

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of March 8, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-Chairman Bruce Breton called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Selectmen Ross McLeod, Charles McMahon, and Roger Hohenberger were present, as was Town Administrator David Sullivan. Chairman Galen Stearns was excused. Mr. Breton read the agenda into the record, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. McMahon reminded all that voting would take place the following day. Polls will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM at the High School.

Mr. McLeod urged all to support Article 4, relative to the Salt Shed, which has been fully endorsed by the Board. He then clarified that, contrary to reports in the local paper, only one bid had come under the warrant article amount and no vendor had been selected to date.

Mr. McLeod noted that the Daddy/Daughter Dance had been a great success and extended congratulations to Recreation Coordinator Cheryl Haas.

Mr. McLeod advised that on March 18th the Jaguar Boosters would be holding a comedy night at the Tupelo Music Hall in Londonderry. Cost will be \$25/pp. He also noted that the Annual Firefighters' Ball is scheduled for March 27th at Castleton, and tickets are available for \$35/pp.

Mr. McLeod then asked that Mr. McMahon inquire at the State level whether leasing of State property at rest areas/liquor stores could be explored as an alternative to the installation of tolls. Mr. McMahon indicated he would pose the possibility to the Commerce Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE: Protest petition received relative to Citizen Petition #2/Cobbetts Pond Overlay District. Mr. McMahon moved and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to accept receipt of the petition.

After a brief debate between Mr. McMahon and Mr. McLeod regarding the proposed ordinance, the motion passed 4-0.

EAGLE SCOUT PRESENTATION: Life Scout David Pierson of Pack 266 sought the Board's endorsement of a proposed Eagle Scout project to construct exterior containers for the trash barrels located at the Plains Cemetery. Mr. Pierson indicated that a total of five (5) housings will be constructed at an approximate cost of \$125 per unit and, if approved, he anticipates the project being completed by mid-August.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the need for new barrels and the potential for vandalism, and Mr. Pierson indicated that the units could be secured if the Board wished. Cemetery Trustee Wendi Devlin added that the barrels would be replaced from the Cemetery budget.

Mr. McLeod then sought clarification that the Cemetery Trustees had endorsed the project, and Ms. Devlin replied in the affirmative; noting that Mr. Pierson's project was one the Trustees had supported and discussed with previous Eagle Scout candidates.

After further, brief discussion, Mr. McMahan moved and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to endorse Mr. Pierson's project as presented. Passed 4-0.

TAX COLLECTOR STRATEGIC PLAN: Tabled.

ASSESSING STRATEGIC PLAN: The Board discussed with Tax Assessor Rex Norman his departmental strategic plan, highlights of which included:

- Improvements to communication/public outreach through means such as a cable show relative to the 2010 revaluation and increased utilization of the Town website.
- Update valuations for utility properties including review of public utility properties and solicitation of requests for proposal to conduct a full re-appraisal.
- Updating of the tax credit programs.
- Expanded use of technology to provide information, including establishment of fees for custom reports and utilization of Vision Appraisal's online assessment data hosting.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the latter relative to costs vs. budget constraints, grant opportunities, and the benefits to residents and local businesses of such hosting.

- Other items of discussion included: the potential future need of a part-time data collector; the ongoing quartering program; and the possible utilization of a student intern for data entry as part of the School District's extended learning program.

IT STRATEGIC PLAN: Tabled.

DISPOSITION OF "MARTHA": Mr. Sullivan explained that, during the recent storm "Martha", the historic tree adjacent to the old Library, had come down. He noted several suggestions had been offered regarding the preservation of the tree including: re-rooting; saving of a portion of the bark; milling of the lumber for future fundraising purposes; or replacement of both "Martha" and "George", which had been taken down several year ago.

Mr. Breton indicated he had spoken Mr. Yennaco of Delahunty's Nurseries, who had expressed willingness to landscape/re-plant the area where the trees had stood at no charge to the Town. Discussion then ensued regarding keeping Martha's trunk section, and it was the consensus of the Board that the trunk be retained and that Mr. Sullivan seek the Historic District Commission's input.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: Letter received from Attorney Kathleen DiFruscia of the Cobbetts Pond Improvement Association relative to the recent overflow of the detention ponds at the I-93 project, however since all the parties were not present to discuss the issue the Board concurred with Mr. Sullivan that it would be best to schedule this as an agenda item for the March 15th meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the potential for future incidents with the onset of spring, and whose presence should be requested at the meeting.

It was the consensus that the following be asked to attend: representatives of the CPIA, Canobie Lake Protection Association, and Middlesex Construction; the Police and Fire chiefs; and the Commissioners of the Departments of Transportation and Environmental Services. Mr. Sullivan noted that the meeting may need to be scheduled for the 22nd to allow all parties to be in attendance.

Mr. William Schroeder of the CLPA then approached to advise the Board that an incident had also occurred at Canobie Lake during the same storm, impacting a protected wetland near the Common Man.

Mr. Derek Munson of the CPIA approached noting that, per the DOT's meeting minutes, they were aware of potential issues two weeks prior to the storm. He then noted that pumping directly into Dinsmore Brook as had been done was unacceptable. Discussion then ensued regarding the use of flockulant by the DOT.

Mr. Sullivan indicated he had concerns regarding the location of the meeting, and advised he would look into the availability of the High School. Further discussion ensued regarding the Board's options if the parties requested did not attend, such as seeking a temporary restraining order on the project from the Attorney General's Office.

LOCAL ENERGY COMMITTEE: The Board reviewed the final draft of the proposed by-laws for the newly established LEC. Mr. Sullivan indicated that the reference to RSA 38 had been removed, as it pertained to the establishment of a "commission", which entails much different authorities/duties. He also suggested that the Board amend the membership section to reflect 7 regular members, one of which will be the Maintenance Supervisor.

After requesting that the tense of the duties be adjusted to be more grammatically correct, Mr. McLeod moved to approve the document as amended. Mr. McMahan seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Sullivan indicated that staff will proceed to advertise for members.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Mr. McLeod moved and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to enter into nonpublic session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II c. Roll call vote all “yes”. The topic of discussion was reputations and the Board, Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Devlin were in attendance in all sessions.

The Board discussed a resident complaint relative to a Town vendor. It was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Sullivan forward the vendor’s response to the complainant and no further action be taken.

The Board discussed the current Town Counsel contract. Mr. McMahon moved and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to continue the contract for a period of one year. Passed 3-1, with Mr. Breton opposed.

Mr. McLeod moved and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to adjourn. Passed 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi Devlin, Administrative Assistant

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