

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of May 21, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-Chairman Dennis Senibaldi called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Selectmen Bruce Breton, Margaret Crisler, and Roger Hohenberger were present, as was Assistant Town Administrator Dana Call. Chairman Alan Carpenter and Town Administrator David Sullivan were excused. Vice-Chairman Senibaldi read the agenda into the record, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Senibaldi reminded those watching that the Town Offices, with the exception of emergency services, would be closed between the hours of 11 AM and 1 PM on the 23rd to allow the employees to attend the 3rd Annual Workforce Appreciation Day. The Transfer Station will also be closing for this event from 10AM to 1 PM.

Mrs. Cheryl Haas, Recreation Coordinator, announced several upcoming events, including: the Strawberry Festival, 6/2; Fest-a-Ball and Beach opening, 6/9; and Town Day, 7/1. She also noted that the rehab work at the Wonderland Playground had begun, and the area was temporarily closed. In addition, the Skateboard Park will also be closed until 2 PM on May 22nd. The latter is due to the behavior of the users.

Mrs. Crisler extended congratulations to Mrs. Haas on the variety of great summer program offerings she had compiled.

Mr. Senibaldi announced that the Annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony would take place the following Monday beginning at 9:30 AM.

WORKSHOP/IT DIRECTOR: The Board met in workshop session with Mr. Eric Delong. Items discussed included:

- Mr. Delong presented a detailed infrastructure report to the Board for their review, detailing current equipment and any potential issues. Mr. Delong noted, in particular, that extensive lightning protections are in place and all buildings are now isolated. Also, all buildings are equipped with fiber optic.
- Mr. Delong expressed concerns regarding the Police Department equipment room, which was original selected to house the Town's server based upon security reasons and the availability of 24 hour access and a generator. There are ongoing issues with water leakage, however, along with moisture in the conduits. He noted the Board should consider planning in a future budget to move the equipment to a clean, environmentally controlled area.

The possibility of moving the equipment to another area of the Police Department or partitioning the room, and the potential cost impacts to do so was also discussed.

- Mr. Delong noted that complaints continue to be received from residents regarding the lack of credit card payment availability for auto registrations, property taxes, etc. A brief discussion ensued regarding the fees charged by credit card companies, the convenience it would afford the residents, and how surrounding communities who offer the service offset the fees.
- Mr. Delong expressed concerns regarding the upkeep of the GIS program, indicating he did not want the project to fall by the wayside. He noted there were several items that needed to be addressed, including updating of the web data.

- Dampness in the Bartley House basement was discussed, and the possible need to enclose or move the hub to avoid resultant damage.
- Mrs. Crisler expressed concerns regarding the Town's wireless equipment. Mr. DeLong replied that all are secure 128-bit encrypted, and in the future he will be incorporating wireless printers and other equipment, as well.
- The entering of building permits into the MUNIS software and bridging to other departments was discussed. Mrs. Call indicated that she generates reports of all permits entered into the system by the Planning Department, which are then given to the Tax Assessor to enter into the Vision software. Automating the process further remains a work in progress.

Mr. DeLong expressed a desire to replace the existing MUNIS server, purchased in 2001, during the 2008 fiscal year.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the technical support offered by MUNIS, and the overall pros and cons of the software itself.

- A brief discussion ensued regarding the possible networking of the Cable Studio equipment. Mr. DeLong indicated he hoped he would be contacted prior to their doing so if that were the goal of the Advisory Board.

Mrs. Crisler then inquired as to the network status of the Transfer Station. Mr. DeLong replied the Station is not currently tied into anything, as to do so is cost prohibitive and unnecessary at this time.

- Several final items were briefly discussed, including: surveillance cameras at Griffin Park and related connectivity; future connectivity from the High School to the Nesmith Library; and the purchase of new monitors for the Tax Office and Planning and Development Department.

WORKSHOP TAX ASSESSOR: Mr. Norman presented several abatement requests to the Board, as follows:

- 34 Governor Dinsmore Road/Governor Dinsmore Road: Mr. Norman reiterated that these are actually one lot that should have been taxed together rather than separately. He presented further information as requested by the Board at a previous meeting relative to location.

After a brief discussion regarding the zoning of the area, Mrs. Crisler moved and Mr. Senibaldi seconded to abate the amount of \$331.56 as recommended.

Further, brief discussion ensued regarding the viability of subdividing the property and access, and the previous assessment.

Motion passed 3-1, with Mr. Hohenberger opposed.

