

August 14, 2012
Selectmen's Meeting/Approved Minutes

Present: R.P. McGinnity Chairman, A. Richards, C. Moser & A.A. Milkovits
Also present: P. Letourneau, Treasurer & Garth Fletcher, Deputy Treasurer

Meeting opened at 7:30 PM. The check manifest was reviewed and approved.

Agenda:

Appointments:

1. Road Agent Fred Greenwood discussed the vacant fourth full-time position on the Highway Department. What is status of this position? Is RA able to fill position? He would like to recommend a part-time person for position. Selectmen asked for the total number of part-time HD employees. There are five. RA does not want to fill position just to fill it. Selectmen remarked that the HD has gone this far – is there flexibility in hiring another full time person? Total hours: part-time flexibility vs. full time. RA feels there will be better work time from full time employees. He is concerned for part-time budget being depleted due to full-time person being 9 weeks out on workers' comp. Difficult with time management to get any management work done. Takes away flexibility for RA – doesn't want it to affect total department. Reasoning for another full-time person: (1) Administrative part (2) need for extra work force. Selectmen emphasize that if another full-time worker is hired, the overtime budget cannot be over run. Chairman explained how overtime and plow contractors ate up Highway budget. As long as it in budget, Chairman does not have problem with promoting from within to full time. RA did all the work in proving to the Board this is necessary so he may now promote. RA pointed out that there still is \$18,000 in the 4th full time position budget line from first 6 months of year and he would like to use that for paving – Brookline Road, number 855 to number 1210. RA would overspend the paving line but bottom line of Highway Department budget would not be over spent as the savings would be in the full time line. Chairman cautioned to watch the bottom line carefully – keep it under budget, if possible. RA then explained preparations to the road before paving is done, and described how paving was done, specifically the leveling on Depot Road. Selectmen questioned what the engineering plan is to ensure paving will last. RA explained that he also wants it done correctly; there will be no skimping to stretch the material. Selectmen agreed that the paving should be done right even if it covers less distance. Selectmen voted to approve more paving as long as the budget allows.
2. Conservation Commission members: Liz Fletcher, Robert Dillberger, Ann Moser, Barbara Devore and Town Forester William Downs – The ConCom and W. Downs discussed the proposed logging project on Bronson Potter's former land on Greenville Road. There were questions on filing the Intent to Cut and timber tax and timber bond. Per RSA 79:1 B-3, if the logging is for the municipality's own use, then an Intent does not need to be filed. It was determined that the ConCom was not logging for their own use. W. Downs explained his contract would indicate whoever purchases the timber, would pay the tax. The ConCom has the wetlands permit; the first step in trying to maintain the view factor on Greenville Road. W. Downs proposed clearing timber to 900', estimating 60K to

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- 70K board feet. He is trying to get buyers for the project even though it is not a moneymaking project. The ConCom and Mr. Downs are requesting that the Selectmen waive the timber tax for this project. Mr. Downs estimated that the tax would be about \$600. Pros – maintain views in area for town and income from the timber tax Cons - any tax gained may not outweigh project. The ConCom is hoping to break even when the project is done- otherwise they would have to pay to remove the logs. Chairman made a motion to waive the timber tax, but not the timber bond per RSA for logging on public lands. He also explained the \$3,500 road bond requirement which is an additional bond to the Town of Mason. The Board voted to waive the timber tax on this project, one time only; this does not constitute a change to the policy.
3. Police Chief Barry Hutchins discussed an issue with the *Monadnock Ledger* concerning his re-enlistment in the Air Force National Guard. The reporter had contacted him earlier with the misinformation that the Chief was to be deployed overseas for a year. Chief Hutchins quickly corrected this misinformation – there is no upcoming deployment; the Chief has not even officially sworn in to the National Guard. His family will be the first to know and the Selectmen would be the second to know of any upcoming deployment.
- Issue with dog fines – personal and professional issue. Chief Hutchins' wife received a civil forfeiture notice because she did not license their dog. He is not opposed to the fines but when fines are levied they appear to come from Mason PD. Since the Selectmen issue the warrant to the Tax Collector to collect the fines and the Town Clerk issues the licenses, then the forfeiture letters should come from the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office. TC will change the forfeitures to reflect that next year. The Chief had heard that the Town Clerk was forgiving some of the fines. He requested that there should be fairness to all. Chairman stated that if fine is imposed it should be paid. Treasurer also stated that she had noticed on the deposits that some of the fines were excused by the Town Clerk. The Selectmen will request info from Town Counsel as to whether the Town Clerk has the right to waive fines. The Town Clerk will be invited to the next meeting to discuss this issue. Treasurer asked the Board whether she should sign deposits that listed waived fines. Selectmen instructed her not to sign off on those deposits.
4. Pat Letourneau, Wilton Road, discussed ball field at Sand Pit Road. Her property line is located to the left of brook – red oak tree near the proposed volleyball court. There are still uprights to mark the court on the property. Mrs. Letourneau would like to use that area for exercising her horses but is concerned that the upright posts constitute a hazard. Who owns the property? Mrs. Letourneau stated that the court is actually half on her property. Chairman has no problem with removing stakes but questions liability. Mrs. Letourneau is troubled that townspeople cannot use town properties without concern for liabilities. Some townspeople are asking to hold political meetings, etc. in the Town Hall. Selectman Moser questioned how the liability works. Selectmen will request an LGC representative to come to a meeting for discussion purposes as to what the town liability insurance represents. Chairman McGinnity stated that whatever activities occur on town properties, there is a need to protect taxpayers from

