

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
Year-End Meeting December 29, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Roger Hohenberger, Bruce Breton, Galen Stearns and Margaret Crisler were present. Alan Carpenter arrived at approximately 4:15 pm. David Sullivan, Town Administrator and Dana Call, Finance Director were also in attendance. Meeting commenced at 4:00 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/LIASION REPORTS: Chief Lewis announced the availability of grant funding under the LETTP program for communication infrastructure upgrades up to \$20,000. The deadline for application is next week. Mrs. Crisler asked if this would improve communication completely & Chief Lewis indicated that we should pick up some additional coverage but would still expect there to be some dead spots throughout Town. Mrs. Crisler motioned to authorize Chief Lewis to proceed with the grant application and Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 4-0.

REQUEST FOR NO SALT ZONE ON PINE HILL RD: Neil Helberg of Lewis Engineering, representing Pennichuck Water, presented a request for a 400' no salt zone related to the company's desire to hook up a third well on Sheffield St. The NH Department of Environmental Services was concerned with the proximity of the well to Pine Hill Rd. The DES wants as a condition of approval that if the well is allowed to be used, that the Town have a no salt route on Pine Hill Rd. The proposal is for 200' on either side of where the well radius intersects with Pine Hill Rd. Presently there is no road here, but the DES wants some sort of guarantee that the well will be protected. The Board wanted input from the Highway Safety Committee as to the location of the road as well as the impact no salt usage would have. Also, how any future connection from Wall St to N. Lowell Rd would impact this request.

Mr. Carpenter motioned to authorize Mr. Sullivan to send a letter to DES indicating that should Pine Hill Rd be upgraded to Class V or a road created in the area sometime in the future, the intent of the Board will be to protect the well by either creating a no salt zone or moving the road outside the protective radius. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Hohenberger read a letter from the State regarding a planned crosswalk to be installed on the new Rte. 111 in front of the Searles school. The Board indicated that the planned crosswalk with a blinking yellow light was not the red stop light they had in mind when asking the State to put it in. The Board asked Mr. Sullivan to request that Bill Cass come in and talk to the Board about this issue. There was also discussion of any Town ordinances that may need to be adopted regarding enforcement of crosswalks or would state law be sufficient.

Mr. Hohenberger read a letter from Lisa Linowes, Conservation Commission member, resigning from the Commission effective February 1, 2006. Mr. Carpenter motioned to accept Ms. Linowes' resignation and thank her for her years of service to the Town on both the Conservation Commission and Planning Board. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 5-0.

Mr. Carpenter read a letter from residents Robert and Ruth Coole and a response letter from Planning Director Al Turner in regards to the smell on Morrison Road. Discussion ensued regarding the root of the odor and testing done by the Planning Department and NH Department of Environmental Services. According to the DES, beavers have dammed up the wetland outlet and the resultant ice barrier that has formed is generating a hydrogen sulfide gas that is dangerous to animals and humans. Mr. Turner indicated that the solution to the problem is to remove the beavers and beaver dams in the vicinity of 20 and 22 Morrison Road, but that this would require written permission from the landowners. Mr. Stearns motioned to direct Mr. Turner to work with Mr. McCartney, Highway Agent, to obtain owner permission and trap and remove the beavers. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 5-0.

Mr. Hohenberger read a letter from Acting Fire Chief McPherson indicating that the Town was not awarded the SAFER grant in which we previously applied for funding to hire two new firefighters.

After much discussion regarding the Lamplighter/Seavey Pond area, the Board approved several site bond releases previously approved by the Planning Board to Silvestri Corp. Mrs. Crisler motioned to approve the partial release of Lamplighter Site #8 (Buildings 8, 9, 10, 14), which was reduced by \$29,419 from \$49,419 to \$20,000. Mr. Carpenter seconded. Passed 4-1 (Mr. Breton opposed). Mrs. Crisler motioned to approve the full release of Lamplighter Site #7 (Bldg 11), which was reduced by \$2,901.60 to \$0. Mr. Carpenter seconded. Passed 4-1 (Mr. Breton opposed). Mrs. Crisler motioned to approve the full release of Lamplighter Site #2 (Bldg 1 with parking), which was reduced by \$2,431.70 to \$0. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 4-1 (Mr. Breton opposed). Mr. Carpenter motioned to approve the full release of Lamplighter Site #4 (Bldg 3 with parking), which was reduced by \$11,954.40 to \$0. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-1 (Mr. Breton opposed). Mrs. Crisler motioned to approve the full release of Lamplighter Site #5 (Bldg 13 with parking), which was reduced by \$20,865.60 to \$0. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 4-1 (Mr. Breton opposed). Mrs. Crisler motioned to approve the full release of Lamplighter Site #6 (Bldg 12 with parking), which was reduced by \$8,270.40 to \$0. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 4-1 (Mr. Breton opposed). Mrs. Crisler motioned to approve the full release of Lamplighter Site (Bldg 5, 6, 7), which was reduced by \$32,295.60 to \$0. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 4-1 (Mr. Breton opposed). Mrs. Crisler motioned to approve the full release of Lamplighter Site #9 (Bldgs 4 and 15), which was reduced by \$38,031.01 to \$0. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 4-1 (Mr. Breton opposed). The requested release of a second

Lamplighter Site #2, which was presumed to be #3 and possibly typed incorrectly, was tabled until a correction could be made by the Planning Department and resubmitted.

Mrs. Crisler motioned to approve the partial release of Seavey Pond Road to Silvestri Corp., which was reduced by \$4,040.00 from \$8,040.00 to \$4,000.00. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 4-1 (Mr. Breton opposed).

