arron Road that were knocked down by the weight of the snow that was being plowed. He said that its been his policy to replace mailboxes that are knocked down if any part of the plow truck hits them, but had no policy for instances where the plowed snow was responsible for the mailboxes coming down. Mr. Rodimon read the state policy in place stating that they are not responsible for replacing any mailboxes that are damaged during winter plowing. He also noted that he had spoken with the Towns of Haverhill and Orford and they currently do not have any written policies in regards to this issue. Mr. Rodimon talked about the issues involved with plowing heavy wet snow. Mr. Rodimon had drafted a written highway policy, which he presented to the Board and asked them to consider adopting it. He noted that he wanted to get the state's entire winter maintenance policy and adapt it to the Town's needs. Chairman Lang asked Mr. Rodimon to work on getting the complete policy and amending it however he feels necessary and bring it back to the Board for review. Selectman Hartley wanted to know if it was clear that none of the mailboxes were clipped by the plow truck. Mr. Rodimon said that it was.

Mr. Rodimon gave the Board a write-up concerning an incident that occurred while he was plowing the parking lot at the Piermont Village School. Chairman Lang asked Mr. Rodimon if he had spoken with Daniels regarding the sand/gravel that they are removing from next to the school playground and where they should be moving it to. Mr. Rodimon explained that Daniels was the company that was working on fixing the washout next to the school playground. As part of the process, they are putting in large rocks and need to remove a large amount of the material currently in that location. Mr. Rodimon stated that the material being excavated is good material. Daniels has agreed to give the material to the Town and they put it in the stockpile.

Ms. Fowler stated to Mr. Rodimon that her address is 151 Bean Brook Road and noted that in the October minutes Mr. Rodimon mentioned a leaf incident in front of Ms. Fowler's house and he referred to the road as Cole Farm Road. She also noted that she had reviewed the minutes from the previous Selectmen's meeting and noted that the road was referred to Cole Hill Road. Ms. Fowler asked him if he would describe the road that is off of Route 10 that she lives on. Mr. Rodimon stated that the road was in fact Bean Brook Road and apologized for misstating the name of the road. Mr. Rodimon also admitted that he was unsure of where Bean Brook Road ended and Cole Farm Road began. Ms. Fowler noted that there was an issue with signage that was being raised, but not by her. She also asked John Metcalf if he had ever heard of Piermont having a Cole Farm Road. Mr. Metcalf stated that he had not. He had heard of Cole Hill Road, but not Cole Farm Road. She wanted to know why Bean Brook Road was not being used during these conversations. Ms. Fowler wanted the record to say Bean Brook Road is the road being talked about not Cole Farm Road or Cole Hill Road. Chairman Lang stated that these discrepancies did not originate from the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Fowler talked briefly about the history behind the naming of the road.

EMD – Bernie Marvin noted that EOC is currently under construction. The base radio is on order and when it comes in; Craig Belcher from Ossipee Mountain Electronics will coordinate the installation of the antenna and connect it to the EOC. Erik Wagstaff will be installing the computers and internet when he gets back. Everything is coming along good. Mr. Marvin has also discussed the project with the State police who have a patrol office in the police department/EOC and they are happy with the arrangements.

Mr. Marvin noted that the table top exercises that he has set up will be concluding this month. As part of the exercises they have been reviewing maps and what if situations as well as talking about the emergency response in Town.

On voting day, Mr. Marvin stated that he will be set up in the lobby to sign up residents for Code Red. He will also have some displays out regarding emergency food management and other things like that.

Selectman Hartley asked if the EOC would be open on town voting day for tours and Mr. Marvin noted that he could make that happen if there was nothing else going on in there. It was also noted that Mr. Marvin will be having an open house when it was all completed.

Sewer/Town Grounds/Cemetery – Mr. Metcalf reported that there was snow on the ground so there was nothing to worry about at this time. The sewer appears to be working well and he hasn't noticed any grease issues since they pumped the tanks out in January.

Mr. Metcalf told the Board that he would like to set up a meeting with the Selectman to discuss the projects that he has been working on with NH DES. He feels that the meeting should only take about 30 minutes or so. Chairman Lang said that they would set something up for after 03/11/14.

