

**Board of Selectmen
June 13, 2012**

Present: Kenneth S. Paul, Chairperson (joined the session in progress); Peter M. Kasprzyk; Richard C. Edwards; Teresa A. Williams, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

Mr. Kasprzyk called the posted meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. **Mr. Kasprzyk moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) & (c). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Kasprzyk – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’. The motion passed 2-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 7:02 p.m., at which time Mr. Paul led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present at this time included: Tom Beeler, *The Granite State News*; Mr. & Mrs. Lee Wilson; Relf Fogg; Jerry O'Connor (videotaping); Ed Comeau (videotaping); Judy Nason; Cheryl Donahue; Robert Bevard; and Steve Brown. Those joining the meeting in progress were Cheri Schlenker; Frank Carroll, FR Carroll; and Jerry Hawkins, Titan Energy.

1. Appointments

a) Titan Energy – Representative not yet present.

b) Jerry O'Connor re: PEG Channel – Mr. O'Connor expressed concern that the public may have been given the impression that he and Valerie Ward have purposely neglected to air certain events. He listed some of the many meetings and events that have been aired. Recently, retirement events for several Town employees were aired, and the retirees were provided free copies of those events. Mr. O'Connor stated that they had experienced issues with the bulletin board and had to revert to use of the alpha-generator. He tried to put slides on the bulletin board to advise the public that the issues were being worked on. Only about 12-14 out of 50 listings were put back up; however, we are back up and running at this time. It is anticipated that Ms. Ward will be able to update the listings each week. Mr. O'Connor did not want the Board of Selectmen to be left with the impression that he is not doing his job and added that they have worked hard to get information on the PEG channel.

Mr. O'Connor then referred to a DVD submitted by Ed Comeau (received at Town Hall on a Friday) which he tried to put on the following Monday. However, there was an issue with the disc freezing. Using his personal equipment, Mr. O'Connor was able to copy the disc, which played fine thereafter. He stressed there was no effort on the part of anyone at Channel 3 to thwart the airing because the DVD had to do with CROW. Mr. O'Connor has discussed this problem with Mr. Comeau, who will create future discs in a manner compatible with the Channel 3 format. Mr. O'Connor stated that he had previously provided Ms. Williams with copies of all emails regarding issues with the D-4. Mr. Kasprzyk stressed that Mr. O'Connor should be reimbursed for the DVD's he has provided to the Town retirees. He questioned how much a back-up machine would cost and wondered whether we should budget for same or wait for formation of the 501.c.3. Mr. Kasprzyk noted that our sound quality is a problem (comparing it to the sound quality of Mr. Comeau's productions). Mr. O'Connor referred to the number of microphones used by Mr. Comeau, his mixing board and the quality of the camera used. If the 501.c.3 eventually receives funds via franchise fees, we will be able to purchase more and better equipment, hopefully through Access AV in Concord. (Much of the equipment now used belongs to Mr. O'Connor personally.) Mr. Kasprzyk thanked Mr. O'Connor (and Ms. Ward) for their volunteerism.

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Mr. Edwards referred to a list of 7 complaints and questioned why the number is so high. Mr. Kasprzyk noted that one complaint relates to editing, which LGC has confirmed is allowable. He stated that we need to stop dredging up the past and, instead, move forward. Mr. Edwards wondered if the list of complaints would be viewed differently if it had been submitted by someone other than Mr. Fogg. Mr. Paul stated it is time to move forward. Complaints should be directed to the Town Administrator as they happen.

Mr. Fogg stated that our Station Coordinator does not even have cable, but he should be aware of issues happening. He stressed that Channel 3 is a public access channel. Mr. Fogg advised that when he was Station Coordinator, he addressed many issues received via telephone calls. Now he is being told by the Station Coordinator to address issues to the Town Administrator. Mr. Paul stressed that the Board determined complaints should be directed to the Town Administrator. He also stated that we would not get into all this tonight. Issues are to be documented as they happen. Mr. Edwards questioned why we don't have a board to address all this. Mr. Kasprzyk stated that the Selectmen handle these issues. It seems to him that there is a personal rivalry going on. We need a 501.c.3 so that an independent group can run the PEG channel, which should be taken out of Town Hall.

Mr. Fogg then complained that Mr. O'Connor does not accept assistance when offered. Mr. O'Connor stated he has not received offers of assistance. He added that in September of 2011, the Board determined that complaints should go to the Town Administrator, who would then advise Mr. O'Connor. Mr. Edwards just wants the public to have the best of the PEG channel. If we need better equipment, that should be addressed. Mr. Paul noted that when we have franchise fees and a 501.c.3, perhaps we can have equipment on the level of that used by Mr. Comeau.

