

February 12, 2013
Selectmen's Meeting/Approved Minutes

Present: Selectmen: R.P. McGinnity Chairman, A. Richards, C. Moser & A.A. Milkovits
Also present: Treasurer Pat Letourneau, Deputy Treasurer Garth Fletcher &
Moderator Catherine Schwenk
3 residents & member of the press

Agenda:

Hearing for SB 2 Warrant Article:

Hearing opened at 7:30 PM. Present: Selectmen, A.A. Milkovits, Moderator, one resident. Chairman McGinnity read the petitioned warrant article and explained the requirement for hearing. None of the signers of the petitioned article were present for the hearing. Since none present expressed an interest to discuss the article, the hearing was closed at 7:31 pm.

Regular Selectmen's meeting opened at 7:32 PM. The check manifest was reviewed and approved.

Appointments:

1. Catherine Schwenk, Moderator, brought news to the Board that the Superintendent said that space is available to hold the town elections at the Mason Elementary School. Chairman McGinnity explained that the time and place for the town elections had already been published in the town warrant, to be signed this evening and in the newspaper as well as on the town website. Mrs. Schwenk stated that a correction to the warrant could be published. Chairman McGinnity reminded Mrs. Schwenk that she and the Board had made the decision to hold the town elections at the town hall a month and a half ago and the Board does not want to change the location at this time. Mrs. Schwenk recapped to the Board of the Attorney General's decree for six foot spaces from the polls, ballot clerk tables, etc. She is not sure that the set up at the town hall meets those requirements. Chairman McGinnity reminded Mrs. Schwenk that an inspection of the polls at the town hall had been done earlier by the AG's office and the set up had been approved. The Board feels that using the town hall for town elections works well and that for Presidential elections using the multi-function room at the Mason Elementary School will be the best choice.
2. Members of the Conservation Commission met with the Board to review their warrant article for placing four town-owned lots into conservation easement, such easement to be held by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests. Con Com member Liz Fletcher and town counsel William Drescher had been emailing back and forth suggestions and changes to the article. Some of the Con Com members felt that the warrant article would be too difficult for the voters to understand because of all the "lawyer language" and would rather have it stated simply as originally submitted. Selectman Moser explained that the recommended wording from Attorney Drescher is necessary to protect the town and to ensure the easements are done properly. A straw transaction may need to be done to have the properties clear for the future. The Con Com's version for the article is too narrow for the property use. Also discussed was the proposed transfer of the quarry

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property by George Schwenk. This property will be deeded to the Conservation Commission with a conservation easement already on it. Having the four lots that surround the quarry property voted into a conservation easement will provide a consistency of management for all the lots. Con Com Chairman Larochelle expressed an interest in having town counsel at town meeting to explain this article. The Selectmen feel that the article can be explained in simpler terms to the voters. The final decision made by the Board was to keep the wording of the warrant article as recommended by town counsel on February 11, 2013. Selectman Moser will explain the wording of the article at town meeting

Selectmen reviewed the following:

Old Business:

1. Re: Minutes – Selectmen Meeting minutes from January 22, 2013 and Staff Meeting minutes from January 22, 2013 were approved as written.
2. Re: Occupancy question/Stanley Brown: Building Inspector Wilson did an inspection at Mr. Brown's property on Starch Mill Road and will send a detailed memo to the Board on the status of the house. At this time no occupancy permit has been given so the legal address for Stanley Brown will remain 61 Darling Hill Road.
3. Re: Health Insurance "Opt Out" Policy- A motion was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative to accept the revision to the Health Insurance "opt out" policy, such amendment which will be added to the town's personnel policy.
4. Welfare request: a request had been made for fuel assistance and the family was directed to Southern NH Services. No further action was required.
5. Re: Service to Secretary of State by Merrimack County Sheriff's office – copy of served letters.
6. Re: Settled abatement appeal of Calphams Bedford Holdings, LLC: Selectmen signed the abatement letters for lots A-22-3, A-22-9, & A-22-10, per the settlement agreement of December 18, 2012.

