

March 27, 2012
Selectmen's Meeting

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

Meeting opened at 7:30 PM. Vendor checks were then discussed and the check register signed.

Selectman Anne Richards made a motion to nominate R. Peter McGinnity as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. The motion was seconded and voted in the affirmative to nominate Selectman McGinnity as Chairman. Mrs. Richards also made a motion to appoint Chairman McGinnity as the ex-officio for the Planning Board. The motion was seconded and voted in the affirmative to appoint Chairman McGinnity as the ex-officio for the Planning Board.

Agenda:

Appointments:

1. Stephen Hoffman, Mason Broadband Committee, updated the Selectmen with an overview of the Committee findings. FairPoint has a commitment for 95% coverage of the state for DSL by April 2013. There will still be households without wireless, especially areas in Mason. The Department of Agriculture is over the rural areas for broadband coverage. Mr. Hoffman suggests allowing wireless providers on towers, ninety foot or less. He will forward a template for a wireless tower ordinance, similar to what other communities are using. He also recommends bringing the broadband coverage to the Town's Master Plan. Mr. Hoffman discussed the survey on wireless and broadband that he recently completed with AA Milkovits. According to the answers, the town offices and library could use training and help on these issues. He is willing to help with training and setting up the wifi for the public access use through the library. He also discussed the meeting of NH Fast Roads linking Nashua and Keene through fiber optics. Mr. Hoffman will keep the Board updated on this issue.
2. Debra Morrison, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, requested that the credit card option for paying property taxes be removed from the website as the information on the payee is too difficult to track. A motion was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative to remove the credit card option. Mrs. Morrison requested a non-public session to discuss appointing a Deputy. Session called at 7:57 PM. Present were the Selectmen, Town Clerk/Tax Collector and AA Milkovits. Mrs. Morrison requested that the Board appoint Suzanne Kelly as Deputy, citing her computer experience and other clerical and financial qualifications. Selectmen approved her request to appoint Mrs. Kelly for a term of 60 days probation. Session ended at 8:01 PM.
3. Cindy Dockter, New Ipswich, met with the Board to request enrolling her children in the Mason School District. Ms. Doctor and her husband are building a home on Campbell Mill Road and may not finish until late fall for occupancy. Since her children are in high school, they would like to be enrolled for September to choose classes and participate in any summer sports activities. After more discussion, it was decided to contact legal counsel for advice to find out if it is legal to enroll before occupancy and if it is legal for the Selectmen to decide this

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- issue. Mr. Maillet also inquired what would constitute occupancy; he was advised to contact the Building Inspector for his answer.
4. Police Chief Hutchins as the Chairman of Joint Loss Committee gave a letter, from the Committee to the Board regarding the non-compliance of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector for Workplace Safety. At the last Committee meeting, the Deputy TC/TxC stated that the Clerks would continue to allow the public inside the office rather than conduct the business at the counter as directed by the Board of Selectmen. The Joint Loss Committee requests that the Selectmen resolve this issue with the Clerks. Mrs. Morrison was present for this discussion. Chairman McGinnity related the background on the workplace safety issue and the resultant changes in the town offices. The office doors are now complete with locking handles on the outside and lexan on the top half with a round hole in the center for speaking and a slot cut-out for passing papers. On the outside of the door a shelf may be raised to accommodate paperwork for any customers. Mrs. Morrison stated that the privacy for the customers is of the utmost importance to her and she feels the change in the office arrangement will not work. She feels she should be able to allow customers that she recognizes to come inside the office. Mrs. Milkovits objected to that argument as, in a small town such as Mason people are easily known and recognized but not all would necessarily be welcome inside the office in close quarters. If Mrs. Morrison allowed someone in the office who became violent then any worker in the Selectmen's office would be trapped. After more discussion, it was decided to request Inspector DiGangi, D.O.L. to return to inspect the offices for the workplace safety. At that time, the Selectmen, Town Clerk/Tax Collector and AA Milkovits will be present to review with the Inspector the requirements for workplace safety. In the meantime, Selectmen will allow Mrs. Morrison to allow customers that she knows personally to come inside the office for their business, one at a time.
 5. Barbara Devore, Conservation Commission member, discussed the Button Up Program. This is a program to help people find ways to tighten up their houses for heating, etc. The program requires two town sponsors; the Conservation Commission will be sponsoring and have also requested that the Selectmen sponsor the upcoming workshop on April 30th. After more discussion, the Selectmen made a motion that was seconded and voted in the affirmative to sponsor the workshop for April 30, 2012.
 6. Police Chief Hutchins requested a non-public session to discuss personnel issues. Session was called at 8:44 PM. Present were Selectmen, Police Chief Hutchins and AA Milkovits. Chief Hutchins explained that all the full time employees are grateful for our health insurance benefits especially in light of the questions and attempts to change the coverage at Town Meeting. He is requesting that the Board of Selectmen enter into an employment agreement, for benefits only. Prior hired full time employees would maintain their present health coverage 100% funded by the town. The intention is to secure (freeze) the benefits for the present employees and extend this benefit through retirement. Selectmen discussed the possibilities but made no decision at this time. Selectman Moser will review this request with LGC and bring his findings to the next meeting. Session ended at 8:50 PM.

