

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of August 16, 2004

ROLL CALL: Chairman Alan Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Those present included Selectmen Bruce Breton, Roger Hohenberger, and Galen Stearns. Mr. Sullivan was also present. Selectman Christopher Doyle was delayed. Mr. Carpenter read the agenda into the record.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Stearns reminded all that the Deliberative Session for the Articles of Agreement was scheduled for Tuesday, August 16 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.

Mr. Hohenberger extended thanks to the Town employees for a job well done at the 2004 Senior Picnic. Mr. Sullivan echoed these sentiments.

Mr. Stearns noted that the Town beach was still closed due to apparent vandalism resulting in high bacteria counts. Mr. Sullivan explained that on the previous Thursday, numerous piles of dog feces were discovered in the sand and in the water. Although cleaned up thoroughly by Town staff, bacteria counts were excessive.

Mr. Carpenter noted that a broad discussion regarding pets was scheduled for the next meeting.

Chief Don Messier announced that on Sunday, August 15, a fire alarm activation was received from the Town Hall. Upon arrival, the firefighters discovered smoke and a small fire in the building, which was quickly extinguished. Chief Messier noted that it does not appear to have been accidental, and requested that anyone with information regarding this incident contact the Police or Fire department. Chief Messier also extended his thanks to Maintenance Supervisor Al Barlow for his response to the scene.

WORKSHOP/TAX ASSESSOR: Rex Norman, Assessor, advised the Board that the lengthy list of bidders for the digital orthophotography and mapping services for the Town had been narrowed to four. Three of those vendors were on hand to make presentations to the Board, but the fourth had contacted him via email withdrawing from the bid process.

Mr. Carpenter asked that Mr. Norman explain the purposes of a GIS system. Mr. Norman explained that GIS will provide immediate access to a variety of information by pinpointing parcels electronically. Ms. Rebecca Way, Assistant Planner, stated it provides an excellent means of graphically detailing what is occurring in Town, and that it can be utilized across a wide variety of departments.

Mr. Hohenberger inquired why the fourth vendor, Cartographic, had withdrawn from the process. Mr. Norman indicated they had been one of the higher bidders, and felt that they did not wish to continue as the Town was not looking to conduct complete deed research and parcel histories as recommended by the company.

Chief Messier approached the Board to voice his support of implementing a GIS system, feeling it would aid in improving response times and quality of service, and would benefit all departments and the community as a whole.

The following made detailed presentations to the Board of their services:

Ray Corson, Project Manager: J. Sewall Company
Peter Holden: East Coast Mapping
Jayson Brennan: Camp, Dresser, and McKee, Inc.

Each presenter fielded a number of questions from the Board including number of committed staff members, compatibility of software with existing Town software, frequency of updates, necessity and availability of deed research, and annual maintenance cost.

Mr. Doyle arrived at 7:55 PM.

The Board thanked all for their extensive presentations. Mr. Norman and Ms. Way indicated that, based on the presentations, they had further questions for the vendors and would return to the Board at a later date with their final recommendation.

The Board called for a five minute recess.

RAIL TO TRAIL: Mr. Carpenter explained that this discussion pertained to the Windham portion of the Rockingham Recreational Trail. He noted that two pieces of correspondence had been received, which he read into the record: the first from the NH Trails Bureau indicating they were not in favor of paving the trail, and the second from the Department of Resource and Economic Development (DRED) also opposing pavement and seeking clarification of the Windham Rail Trail Alliance's (WRTA) authority to act on behalf of the Town.

Mr. Sullivan indicated that two (2) letters had been presented to the Board at the previous meeting, which were still pending due to a 2/2 vote: one regarding the WRTA authority and the other supporting paving of the trail.

Mr. Breton and Mr. Hohenberger expressed concerns about supporting pavement in disagreement with DRED's stance.

Mr. Mark Samsel, WRTA, gave a brief history of the situation to date and reviewed several documents relating to the proposed plan and pavement, which were the results of various discussions in which DRED was involved and posed no objection at the time. He stated he did not feel the WRTA is recommending anything contrary to any other committees or authorities involved with the Rockingham Recreational Trail.

Mr. Breton inquired as to who oversees the trail. Mr. Samsel stated it is owned by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and is overseen by DRED.