New Business:

1. 2013 Town Warrant & Budget
2. Risk Assessment Questionnaire for auditors –Selectmen completed the questionnaire. Future action will be taken to amend the town's personnel policy to address the issue of employees and town work.
3. From Road Agent Greenwood: Notice of issue of problem on Fireman's Bend with the school bus stopping and turning. Mr. Greenwood feels this is unsafe for the bus pulling out onto Brookline Road. He also noted that the bus company and the Superintendent determine the bus stops.
4. From Health Officer Lynn McCann: Roles and Responsibilities of Partners in Public Health form – this will be reviewed with the Fire Chief/EMD David Baker at the next staff meeting.
5. From Road Agent Greenwood: update on truck repairs.
6. Building Permits: # 13-02 Brown, lot D-6, renewal, new house, #13-03 Gutheil, lot K-51-4, replacement septic

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7. Police logs
8. Return of funds from NHRS for contributions of former Police Officer Steven Willette. Mr. Willette's portion of the contributions will be returned to him.
9. From Superintendent McCormick: letter of appreciation for efforts of Police Chief Hutchins to help determine students' residences for the student count at the M.E.S. and the Chief's efforts for establishing safety measures for the school.
10. Unapproved Planning Board minutes, January 30, 2013
11. Abatement application for 2012 property taxes: Calphams Bedford Holdings, LLC lots A-22-3, A-22-9, & A-22-10. This will be forwarded to the town assessor for review.
12. Other:
 - Storm costs from the Highway and Police Departments have been submitted to the State Homeland Security for the total tally to FEMA.
 - Snow placement policy
 - Update on MicroTime IT work: New server and Town Clerk's new computer will be installed on Friday, February 22nd.
 - From LGC: information on re-organization and new Director.
 - Rob Doyle, School Board member, requested some time with the Board. He had questions on the change in the decision for a mutual town/school report. School Clerk Becky Partridge and second Business Manager Brenda Wiley were present for this discussion. Selectmen had previously made the decision to have a separate town report after some correspondence from Mrs. Wiley that indicated the School wanted less than 60 copies of the report and felt the School should only pay one third of the cost. This was not acceptable to the Selectmen and the decision was made to proceed solely with the town report. Mr. Doyle expressed his concerns and frustrations for the lack of communication and miscommunication between the School Board and the Selectmen. He also stated that the Superintendent had sent correspondence that was not answered by the Selectmen. Selectman Richards explained that due to the Selectmen's meeting schedule, it is possible that correspondence may not be answered for three to four weeks. Chairman McGinnity stated that the Selectmen's meetings are open to all and suggested that some of the members of the School Board could attend the meetings if they have any questions or comments. He advised that the members should call ahead for an appointment. Mr. Doyle also had questions concerning the town and school audit and what the status is for the return of the overpayment to the town. Chairman McGinnity explained that the town auditors would be determining the method for the return of the funds, after the town's audit. The Chairman and Selectman Moser both had explained this previously to the Superintendent. Mr. Doyle again emphasized the need for personal contact between both Boards. After more discussion, the Selectmen indicated that the decision for a mutual town/school report will be revisited next year.
 - Barbara Devore, resident, requested that the Selectmen sponsor Candidate's night, since no incumbents are running this year. A motion

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was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative to sponsor the
Candidate's night on Thursday, March 7, 2013.

Selectmen signed the following:

- 2013 Town Budget
- 2013 Town Warrant
- Timber Warrant: Doonan, lot G-65 for \$1,140.24
- Septage agreement with the Town of Merrimack

Non-Public session was called at 9:00 PM for a personnel issue. Present: Selectmen and A.A. Milkovits. An email was received concerning the plowing done by the Highway Department with disparaging comments about the employees. This is not the first email that has been received with these kinds of comments. Unfortunately the email was forwarded to the Road Agent who was very offended by these comments and spoke to Selectman Richards about this and requesting action from the Selectmen. No action will be taken at this time. In the future it was decided that all such emails received by the A.A. will be forwarded to the Selectmen for decisions for action by the Board at their meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:07PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara L. Milkovits
Administrative Assistant