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Selectmen reviewed the following:

1. MS-2 and MS-5 were reviewed and signed.
2. Audit for former Town Clerk/Tax Collector from January 1, 2012 to March 17, 2012. Warrants for new Tax Collector were signed.
3. Minutes from 2012 Town Elections and Town Meeting
4. Recount request from Charles Moser for Warrant Article 3 – Five member Board of Selectmen. Recount Minutes from March 22, 2012. Article failed by tie vote.
5. Capital Assets Policy: Selectmen will begin working on this policy as it has been requested by the auditors. Chairman McGinnity made a motion that was seconded and voted in the affirmative to set the capital assets threshold at \$10,000. The Chairman and Selectman Moser will work on listing the assets, such as buildings, equipment and other properties.
6. Joint Loss Committee minutes from March 8, 2012
7. Conservation Commission minutes March 14, 2012
8. Bounds letter from Building Inspector for lot L-38
9. State Approved septic design – Firth, lot H-50-1
10. From Charles Moser: letter of resignation to the Supervisors of the Checklist. Since Mr. Moser was elected as Selectman he cannot hold both positions.
11. Letter from Gary Wolpert, Valley Road, concerning the health insurance issue brought forth at Town Meeting. He felt that since the issue was ruled non-allowable due to policy change and not budget; that the discussion should have been stopped immediately. This letter will be sent to the Moderator for her consideration and review.
12. Health notice: DHHS conducts Tuberculosis investigation.
13. Police logs
14. Letter from NH Highway Safety Agency to Chief Hutchins: Enforcement Patrols grant has been approved, effective March 9, 2012.
15. LPA training: Selectman Moser discussed the information on this training from NRPC. He would like the Road Agent to become certified as a LPA as it could help the town in securing grants for projects. Mr. Moser will bring this up at the next staff meeting in April.
16. Ciardelli – since Ciardelli will meet “or beat” Haffner’s prices on oil and propane, the Selectmen voted to stay with Ciardelli for our heating fuel needs.
17. Other correspondence: Meeting notices, bankruptcy notice – Fletcher Granite, Notice of Foreclosure Sale- Buono, lot A-21,

Selectmen reviewed and approved the following:

- Veterans' Credit application: Dane Rota, lot K-48-1 for \$500
- Elderly Exemption application: Leona Robinson, lot G-11 for \$70,000
- Numerous Appointments

Selectman Moser will recuse himself from any discussion on the abatement for the Williams property as he will be representing the Mason Congregational Church as the purchaser for that property.

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Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.