Mr. Stearns stated he believed that pavement had been the Town's position all along, as there are very few multi-use trails available for use.

Mr. Breton and Mr. Hohenberger suggested a meeting be arranged with DRED and the DOT.

Mr. Wayne Morris, WRTA, indicated that donations totaling \$350,000 for the project may be jeopardized if the Board waits. He stated the WRTA is hoping that the pending correspondence will result in a meeting with Commissioner Carol Murray, who the WRTA believes is unaware of the situation with DRED.

Mr. Carpenter suggested that a letter be sent endorsing the role of the WRTA and requesting a meeting with Commissioners Murray and O'Kane, either in Windham or Concord, to discuss possible paving of the trail.

A discussion ensued regarding the impacts on snowmobiles if the trail was to be paved.

Mr. Sullivan will amend the first letter endorsing the WRTA to include the suggested request for a meeting with Commissioners Murray and O’Kane, and will hold the letter of support for pavement on the trail.

WORKSHOP/PLANNING DIRECTOR: Postponed until August 30, 2004.

CORRESPONDENCE: Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District official ballot for FY 2005 was received. Motion by Mr. Stearns and second by Mr. Doyle to approve. Passed unanimously.

Cristy Road Extension Bond Release: Mr. Turner advised the Board that the road has been paved and the drainage installed. Mr. Stearns moved and Mr. Breton seconded to partially release the bond in the amount of \$49,810 to Herbert Associates. Passed unanimously.

Paving Project/Transfer Station: Mr. Sullivan advised the Board that the funds for this project had been moved to the Property Maintenance Trust. Mr. Stearns moved and Mr. Doyle seconded to award the paving project at the Transfer Station to Taylor Paving at a cost of \$4,850. Mr. Sullivan requested that the motion be amended to make reference to the funds being expended from the Property Maintenance Trust. Mr. Stearns and Mr. Doyle agreed.

Mr. Hohenberger inquired where the paving was being conducted. Mr. Sullivan explained it is in the area outside the recycling bins and along the entrance apron near the trailers, which has been in need of repair for several years.

A discussion ensued about seal coating of the area versus paving. Mr. Doyle withdrew his second, as he felt the possibility of seal coating should be explored.

Mr. Hohenberger seconded the amended motion. Passed 4-1, with Mr. Doyle opposed.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. McMahon presented an update on Griffin Park to the Board. He noted the plumbing is nearly complete at the multi-purpose building. The Board then discussed establishing a standard closing time for the building.

Mr. McMahon advised the Board that the skateboard park will be complete in approximately two weeks, and that a proposed set of regulations had been sent to Mr. Sullivan and the Board for their review. Mr. McMahon felt that it was important some rules be established, particularly requiring helmets.

Mr. McMahon then presented two proposals for the Board’s consideration: one a beautification project via a landscaping plan and invitations to the public to purchase approved shrubs, trees, or similar vegetation; and the second an improved access project via sale of benches for placement around the walking path.

Ms. Way indicated that she was a landscape architect prior to working for the Town, and was willing to assist with the beautification project by reviewing the plan if needed.

Mr. Hohenberger moved and Mr. Stearns seconded to approve the request of Mr. McMahon to solicit donations for benches on behalf of the Town as proposed to a maximum of 21 benches, layout of which to be reviewed by the Board. Passed unanimously.

As to the Beautification Project, Mr. McMahon will arrange to have a landscaping plan done for review by Ms. Way prior to the Board's decision.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Sullivan advised the Board that an MPO meeting was scheduled for September 8, 2004 at the Town Hall, and that Annette Stoller, RPC, was requesting that the Board attend.

Salt Bids: Mr. Sullivan advised the Board that the lowest bid received for salt is \$10/ton higher than last year:

Granite State Mineral:	\$40.80/ton	(state bid)
International Salt:	\$42.89/ton	
Eastern Salt Company:	\$54.08/ton	

Mr. Sullivan stated that Highway Agent Jack McCartney recommends that the Town continue with Granite State Mineral, who is willing to lock in their price of \$40.80/ton for one year.

Mr. Doyle moved and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to award the bid for salt for the Town to Granite State Mineral for their bid price of \$40.80/ton. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Hohenberger moved and Mr. Doyle seconded to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi Devlin, Administrative Assistant

Note: These minutes are in draft form and have not been submitted to the Board for approval.