Mr. Metcalf also wanted to set up a meeting with the Veterans Memorial Committee on behalf of the Trustees to discuss what their plans are for the Memorial Garden so that things can be ready for Memorial Day.

Mr. Metcalf wanted to know if he had the Board's permission to contact a vendor to get some figures on the cost of material they will need to maintain the baseball diamond this year. Chairman Lang said that was okay.

Executive Assistant – Ms. Collins reported that the reconciliations to the Town Clerk books have been completed. The reconciliations to the Tax Collector's books are almost completed. Ms. Collins has finished the monthly reconciliations to the Tax Collector's books, but still needs to balance back to the MS-61. Ms. Collins noted that there was one small out of balance that she found. Ms. Collins also reported that she has been working on getting the warrant and the Town Report completed.

Ms. Collins noted that Melanson Heath sent their engagement letter, which engages their services for performing the 2013 and 2014 audits. Terri Mertz asked Ms. Collins what the letter was for. Ms. Collins restated that it was an engagement letter and that it allows the auditors to come in and audit our books. It is for the years 2013 and 2014. Chairman Lang signed the letter.

Old Business

Bagley Mediation – Last Thursday (03/20/14) the Board went to Laconia, NH and met with a mediator, Town Attorney and Mr. Donald Bagley to discuss the Bagley appeal. Our assessor, Mark Stetson from Avitar, was there as well. Chairman Lang noted that there was a lot of back and forth discuss, but they were unable to come to any compromise. The case will go to trial in the Superior Court in April this year.

Town Report Update – Everything has been sent to the printer. Chairman Lang showed the cover to the public. There are a few spelling changes that need to be corrected. The budget is pretty much what was presented at the budget hearing. There were few items eliminated. Chairman Lang noted that the budget is down about 3%. He also read a section from the Selectmen's Report that was in the Town Report that talked about the amount of outstanding taxes, which is a major area of concern for the Board. He also mentioned the Board's concern about the Town Buildings.

Ms. Fowler wanted to know if there was a chance that because the culverts weren't on the bridge list that the State would not approve the project. Chairman Lang said no. The project has been approved. However, it may delay when we can actually start the project. Mr. Rodimon reiterated that the project will happen, but we do not know when it will start.

Selectmen Stubbings talked about the funds that are being cut in the State DOT and specifically addressed the decrease in the Highway Block Grant.

Helga Mueller asked when the reports would be available to the public. Ms. Collins said that they would receive a proof that we will need to review and see if any changes need to be made and after we give our okay the reports will be printed and should be available by Monday at the latest.

New Business

Mailbox Issue – Previously discussed.

Avitar Pickups- A representative from Avitar has been in Town doing pickups. Ms. Collins said he would be back at a later date to do the data verification. She noted that it looked like the village area and some of Route 10 would be covered during this year's data verification.

Public Input - Mr. Metcalf stated that they had held their 144th Piermont Mutual Fire Insurance Company meeting and they officially voted to disband the company. They have the amounts that they want to gift to various entities. Mr. Metcalf asked for explanation of the expendable trust funds. Selectman Stubbings said that the ETFs are set up at Town Meeting and the Selectmen have to vote to actually accept the funds. Chairman Lang read the warrant article that was passed on March 9, 1999 that gave the Selectmen the authority to accept donations on behalf of the Town. Selectman Stubbings informed Mr. Metcalf that he had talked to the Town Attorney and cleared up her concerns regarding the donations that the Town was going to be receiving.

Terri Mertz asked for elaboration on the ruling that gave the Selectmen the right to go on to the Veillette's property to clean it up. Chairman Lang said that this has not been fully discussed by the Board as to what they are going to do, but the ruling did allow the Board to clean up the property with the Veillette's being responsible for the costs associated with the clean up. At this time, they are waiting for nicer weather to proceed. Selectman Hartley noted that this case was setting the precedence for others in Town.

Chairman Lang moved to adjourn from the regular meeting at 8:23 pm. Selectman Stubbings seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of this motion.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer L. Collins

Board of Selectman
Robert Lang, Chairman

Approved:

Members of the Public Present at the general meeting as recorded by "sign-in sheet" included:
B. Fowler, H. Mueller, F. Rodimon, T. Mertz, B. Marvin, J. Metcalf and J. Collins