

Minutes
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Tuesday July 15, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

Selectmen Present:
Colin Stubbings and Ernest Hartley

The meeting was called to order @ 7:02pm by Chairman Stubbings.

Chairman Stubbings announced that the meeting was being recorded solely for the purposes of preparing the minutes and that others inside the meeting may also be recording the meeting.

Highway Department – Frank Rodimon thanked Bernie Marvin and Fred Shipman for their help in checking out the roads on 07/02/2014 while he was busy trying to repair others roads that had been damaged by previous storms.

Mr. Rodimon informed the Board that the Orford Road Agent had resigned. He also informed the Board that as of this afternoon, Cole Hill on Bean Brook Road had been reopened.

Resident Helga Mueller had complained about the stoney material that had been put down on Barton Road. Mr. Rodimon explained that they were attempting to widen the road back out since some of it had been washed away and they needed a stoney material to do this. Once he starts his regular grading then they will be putting down some regular gravel.

Selectman Hartley asked if all Town roads were back together and Mr. Rodimon stated that they were all passable.

Emergency Management Director- Bernie Marvin stated that he was happy to help Mr. Rodimon and noted that he has taken it up on himself to continue checking the roads after it storms.

Mr. Marvin said that during the recent storms he had opened the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) three times, but it has been done at his home. He stated that we have been very lucky.

Mr. Marvin plans on holding monthly meetings with emergency responders to keep up with new things that come up.

Mr. Marvin will be meeting with Paul Hatch on 07/23/14. He will also be meeting with Donna Keeley on 08/12/14. Chairman Stubbings noted that the Board would like to liaise with her on a couple of other issues while she is in Town.

Treasurer – Deputy Treasurer, Susan Belyea, had nothing to report. She was expecting that she would be training with the Treasurer tonight after the meeting.

Executive Assistant – Ms. Collins noted that she has been busy with a lot of calls from surveyors, real estate brokers and other individuals requesting assessing data. Also, the auditors had been in Town this past Wednesday. They collected more information and when they left they said that they thought that they had everything they needed, but they have since requested more information.

Manifests – The manifests were reviewed and signed by the Board.

Old Business

Camp Walt Whitman Mediation – Chairman Stubbings and Selectmen Hartley attended a mediation last Tuesday (07/08/14) with the Town Attorney and our independent appraiser, Bruce Taylor, to try and reach an agreement with Camp Walt Whitman so that the case would not have to go to court, but no agreement was reached at that time. Chairman Stubbings stated that the Board is still in communication with Jed Dorfmann at the camp to see if an agreement can still be reached. The latest offer from CWW would result in a reduction in payment to the Town of over \$100,000 over a 5 year period. This would be a huge hit to the tax rate. The Board would like to resolve this out of court, but if we have to go then we will. Currently the Town has two appraisals for the camp that are over \$5M. The camp's appraisal is at \$3.5M. If the case goes to court, it will probably be around August 28, 2014.

Bagley Appeal – The mediation for the Bagley abatement appeal failed and it will go to court on July 25, 2014 at 9:00am.

CWW Mediation Revisited- Property owner, Carlos Manrique, asked for the Board to repeat what was going on with the camp. Chairman Stubbings summarized the events of the case from the beginning. He noted that the camp had appealed their 2011 assessment and feel that they should be assessed around \$3.5 for their property. The Board will need to make a decision on where they want to go if mediation fails.

New Business

Financials - Chairman Stubbings noted that copies of the financials for the month of May were available tonight on the front table. The Tax Collector's report and the Town Clerk's report for June were also available.

Old Business Revisited

Boston Cane – Chairman Stubbings stated that the Board of Selectmen presented the Boston Cane to resident Eleanor Trevithick last Saturday July 12, 2014 at around 11:00am.

New Business Revisited

PA-16 – The Board signed the PA-16. This form needs to be signed by the Board of Selectmen so that the Town can receive a payment in lieu of taxes from the Federal and State Governments for lands that they own in town.

Public Input

Carlos Manrique – Carlos Manrique is a summer resident in Piermont living on Lake Armington. Mr. Manrique stated that he had previously been to a Selectmen's meeting to express his concerns about the ambulance service in that part of Town. His concerns stemmed from an incident that occurred out there and the response from the ambulance was in his opinion inadequate. Mr. Manrique also noted that a number of residents in the lake area had written to the Board along with himself, but they had not received any response from the Board. He feels that this is a very serious issue that needs to be addressed.

Chairman Stubbings stated that the Board has in fact been working and doing research on this issue. Chairman Stubbings noted that in regards to the incident the Mr. Manrique was referring to, the dispatch records indicate that it was called in as a fainting spell. Therefore it was classified as a minor case and the ambulance responded according to the severity of the case. However, Chairman Stubbings noted that we still need to look into the response times of the ambulance.

Chairman Stubbings noted that just recently there was another incident in the area, in where an individual passed away at Lake Tarleton. Grafton County dispatch received that call at 11:56am and that call was then dispatched to Hanover Dispatch Center at 11:59am. There was some confusion over the location of the incident because there was no cell service in the area and the person calling it in had to walk away from the area. The first unit on the scene was Piermont Rescue 1, which arrived at 12:16pm. The Board did not have Upper Valley Ambulance's response time to the incident because they are dispatched from Hanover, NH. Chairman Stubbings noted that Grafton County Dispatch cannot call Upper Valley Ambulance directly. They have to call Hanover Dispatch and then Hanover will put the call out to Upper Valley.