Mrs. Crisler motioned to approve the partial release of Duston Road to H&B Homes, which was reduced by \$212,903.00 from \$252,915.00 to \$40,012.00. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 5-0.

The Board then discussed the procedures for bonding cisterns and Mr. Turner indicated that currently the Planning Board does not have a requirement for bonding cisterns, but that the Fire Department has a requirement that new subdivisions meet the NFPA fire suppression requirements for that particular subdivision, whether it be cisterns, fire hydrants, etc. The Board indicated that it was their intent that the fire department reviews the plans and determines the fire suppression requirements prior to the plans going to the Planning Board for final review, and that the Planning Board should then include the appropriate money for those measures when they determine the bonding requirements. Mr. Breton motioned that staff send a letter to the Planning Board on behalf of the Board of Selectmen to require the Planning Board to include money in the road bond for fire suppression based on the fire department's requirements. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 5-0.

Mr. Carpenter motioned to approve the partial release of Northland Road, to H&B Homes which was reduced by \$30,210.00 from \$88,734.00 to \$58,524.00. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 5-0.

Mrs. Crisler motioned to approve the partial release of Taylor Farm Road to JRV Homes, which was reduced by \$128,401.80 from \$141,181.80 to \$12,780.00. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 5-0.

Mr. Hohenberger read a letter from Mr. Turner regarding road name changes required for 911 purposes, in relation to the Route 111 construction. Mr. Sullivan noted that this would go through the normal public hearing process.

Mr. Breton requested that a letter from Town Counsel responding to a question regarding the previously held Hopkins Road public hearing be made public. It was decided to table this and discuss in non-public session first.

Mr. Hohenberger read a letter from U.S. Senator Judd Gregg in response to the Town's letter regarding the reallocation of funds earmarked for the I-93 project corridor.

Mr. Hohenberger read a letter from Cheryl Killam with the Governor's Commission on Disability confirming the Town's time-line for making planned ADA improvements at Griffin Park.

Mr. Hohenberger read a letter from resident Ruth-Ellen Post regarding the Griffin Park parking area to be constructed. Mr. Breton noted that engineering plans for this project are currently in process and the project is going through the normal planning process with the Planning and Development department. Consensus was that no further action is necessary by the Board at this time.

Mr. Hohenberger read a letter from Adelphia regarding upcoming cable rate increases.

Mr. Hohenberger read a letter from Al Turner, Planning Director requesting the appointment of Michael McGuire and Ron Preble as Deputy Health Officers effective December 15, 2005. Mr. Breton motioned to approve and Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Sullivan and Mrs. Call discussed with the Board the status of the 2005 budget and requested the Board approve several items to be spent out of the 2005 budget. Discussion ensued regarding the earned time trust. Mr. Sullivan noted that in most years, payments of accumulated earned time to employees who have terminated or retired, are normally funded from the salary account in the operating budget first, and then supplemented by the earned time trust for large payouts that can't be fully funded by the budget. Mr. Sullivan indicated that as a result of two long-term employees retiring this year, coupled with the concerns that the Town's operating budget may be overspent due to needed funding for Police contracted details, staff initially funded the payouts from the trust and are now looking to replenish the trust for a portion of those payouts based on funding now available in the operating budget. Mr. Carpenter motioned to approve \$31,074 to be transferred from the salary accounts and replenish funds previously withdrawn from the trust. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Motion failed 2-3 with Mr. Stearns, Mr. Hohenberger and Mr. Breton opposed. Mr. Stearns motioned to replenish the trust \$31,074 but also reduce the 2006 warrant article for the earned time trust from \$30,000 to \$20,000. Mr. Carpenter seconded. Passed 5-0.

Mr. Stearns motioned to approve the expenditure of \$9,600 from the 2005 Roads budget to replace the dump body of one of the Town's trucks, and remove this amount from the proposed 2006 budget (to be done at the budget public hearing). Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 5-0.

Mr. Stearns motioned to approve the transfer of \$2,350 from the Recreation budget to replenish the Property Trust fund. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 5-0.

Mr. Stearns motioned to approve up to \$3,100 to be spent from the 2005 General Government budget to outfit with a plow the truck that was previously transferred from the Fire Dept to the Maintenance Dept.

Mr. Sullivan and Mrs. Call also discussed several items from the 2005 budget which will be encumbered into 2006 based on contracts previously awarded. The Board also decided to hold the budget public hearing on Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 6:30 pm, instead of January 16th as previously planned.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Mr. Stearns motioned to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 93-3:A II a and e. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Roll call vote, all member “yes”. The topics of discussion were personnel and legal. Mr. Hohenberger read a letter from Joan Tuck, Town Clerk, requesting the Board approve her request to appoint Nicole Merrill, Assistant Town Clerk, to the Deputy Town Clerk position, effective January 1, 2006. Mr. Breton motioned to approve and Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 5-0.

Discussion ensued regarding the letter from Town Counsel regarding the previously held Hopkins Road public hearing. Consensus was to not release the letter to the public but to address the issue through a statement at the Board’s next regular meeting.

The Board then discussed the applications received for the Fire Chief position and the hiring process the Board wishes to conduct. Mr. Carpenter motioned to send supplemental questionnaires to a short list of the applicants, which will be determined by consensus of the Board, and then conduct an initial phone interview with those who respond to the questionnaires. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 3-2 with Mr. Breton and Mr. Stearns opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Call
Finance Director

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