

Minutes  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
**Tuesday February 11, 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.

**Barbara Fowler** – Resident Barbara Fowler noted that she had read the minutes from the December 17, 2013 meeting in the Journal Opinion and there was statement that was in the minutes attributed to her, but she noted that she was not present at that meeting and she wanted to know who made that statement. Chairman Lang thought that it was possibly Frank Rodimon and noted that the statement was made in the middle of the Road Agents' report and read the previous paragraph that summarized a conversation between the Road Agent and Chairman Lang regarding signage on Piermont Heights Road. The next paragraph stated that Barbara Fowler talked about signage on Cole Hill. Chairman Lang mentioned that Mr. Rodimon has had discussions over the last month, but Mrs. Fowler noted that she has not had any discussions with Mr. Rodimon. Chairman Lang noted that Mr. Rodimon has told them that he had done some work up on Cole Hill. She did note that she had spoken with Mr. Rodimon about a leaf issue in front of her house. Mrs. Fowler noted that Mr. Rodimon was not present tonight, but wanted to read a statement to be placed in the minutes. Mrs. Fowler read the following statement: "The approved Minutes of the Piermont Selectmen's Meeting for December 17, 2013 included the following statement: "Resident Barbara Fowler asked about putting some signage on Cole Hill noted that the road is not suitable for large vehicles." Barbara Fowler was not present at the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The quotation was unauthorized, materially inaccurate, factually incorrect, and does not represent the actions or opinions of Mrs. Fowler. Mrs. Fowler thinks that this was a case of wishful thinking on the part of Road Agent, Frank Rodimon." Chairman Lang noted that he was a little confused. He wanted to know if signage was an issue on Cole Hill. Mrs. Fowler noted that signage was never discussed with Mr. Rodimon and she was not prepared to make a statement on this issue. Mrs. Fowler said that she wanted to give the issue more thought before she commented on it and wanted to make sure she was not misquoted. Selectman Hartley noted that he was trying to recall a conversation with Mr. Rodimon about an 18 wheeler that had attempted to go over Cole Hill Road because of the directions gotten off of his GPS and then had to back into Mrs. Fowler's yard to turn around. Mrs. Fowler noted that she had called Chief Garvin and discussed the situation with him, because if there were any issues she felt he would want to know. She also noted that she had no discussion with Mr. Rodimon on that issue and felt that Mr. Rodimon had possibly heard about the situation from Chief Garvin. Selectman Hartley said he recalled a conversation about possibly putting a sign up to prevent this from happening again because this wasn't the first time that the GPS had misdirected vehicles over Cole Hill. Mrs. Fowler noted that she did have that conversation with Selectman Hartley.

**Minutes** – The minutes for the January 21, 2014 Selectmen’s Meeting were reviewed by the Board. Corrections were made. Chairman Lang moved to accept the minutes as amended. Selectman Hartley seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of this motion.

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

**EMD** – Bernie Marvin noted that there would be an EOC meeting in the morning and the work continues. Erik Wagstaff will do the wiring and installation of the equipment. The countertop separator is there presently. There have been three activations of the Emergency Operations Center that have been done from inside the center. Mr. Marvin had a meeting with Paul Hatch in the middle of last week and he likes the way its working. The table top exercises concerning community safety will be continuing. Friday’s “table-top” meeting has been moved up to Thursday due to the impending weather. Chairman Lang asked about the radio antenna that is supposed to be installed in the Old Church Building. Mr. Marvin noted that this should be done by the end of the month. Selectman Hartley noted that an internet connection needs to be put into the meeting room of the Old Church Building. Mr. Wagstaff said that one will be put in when he puts one in for the EOC.