- 32 Governor Dinsmore Road/Governor Dinsmore Road: After a brief discussion, Mrs. Crisler moved and Mr. Breton seconded to abate the amount of \$415.99 for 32 Governor Dinsmore Road as recommended. Passed 3-1, with Mr. Hohenberger opposed.
- 16 Netherwood Road: Assessment was adjusted after errors were found in the property listing. Mr. Hohenberger moved and Mrs. Crisler seconded to abate the amount of \$1,258.70 for 16 Netherwood Road as recommended. Passed 4-0.

- 63 Rockingham Road: Inspection showed only two rental units, not three as was assessed. Mr. Breton moved and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to abate the amount of \$156.57 for 63 Rockingham Road as recommended. Passed 4-0.
- 61 Blossom Road: Inspection revealed errors in the total living area and effective age. Mrs. Crisler moved and Mr. Breton seconded to abate the amount of \$1,157.39 for 61 Blossom Road as recommended. Passed 4-0.
- 9 Twin Street: Corrections were made to the property grade. In addition, adjustments were made to the land value/utility due to a gas easement in the rear of the property. Mr. Breton moved and Mrs. Crisler seconded to abate the amount of \$719.92 for 9 Twin Street as recommended. Passed 4-0.
- 3 Netherwood Road: Corrections were made to the grade and effective year built. Mr. Breton moved and Mrs. Crisler seconded to abate the amount of \$925.61 for 3 Netherwood Road as recommended. Passed 4-0.
- 10 Aladdin Road: Listing/property grade errors were corrected. Mr. Breton moved and Mrs. Crisler seconded to abate the amount of \$156.57 for 10 Aladdin Road as recommended. Passed 4-0.
- 133 Castle Hill Road: Corrections were made to the property listing, effective age, and grade. Mr. Breton moved and Mrs. Crisler seconded to abate the amount of \$303.93 for 133 Castle Hill Road as recommended. Passed 4-0.
- 29 Turtle Rock Road: Adjustments were made to the land value due to the lack of its utility. Also, property is not waterfront. Mr. Breton moved and Mrs. Crisler seconded to abate the amount of \$902.58 for 29 Turtle Rock Road as recommended. Passed 4-0.
- 33 Rockingham Road: Mr. Norman explained that this property, a portion of which was taken by the State of NH, had been denied an abatement in 2005 and the owner advised to appeal the decision to the Board of Tax and Land Appeal. The owner had now requested an abatement to the State appraised amount of \$212,000. Mr. Norman indicated there was no evidence, however, to support this abatement and recommended it be denied. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Crisler moved and Mr. Breton seconded to deny the request for an abatement for 33 Rockingham Road. Passed 4-0.

Workshop Session: Mr. Norman discussed several topics with the Board, including:

- To date, 48 properties for which an abatement has been requested have been inspected, 13 are pending scheduling, and 3 are earmarked for denial.
- Mr. Norman urged anyone who may be qualified for an exemption to contact his office. Although the deadline has passed, the State Statute allows the Assessor the discretion to determine whether or not to approve the late application, however, application cannot be accepted once the tax rate has been set.
- The Department of Revenue Administration has calculated the Town's overall ratio for the year 2006 at 94.7%, which is within the Assessing Standards Board guidelines for certification. Mr. Norman

is working to calculate a preliminary ratio for 2007, however, the sales sample to date is not very large.

After further, brief discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Norman for attending.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Mr. Hohenberger moved and Mr. Breton seconded to enter into a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91:A-II:3 a and c. Roll call vote – all members “yes”. The topics of discussion were hiring and reputations.

The Board, Mrs. Call, Chief McPherson, Deputy Leuci, and Ms. Devlin were in attendance in the first session. Chief McPherson and Deputy Leuci reviewed the hiring process for the Fire Chief’s Secretary position. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Crisler moved and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to authorize the Chief to extend a conditional offer of employment to the recommended candidate subject to the successful completion of a background check and physical exam. Passed. 4-0.

The Board, Mrs. Call, and Ms. Devlin were in attendance in the second session to review those properties eligible for tax deeding. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Crisler moved and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to hold in abeyance the tax deeding of the properties in question due to potential issues with each. Passed 3-1, with Mr. Breton opposed due to the lack of information provided.

PUBLIC HEARING/SMOKING AT TOWN BEACH: Mr. Senibaldi read the public hearing notice into the record. Mrs. Haas advised the Board that she had surveyed other NH towns regarding their handling of smoking at Town beaches and, of those that had responded, she had found that Holderness, Peterborough and Wakefield have full bans in place. Salem provides a designated area for smokers.

