

February 16, 2012
Selectmen's Meeting

Present: C. Guiry Chairman, A. Richards, R. P. McGinnity & A.A. Milkovits

Meeting opened at 7:00 PM with two hearings on petitioned warrant articles. There were 5 residents present for the hearings. None were supporters or signers of the articles.

Moderator Catherine Schwenk was also present for the discussion.

Chairman Guiry opened the hearings by reading the petitioned articles and explaining the SB 2 article and the five member Board of Selectmen article. He then opened up the hearings for public comment. All present agreed that SB 2 would not be helpful for the town and cited the school situation as an example. Also all were in agreement that for a small town as Mason having a five member Board of Selectmen would not work well. Most years it is hard to find people to run for one opening on the Board. Hearings ended at 7:25 PM.

Vendor checks were then discussed and check register signed.

Agenda:

Appointments:

1. Settlement Hearing for abatement appeal of 2010 taxes of Carlene Gavin for 24 Townsend Road, lot H-72-1. Town assessor Richard Rockwood was present to represent the town. Mrs. Gavin was present and her daughter Attorney Maria Gavin was her representative. Attorney Gavin presented an appraisal recently done on the property. After all present had reviewed the appraisal, Mr. Rockwood pointed out that the appraisal was based on April 1, 2011 and the abatement appealed is for tax year 2010. He also cited some other issues with the appraisal such as higher than allowed adjustment percentages, problem with comparables – not comparing same gross living area (comparing 4,700' sq. with 2,900' sq.), out of town comparables, not appropriate comps. After more discussion, Mr. Rockwood and Selectmen recommended that the Gavins do research and return at a later date with a more appropriate appraisal. Attorney Gavin persisted in arguing that there would not be any other comparables in the state. Mr. Rockwood suggested allowing the appraiser to do more research to find other comparables that are over 4,000 square feet in living area and with 50 to 100 acres. All agreed to return at a later date. Attorney Gavin will explain to BTLA that a settlement was not reached at this time but the two parties are still negotiating.
2. Martin Milkovits, candidate for Town Clerk/Tax Collector, met with the Board to discuss options for appointing a deputy TC/TX. Mr. Milkovits will be having hip surgery on March 22nd and is concerned for the status of the TC/TX office if he should win the election. He would like to be able to hire (with the Selectmen's appointment) temporary deputies from a surrounding town to work in the office while he is recovering from his surgery and during his training as TC/TX. The present deputy TC/TX is also running for the position and has not made up her mind if she will remain as deputy if she loses the election. After more discussion,

**February 16, 2012
Selectmen's Meeting**

the Board decided to consult town counsel on this matter. The Selectmen agreed that the answer from counsel may be directly given to Mr. Milkovits.

3. Police Chief Barry Hutchins met with the Board to seek clarification concerning his salary status and expected shift coverage. Selectman McGinnity explained that the new annual salary of \$78,000 is based on a 40 hour work week. Some weeks, depending on the workload, may have longer hours but the salary remains the same. Longer hours worked in one week do not necessarily constitute reduced work hours the next week. Chief Hutchins must figure out the balance. Chief explained that Officer Duval will be out on a medical issue for two months and he wanted to know if he (the Chief) is expected to work those extra shifts. Selectmen emphasized that the Chief is not expected to work the open shifts. They recommended that he use part time officers to cover some of the shifts and State Police. The Chief is in the process of doing a background check on a new part time officer. He's hoping to have the check completed in two weeks and then there will be training for the new officer before he can work on his own. Chief Hutchins will not rush the hiring process for the convenience of the Department. He also mentioned his concern for having State Police coverage. In the past the State Police coverage has been kept to a minimum. Selectmen emphasized that this is a special circumstance with an officer out for two months necessitating the State Police coverage. Selectmen also encouraged the Chief to keep communications on the progress of the Police Department hiring and shift coverage. The Chief would like a letter or memo from the Selectmen concerning the use of the State Police.

Selectmen reviewed the following:

1. 2012 Warrant and MS-6 Budget: Selectmen signed the forms which will be posted tomorrow.
2. From FEMA: Two copies of Project Applications under Disaster FEMA-4049-DR-NH, under Category B – Funding: \$3,249.80 and \$5,348.59.
3. 2011 EQ Ratio study: 100% EQ for all assessing for 2011. 103% median EQ for all abatement requests.
4. Letter from Sharon Malouf, requesting a change in status of her Special Exception, to be forwarded for review by Attorney Silas Little.
5. MS-61
6. Police Logs Email from Chief Hutchins concerning medical leave of Officer.
7. State Septic Approval: Lot H-17, Adonizio
8. Building Permit: #12-03 Arsenov, lot B-14-4, electric for generator, #12-04 Kullman, lot L-2-1, miscellaneous house upgrades
9. Receipts for sale of more HD scrap
10. Photo of water and ice buildup on Old Ashby Road from driveway at 407 Old Ashby Road. There are other areas in town where water runs onto the road from properties. The Road Agent has researched the RSAs on this matter and found it is the property owner's responsibility to repair this problem. If the town corrects the problem then the owner will be liable for the cost of the mediation. The Road Agent will be instructed to give notice to the property owners where this is an

February 16, 2012
Selectmen's Meeting

issue to cease this run-off and mitigate immediately or that the town will repair it on their cost.

11. Application for Veteran's Credit: Herbert Gutheil. This was approved for 2012 tax year.
12. Email from Wolf Rocker Patricia Greene informing the Board of an injury to one of the club members from the coat rack falling off the wall at the Town Hall. Since this incident the coat rack has been re-attached securely.
13. Grant information from NH Division of Forests and Lands for Volunteer Fire Assistance Funds. This was forwarded to the Fire Chief.
14. From Highway Safety Agency: Fundable Program Areas – Mason has applied for the 2012 DWI Over-Time Patrols and the Selective Traffic Enforcement Over-Time Patrols.
15. Conservation Commission February 8th minutes
16. Email from Mason School Business Manager concerning upcoming meeting with auditors.
17. From State of NH D.O.T.: Driveway Permit Application for Mason Brook Nursery.
18. Other correspondence: Notice of Foreclosure – Jodoin, 132 Old Turnpike Road

A non-public session was called by the Board at 8:50 PM to further discuss a personnel issue. Present were the Selectmen and A. A. Milkovits. Selectman McGinnity wished to speak to the Town Clerk concerning the cessation of her receiving the Municipal Agent fees. The RSAs were clear that a Municipal Agent could not receive the fees if the Agent is paid by salary by the municipality. This has been the case for the last three years. Chairman Guiry stated that he had explained to the Town Clerk and her Deputy that, in the future, no Municipal Agent fees would be paid. The fees would be deposited in the town's General Fund. He did not feel it was necessary to further discuss this issue with the Town Clerk. Session ended at 8:55 PM.

Selectmen signed the following:

- Forms for propane tank ownership – town will be switching to Haffner's for savings on cost of propane.

Chairman Guiry suggested that, after town meeting, the Board have Mason Broadband Committee member Stephen Hoffman research having a wireless connection by a separate provider on the new town antenna. This may allow another section of town to have a better internet connection.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.