

Draft Minutes
Board of Selectmen Work Session
Thursday October 6, 2016

Selectmen Present:
Randy Subject and Colin Stubbings

Also present: Frank Rodimon, Road Agent, Suzanne Woodard, G. Stelzner

Chairman Subject called meeting to order at 7:00 pm and announced that the meeting will be recorded for the purpose of accurate minutes.

Chairman Subject stated that this is a work session so there will be no public input.

Teran Mertz read a statement. The statement is attached as presented to the Board

Nobis contract for Landfill Closure Monitoring was reviewed. There are no changes from the previous contract. All in favor of signing the contract, Chairman Subject signed the contract with Nobis for Landfill Closure Monitoring.

Sewer Tax Warrant was reviewed. Selectman Stubbings made a motion to sign the warrant. Chairman Subject seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Sewer Tax Warrant was signed.

Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) for Map R08, Lot 1 recommendation from Mark Stetson, Avitar was reviewed. Selectman Stubbings made a motion to approve the LUCT as recommended by Mr. Stetson. Chairman Subject seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Tax Collector's Warrant was signed by the Board.

Road Agent- Frank Rodimon gave an update on the lack of water at the Town Garage, Transfer Station and Cemetery. There was an estimate done last year to upgrade and redo the water lines from the well down. It has been determined there is a leak in the water line between the well and the distribution box at the bottom of the hill. Since that estimate was done there has been an increase of 6 cents per foot in the cost of the water line itself. Mr. Rodimon has also added a curb stop to the project to allow for the water to be shut off at the well for repairs to be done. The total price from Ferguson Water Works is \$4524.00. Currently the water lines are in a small work space lined with tiles. Mitchie Corporation makes a pre-fabricated manhole that can be delivered and installed. The estimated grand total for the job is \$9000.00

Timber Tax- Three Timber Tax Warrants were reviewed by the Board. Selectman Stubbings gave an update so that all Board members are aware of the current situation regarding the timber, gravel and land use change taxes. Selectman Stubbings made a motion to sign the Timber Tax Warrants. Chairman Subject seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

HEB sent a letter regarding the Indian Pond Bridge project. The letter will be read at the Selectmen's Meeting on October 11, 2016.

The Minutes from September 27, 2016 will be reviewed on Tuesday October 11, due to Selectwoman Mertz's request.

The Roundup Policy was discussed. It will be discussed further on Tuesday October 11, 2016.

Outstanding Actions List was reviewed and discussed. Updates were made as needed.

Selectman Stubbings moved to adjourn meeting. Chairman Subjeck seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Rugar

Board of Selectman

Randy Subjeck

Colin Stubbings

Teran Lee Mertz

Approved:

**STATEMENT OF PIERMONT SELECTWOMAN TERRI MERTZ
TO BE READ INTO THE RECORD OF THE PIERMONT SELECTBOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2016**

First, from the time I was elected until I took my leave of absence, the focus of our other two Board members had been to become increasingly hostile toward me in both their actions and words to the point where valuable Board time was being wasted in their attempts to discredit me at every opportunity while little in the way of Town business was being accomplished.

Second, in my opinion and observations, I had indications that our other two Board members were repeatedly and knowingly violating our State's Right-to-Know laws to the point where they were almost continuously acting without my knowledge or consent or abusing those laws in a manner that I felt was causing harm to our Town.

My attempts to correct those situations were met with further resistance, which left me no choice but to file a formal complaint in Grafton County Superior Court, supported by well over 400 pages of documents in evidence, to force compliance on the part of the two other Board members with the Right-to-Know laws. I did so in an effort to protect everyone and to enable me to return to the task, to quote the statute, of ensuring "both the greatest possible public access to the actions, discussion and records of all public bodies, and their accountability to the people", which has not always been the case in Piermont government.

Despite what you may have heard, there is nothing illegal about a member of a public body taking a leave of absence for valid reasons; several towns in New Hampshire have actually required that Select Board and School Board members take leaves of absence until the issues before them are resolved.

By taking my leave of absence, I did so knowing that normal Town business would not be harmed because, except for the instances where Board voting on a matter was unanimous, every matter I brought before the Board in an attempt to improve the lives of our citizens and correct past discrepancies was always defeated by a vote of 2 to 1 against me.

However, in reviewing the published minutes of subsequent Board meetings and comparing them with recordings of those same meetings, I find indications that not only are attempts to skirt the Right-to-Know laws apparently still being made, but that citizens exercising their rights under those laws are now being verbally harassed and chided for being "silly", with no explanation as to why.

The result is that I find it necessary to return from my Leave of Absence to at least attempt to protect our citizens from undue harassment in the exercise of their rights and to put back into public view changes to procedures and documents that I think will not only make our town government more efficient but could significantly reduce the town budget.

I encourage all citizens of Piermont and the general public to attend as many of our Board meetings as possible, whether the regular ones or the Work Sessions, which are still required to be open to the public and can be recorded by anyone without a public announcement that they are recording the meeting, so that you may observe the actions of your Selectboard and help ensure that all town business is conducted in a completely open manner and that the entire Board is held accountable to the public for their actions.