Mr. Manrique responded to some of Chairman Stubbings comments. He noted that he was there at the incident that was classified as a fainting spell and they had not called it in as a fainting spell. They didn't know what kind of emergency it was. Chairman Stubbings noted that it was possible that dispatch made the determination that the call was a non-emergency. Mr. Manrique stated that in regards to the incident at Lake Tarleton the person making the 911 call had to come to the Langley house to make the call. Mr. Manrique suggested that the phone company should put in an emergency phone up in the area.

Chairman Stubbings noted that in 1988 the Town's ambulance service was being discontinued and Piermont became a charter town for the founding of Upper Valley Ambulance, which was

created in 1990 and approved by the Town. Chairman Stubbings feels that this means that we are obligated to stick with Upper Valley Ambulance. He also noted that in reading Town Meeting notes from that time that Warren/Wentworth Ambulance and Woodsville Ambulance did not want to take on calls from Piermont.

Chairman Stubbings noted that they are looking into the costs of employing both ambulance services. The Board has been in contact with Brian Clark at Warren/Wentworth Ambulance and Jim Hayes at the Lakes Region Dispatch Center. Chairman Stubbings summarized it by saying that it will come down to the costs, whether or not Warren/Wentworth Ambulance is willing to take on Piermont and how will dispatch be able to handle everything. He also noted that the Board will continue to work on this issue.

Mr. Manrique noted that it was nice to hear about the work that the being done, but it would have been better if the Board had responded to the letters that had been sent by some of the residents up at the Lakes.

Mr. Manrique stated that the camps have an arrangement with Warren/Wentworth Ambulance and wanted to know why they were exempt. Chairman Stubbings stated that they were paying the costs for those dispatch services.

Selectman Hartley noted that the Board also needs to consider that a lot of the residents out there are seasonal residents. He also stated that the Town is on mutual aid and if our current ambulance service is busy then another service will be called, but it would still take time for them to get there and who knows where the other service would be coming from.

Resident Terri Mertz commented that there were still a lot of full-time residents out there as well. The Board said that was true.

Ms. Mertz also asked why the first incident was downgraded to a non-emergency call. She wanted to know who made that judgment call.

Mr. Manrique thanked the Board again for working on the issue, but again stated that it would have been nice to have known that all this work was being done. Chairman Stubbings stated that this had been discussed in the Thursday morning worksessions and the minutes for those worksessions could be found online at the Town's website. Mr. Manrique said that he had reviewed the minutes and couldn't find any reference to the issue. Chairman Stubbings looked through his minutes, but couldn't find the reference at this time, but did note that the Board has been working on the issue and will continue to do so.

Helga Mueller asked what the problem was with getting a phone put in up at the Lakes for emergencies. The Board will look into this and see if this might be a possibility.

Resident Helga Mueller wanted to know what was being done with George Smith's house. It was stated that the Town has taken the property and the Board is currently following the necessary procedures that need to be taken in order for the Town to offer the property for sale.

Chairman Stubbings noted that the Board doesn't want to take property, but some people are just ignoring their taxes and leaving the Board with no choice but to take the property.

Resident Terri Mertz asked the Board what the status of the Mazzilli Fire Pond was. Chairman Stubbings said that Byron Kidder had been out to look at the pond and they haven't heard back from him yet. Mr. Kidder is working on preparing the necessary lot line adjustments that need to be presented to the Piermont Planning Board. It will be a special exception because the property will be coming to the Town. Chairman Stubbings said that Fire Chief Bruce Henry will get involved once the Town officially owns the pond as well as Road Agent Frank Rodimon. Ms. Mertz commented that there was a large roller out by the pond right now. Mr. Rodimon noted that the town is currently renting the roller, but due to the rain damage to some of the Town's roads over the past couple of weeks he has not been able to use it. Mr. Rodimon asked Ms. Mertz how the hill on Mazzilli Drive was holding up and she said it was fine. Mr. Rodimon did a great job with it.

Ms. Mertz also asked what the status was with the Police Chief's contract. Chairman Stubbings said that he could not comment on that at all. Ms. Mertz didn't hear his response and asked him to repeat it. Chairman Stubbings stated again that he could neither comment on that in any way at all. Ms. Mertz asked him why. Chairman Stubbings said because he couldn't. He stated that she could ask the question as many times as she liked and in many different ways and she will still get the same answer. He can neither deny nor confirm whatever she is asking. Ms. Mertz asked the Board if the Town has a police chief right now. Chairman Stubbings said that at the moment we did. Ms. Mertz asked if Bob Garvin was still Police Chief and Chairman Stubbings responded yes. Ms. Mertz again asked if he had a contract. Chairman Stubbings stated that he was not sure what Ms. Mertz had heard and she stated that she hadn't heard anything, which was why she was asking the question. Chairman Stubbings inquired as to why she was asking the questions if she hadn't heard anything. Ms. Mertz stated that it was because at almost every meeting that she goes to it's one of the questions that she asks. Selectman Hartley stated that it was a personnel issue and that they could not discuss personnel issues. Chairman Stubbings asked if that answered her questions. Ms. Mertz responded that she only had those two questions.

Minutes – The minutes from the 06/17/14 meeting were reviewed and changes were made. Selectman Hartley moved to accept the minutes as amended. Chairman Stubbings seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of this motion.

Selectman Hartley moved to adjourn to executive session per RSA 91:A-3,2C at 8:05PM. Chairman Stubbings seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of this motion.

The Board adjourned from executive session at 8:20 PM. Selectman Hartley moved to adjourn from the regular meeting at 8:20 PM. Chairman Stubbings seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of adjourning from the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer L. Collins

Board of Selectman
Colin Stubbings, Chairman

Approved:

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