Mr. Hohenberger questioned why the parking area was being included in the ban, and a brief discussion ensued regarding the previous meeting at which safety concerns had been raised regarding smokers leaving their children unattended while at a designated area.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the procedures of other communities, and Mr. Breton, Mrs. Crisler, and Mr. Senibaldi expressed their desire to keep the parking lot included in the ban.

Mr. Breton questioned the need for Section VII, “Waivers”, and a brief discussion ensued. Mr. Galen Stearns approached noting that a waiver clause would be required, as the definitions prohibit other combustible substances. Mr. Breton suggested the definition paragraph be amended to eliminate “any other combustible substance”.

Mr. Stearns expressed several other concerns including: parents don’t always supervise their children now; who’ll be responsible to police the parking lot; and the lifeguards would be required to attend court as part of the enforcement of these regulations.

Mrs. Gail Webster inquired where the funds obtained from any fines imposed would go. Mrs. Call noted they would go into the general fund.

Mr. Bob Coole approached to reiterate his comments from the previous meeting’s discussion, at which he noted this seems to be more of a litter issue. He also expressed concerns about lawsuits relating to false arrests and the difficulty of proving that someone was smoking. He felt the Board should designate an area instead.

Mr. Hohenberger stated he was vehemently opposed to a smoking ban, noting there is no proven danger related to smoking outside. He felt that to initiate such a ban was discriminatory and he did not believe the Board should legislate lifestyles.

Mrs. Crisler noted she was a lifelong non-smoker and was aware of the dangers smoking posed, noting that the beach is primarily for children. She expressed ambivalence about the inclusion of the parking lot, and felt that signage and ashtrays should be put in place.

Mr. Breton reiterated that he felt a ban was the right thing to do, and would be good for the beach users and the employees. Mr. Senibaldi concurred, and stated the ban should be kept to the entire parcel.

After a brief discussion regarding the proposed amendments to strike the language within the definition section and to change "shall be subject" to "may be subject" in Section VI, Mrs. Crisler moved and Mr. Breton seconded to adopt the Smoking Ban as amended. Passed 3-1, with Mr. Hohenberger opposed.

PUBLIC HEARING/VENDING ON TOWN PROPERTY: Mr. Senibaldi read the public hearing notice into the record. The Board discussed several items within the proposed regulations, including: the responsibilities of the Board of Health; permitted hours; establishment of a fee schedule; amending to require that the Board review all background checks and that all employees be listed and required to undergo a check; changing the suggested effective dates of the permits to 1/1 to 12/31; and the addition of a requirement to provide proof of liability insurance.

Mr. Mike Patrakis, vendor, commented that most communities require proof of a peddler's license other permits and a background check. Once approved by the Town, the permit is then issued by the Board of Health. Mr. Patrakis felt the Board should limit the number of permits issued to allow for better control of who's operating within the Town. A brief discussion ensued regarding insurance requirements and amending the policy to include proof from each vendor.

Mr. Stearns approached noting that allergies should be a concern, as well, particularly peanut allergies. He noted that the Town has an unwritten policy prohibiting solicitation on Town property, and stated the Board should enforce that.

After further discussion, Mrs. Crisler moved and Mr. Breton seconded to continue this matter until June 4th. Passed 4-0.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: Mrs. Haas stated that the CPIA was requesting permission to have a grill at the Town Beach from 5-7PM on June 21st, rain date the 22nd, for their Annual Picnic. Mrs. Crisler moved and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to allow the CPIA to host their Annual Picnic with a grill at the Town Beach on June 21st or 22nd after hours. Passed 4-0.

Mr. Senibaldi requested that Mr. Sullivan draft a letter to the Town organizations reminding them of the Town's Field Use Policy. The Board concurred.

Mrs. Call advised the Board that Highway Agent Jack McCartney had recently attended the State auction and purchased a 1992 GMC dump truck for \$5,500. With paint, body work, and sander, the final cost of the vehicle will be approximately \$30,000, which is within the budgeted amount. Mrs. Call inquired if the Board had any issues with this cost. The members replied in the negative.

Mrs. Call inquired whether the Board had any concerns with Mr. Sullivan executing the mosquito control contract. It was the consensus of the Board to allow Mr. Sullivan to do so.

Mr. Hohenberger then moved and Mrs. Crisler seconded, to adjourn. Passed 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi Devlin, Administrative Assistant

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