**Treasurer** – Erik Wagstaff noted that he is working on finishing up his report for the Town Report. He is trying to get the numbers as close as he can. Chairman Lang asked Ms. Collins when reports need to be into the printers. She said that they should be in by the end of next week. Chairman Lang said that stuff should be in by February 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Fire Department** – Chief Henry noted that they have had 4 calls for service recently. The department has submitted applications for Hunter Bingham and Joseph Mazzilli to become Level 1 certified. The Bethlehem training Center has been in the works for a while and is now about 90% done. The ice rescue training to be held at Indian Pond has been rescheduled. The burning to be done on a home up at Lake Katherine will be done after the taxes have been paid. There will be other trainings to be held up there as well. Chief Henry said that the department had a situation on Tarbox Lane. Smoke was spotted up there and when they went to respond they had difficulties getting up the road.

Chief Henry said that there will be building tours in August that was set up by Tim Cole.

The ditch work has been done over at the Fire Department to help divert the water. It appears to be working well.

They are working on getting their tags together between all the departments. There are two tags that they use at a fire scene to help account for all firefighters, which they are trying to coordinate between the area departments.

A few weeks ago, they did a drill down at the Four Corners.

Chairman Lang noted Terry Robie came into the office the other day in regards to the property on the lake that is scheduled to be burned. There are some concerns about the footprint of the building.

Because the property is on the lake, any new building built needs to be rebuilt using the original footprint. Chairman Lang said they are trying to figure out how they will record the original blueprint. Chairman Lang suggested that Byron Kidder could place the pins marking the footprint after he is done surveying the fire pond on Mazzilli Drive. The owner of the property will be in town next week and Mr. Robie will discuss this with him at that time. Chairman Lang asked Chief Henry if they had the certification from DES which says that they are okay with the building being burned. Chief Henry said that the property owner says that he has the certification, but Chief Henry has not seen it yet.

Chairman Lang noted that if the fire department has another situation like they did on Tarbox Lane, then they might want to call the home owner first to see if there is something actually happening before they try to go up there.

**Executive Assistant** – Ms. Collins reported that she had been working on getting the year end reports done. She has gotten the 1099s and W-2s out. She has also continued to work on the reconciliations. The Town Clerk reconciliations are just about done and she is still working on the tax collector reconciliations. Ms. Collins also reported that she has been working on getting the department head reports together to put the Town Report together. Selectman Hartley asked Ms. Collins if she had gotten his voicemail concerning an employee's W-2. She said that she had gotten the message and spoke with the employee today. The employee's address was listed in the system incorrectly. Ms. Collins has corrected it and resent the W-2.

### **Old Business**

**Fire Department By-Laws** – Chairman Lang reminded everyone that during the review of the department by-laws by the Town Attorney, the questions came up about when the fire department was originally set up. Nancy Cole did some research on this and could not find anything that showed that the town actually set up the fire department. It was determined that the department was probably created around 1934 after the fire at the Gould's Store. There will be a warrant article in the Town Report setting up the Fire Department. Chairman Lang said that nothing will change with the department; this will just legally establish the fire department. One of the first things that they need to deal with is how the firefighters are being hired. This is a concern that was brought up by the Town Attorney. The Board will hire the firefighters because they are ultimately responsible for the fire department. Also background checks will be run on all new applications to ensure that they are viable. Resident Helga Mueller asked the Board if they would actually hire the firefighters. Chairman Lang said yes. There was further discussion about the background checks and the importance of getting them done. Selectman Hartley noted that we have been doing the background checks already and Chief Henry said that the background checks are essential. Chairman Lang noted that if we send a background check into NH, then we only get a NH background check. Resident Terri Mertz asked if the Board could send out to other states. Chairman Lang said yes they were sending to other entities beside NH. The Board is working with the town attorney on a procedure to meet the Town's needs without the costs being too high.

**Indian Pond Project** – Chairman Lang noted that he had spent a large amount of time at the DOT on Thursday trying to figure out the status of our project on Indian Pond. The biggest issue right now is

that the Board has applied for a bridge grant, but there is currently not a “bridge” number assigned to the project. This is now in the process and hopefully this project will be done once the bridge number has been assigned.

**Wastewater Management Grant** – On Friday, Beth Malcomb sent Chairman Lang an e-mail that they are now processing our grant, but they needed a copy of an invoice to be sent to her. This invoice has been sent to her so hopefully everything is all set now to process our grant.