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jeopardy. To resolve the posts left from the proposed volleyball court, Selectmen will request the Highway Department to remove the posts. Mrs. Letourneau stated that she would allow the HD to also enter her property to remove any posts from the court.

Selectmen reviewed the following:

Old Business:

1. Re: Holiday Pay Policy – Policy amended and revised. The amended holiday pay policy will be rewritten and signed by the Board to be distributed to all employees.
2. Re: Minutes – Selectmen Meeting July 10, 2012 and Selectmen and Staff Meetings July 24, 2012 were all approved as written.
3. Re: Fire Station – Further advice from Attorney Silas Little concerning the ownership of the Fire Station and other MVFD assets. After review, Selectmen will request Attorney Little to draw up the affidavit that would establish title to the Mason Fire Station and former properties of the MVFD.
4. Re: Recreational Trails Grant – ConCom Jackson Road Trestle project. Notice was received that the grant was preliminary approved for \$13,751 with a match of \$5,108 from the Conservation Commission. There are still more requirements before full approval for this grant and ConCom member Liz Fletcher will be working on these.
5. Re: Gavin Abatement appeal – Order from BTLA to complete mediation of 2010 abatement appeal by October 1, 2012. If mediation is not successful, Mrs. Gavin will not be allowed to enter any appraisal at a scheduled hearing before the BTLA. Selectman Moser will review the specifics of this BTLA Order.

New Business:

1. Stop sign authorization for stop sign on intersection of Starch Mill Road and Old County Road and for the intersection of Depot and Townsend Roads. A motion was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative to approve the stop signs erected on Starch Mill Road (at intersection with Old County Road) and on Depot Road (at intersection with Townsend Road).
2. Wilton Recycling Center quarterly report.
3. Building Permits: #12-21 McGuire, lot H-70 shed, #12-22 Wiley, lot D-5 remodel house, #12-23 Mann, lot G-19 dining area
4. Town Assessor Rockwood's letters responding to three Abatement applications: Weiss, Rendle and Levesque.
5. Letter from Michael Johnson concerning denial of abatement. Mr. Johnson feels that his abatement should be reconsidered because the 2010 equalization ratio was used to determine value instead of the 2011 EQ. Selectmen will send a response to Mr. Johnson.
6. Anonymous letter concerning alleged misdeeds of Jeff Earls, head of Cross Country Appraisal Group. Selectman Moser feels that a copy of this letter should be sent to Mr. Earls to make him aware of these allegations. Selectmen agreed with his suggestion and will send Mr. Earls a copy of the letter.
7. From Auditors Plodzik & Sanderson: 2011 completed audit
8. Police logs

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9. 2013 Education Tax Warrant: \$388,642 for Equalized value of \$159,606,673
10. Copy of receipt from Rte. 31 Money for Metals for \$142.20 received for sale of scrap steel from Highway yard.
11. Other:
 - Notice from DES for Septic design application for Rendle, lot F-52
 - From Division of Forests and Lands – re-appointment of Fire Chief David Baker as Forest Fire Warden.
 - Foreclosure notices and sale – Vidito, 469 Old County Road; Shoults, Case, 125 Marcel Road; sale of 676 Starch Mill Road
 - Bankruptcy notice – Czmut, 31 Jones Crossing
 - Budget & Finance Workshop, September 18th, Manchester
 - Request from American Red Cross for funding of \$600 in 2013
 - Concern for no back up for Cemetery Sexton. Recently two burials were occurring and the present Sexton was on vacation. Cemetery Trustees will be invited to the next meeting to discuss this.
 - Recreation Committee Funds– concern for collection of funds by Recreation Committee for Old Home Day events. Any funds collected should be deposited in the Town's General Fund as the Committee does not have the authority to hold funds. At this time no funds have been submitted to the town. The new town counsel, Attorney Drescher will be contacted for a response on this issue.
 - Other correspondence

Selectmen signed the following:

- Intent to Cut – Belleview/Stauble, lot B-4-2; Forester is William Downs who will be requested to submit a general bond of \$3,500 for road damage for timbering operations.
- 2011 Abatement granted to Edmond Levesque, lot L-32-1 for \$1,561.99
- 2011 Abatement denied – George Rendle, Jr., lot F-52
- 2011 Abatement denied – William & Christine Weiss, lot E-55

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara L. Milkovits
Administrative Assistant