**UVLSRPC Hazardous Waste & Unwanted Medicines Collections Agreement** – Chairman Lang noted that the Board had previously sent a letter to the UVLSRPC supporting their endeavors in getting recycling grants. The Board is signing an agreement with UVLSRPC to hold another hazardous waste collection like the town held last fall. Chairman Lang signed the agreement.

**Town Website – Notchnet Web Services** – Selectman Stubbings said that he is waiting for the Selectboard to decide on a domain name. The Board decided on townofpiermonthnh.org. Selectman Stubbings will move forward with acquiring this domain name.

### **New Business**

**Timber Tax** – The Board signed a timber tax for Brad Simpson (R18-8A). The total tax billed was \$1,476.24. The logger came in and wrote a check already for the taxes, which Ms. Collins will give to the tax collector along with the signed tax warrant. The Board signed the warrant and certification. Resident Barbara Fowler said that she thought that the state figured out the timber tax. The Board and Ms. Collins explained that they did not, but the state did provide the Town with a range for each type of wood. Ms. Collins noted that she did have another intent, but had not received the matrix so she was going to send them a letter requesting that they fill out a matrix and send it back.

**Tarbox Lane** – Previously discussed

**Walter Donovan Property Survey** – This was previously discussed. Chairman Lang reiterated that they wanted to make sure that the original footprint was preserved. Ms. Mueller asked if the Board knew how far this new property was away from the camp. The Board did not know.

**Thursday February 13, 2014** – The Board will be in Laconia, NH for a 10:00am meeting with the Town Attorney, Donald Bagley and a mediator to discuss Mr. Bagley’s appeal of his 2013 abatement.

**Public Input** – Ms. Mertz asked the Board for an update on the Mazzilli fire pond. Chairman Lang relayed that the town is going to have Byron Kidder come in when the weather is nicer and survey the fire pond so see how much area will be included in the transfer. Mr. Wagstaff wanted to know if there would be a page set up for forms on the website. Selectman Stubbings said that there would be. Chairman Lang noted that he had tried to find Mr. Rodimon today to discuss the two warrant articles that he had submitted. Chairman Lang noted that the Board has taken the position this year to present a bare bones budget. He also noted that there is approximately \$550K outstanding in back taxes. The Board is hoping not to have any projects this year other than the items that the Board encumbered

funds for at the end of last year. Therefore, they would like to eliminate the two highway department warrants articles that were discussed at the budget hearings. The first article was for \$81,000 to pave Church Street and the other was for \$54,000 to pave the section of Indian Pond that Mr. Rodimon had previously repaired. The second project is contingent upon the state approving the bridge grants and the work getting done on the bridge. Chairman Lang noted that if we can take some time off from special projects then the Board can focus on the issues of finding a new building for the town office. The Town is in need of a new building that will house, the Selectboard, the Town Clerk, the Tax Collector and the police. Chairman Lang noted that the current location of the police department, next to the school, is not an ideal location so the Board would like to see it moved. The Emergency Management Director would stay in the Old Church Building.

Selectman Hartley said that the town needs to start spending some money on our buildings, but we need to spend it wisely. There was some further discussion as to why a new building was necessary and how the Board would go about deciding where it might be located. The Board is looking for some ideas from the residents in town to see what they could come up with. The Board will be looking into some grants to see what is out there.

Chairman Lang noted that the Board will be including a warrant article this year to have the tax collector appointed instead of elected. Chairman Lang noted that there are a lot of responsibilities that the tax collector has and an individual must be able to commit fully to those responsibilities and duties. Chairman Lang noted that the previous tax collector never properly liened the 2011 property taxes and now the town has to recover them through small claims court.

Selectman Hartley said that he wants to set up a day with Chief Henry and the rest of the fire department to do a drill with the new generator hookup that was installed at the Town Office Building. Most of the building will function as normal when the generator is hooked up to it. There will be no hot water available when on the generator.

Chairman Lang moved to adjourn from the regular meeting at 8:35 pm. Selectman Hartley 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, B. Henry, T. Mertz, B. Marvin, E. Wagstaff and J. Collins