Mr. Edwards then asked Mr. O'Connor whether he needs help. Mr. O'Connor answered that every group in town needs assistance. Mr. Fogg stated that he has offered assistance but Mr. O'Connor has been discriminatory towards him. Mr. Kasprzyk noted that people working together must be able to work compatibly. Mr. Fogg referred to procedures that the Station Coordinator must follow. He used to check DVD's to make sure the DVD would play. As Mr. Fogg began to refer to a recent issue on June 2, Mr. Paul ended the discussion, noting that complaints are to be directed to the Town Administrator as they occur. Mr. O'Connor is to seek assistance if he would like it. Ms. Williams encouraged Mr. Fogg to help by signing out one of the Town's cameras to record events to be aired.

a) Titan Energy – Jerry Hawkins is now present to represent Titan Energy. He explained that Titan Energy is an energy consulting agency, helping towns with energy costs—specifically electricity and natural gas bills. With the recent deregulation, consumers now have options to purchase power through either a utility (such as PSNH) or a third party supplier. With a third party supplier, we would receive a price and product tailored specifically for the Town. The Town would have the option of locking in a long-term fixed price, making budgeting easier. With a utility, the rates can change every 6 months. Going through a third party offers predictability, risk management and better pricing. According to Mr. Hawkins, the Town's current rate with PSNH is around 8.75 cents. Third party rates are available in the 6 cents range. He predicted a savings to the Town of at least \$4000, with savings as much as \$7000 with a 24-month contract.

Mr. Hawkins referred to natural gas pricing being at an all-time low, which is a strong indicator of electric rates. If the Town contracted with Titan Energy, we would still receive only 1 bill (from PSNH), which would include Titan's costs. Ms. Williams questioned whether Titan searches for different third party options on a regular basis. Mr. Hawkins advised that Titan looks for the best supplier/product to match the Town's needs. In this case he looked at 3 suppliers, with Integrys providing the best option for the Town at this time. Near the end of the contract period, Titan would review this again to see if another supplier would offer a better option for the Town.

Mr. Kasprzyk questioned whether there is a penalty for earlier termination of the contract. Mr. Hawkins advised that in the event the Town should default, Integrys could assess an early termination fee, to be based on the current contract rate compared with the current market rate.

Mr. Edwards asked whether Titan Energy is comparable to Resident Power. Mr. Hawkins stated that Resident Power will purchase power based on critical mass, while Titan Energy will purchase power for each individual customer. Titan's focus is on commercial entities, rather than residential. Mr. Edwards questioned why Titan has only 3 NH towns. Mr. Hawkins referred to PSNH's recent rate increase, adding that Titan has brought him back to NH to expand their customer base. Mr. Edwards would expect PSNH to reduce their rates as third party suppliers cut into their business. Mr. Hawkins stressed that a utility must purchase power for their entire pool of customers. Mr. Paul stated that the Board would consider the information presented by Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins then welcomed questions from the audience. Mr. Hawkins advised Mr. Brown that Titan does not have a program for residents; however, they could help to organize with the Town to provide for its residents. Mr. Brown questioned whether the Town could get a better price if the School and Town combined to purchase power. Mr. Hawkins indicated that would be a possibility. He stated the amount of energy used is important; however, how the energy is used is also important. He added that the School's use may actually help lower the rate from 6.8 to around 6.5. Mr. Fogg asked whether rates increase when usage is lowered. Mr. Hawkins noted that when the Town locks into a rate, the rate remains the same regardless of how much energy is used. It really depends on when the power is used, not only during a day, but also the time of year. Ms. Nason stated that the Wakefield School District currently purchases power with the Milton School District. If they brought the Town in, how would that affect the rate? Mr. Hawkins stated it would likely drive the rate even lower.

c) Cheryl Donahue re: Oak Hill Road – Ms. Donahue questioned what the Board hopes to achieve on Oak Hill Road. Mr. Paul advised the Town is addressing the entrances of several dirt roads, where they meet paved roads. On Oak Hill they are also addressing one hill. It is difficult to maintain the graveled hill, and paving will also ease the wear on Town equipment. At the entrances, vehicles kick out rocks and gravel onto the pavement, creating the potential for accidents. Ms. Donahue is concerned that where the gravel meets the tar, there will be continual breakdown. She questioned what the maintenance issues are on the hill. Mr. Paul referred to wind erosion, dust, dirt washing down the hill, washboarding, and occasional reduction to one lane. A traffic count was done several years ago, which showed high usage. Statistics show that after 2000 vehicles per week, a road should be paved.

Ms. Donahue has seen the road improved over the last 27 years, with the traffic going too fast. If the current work is actually an opening to pave the entire road, she believes the result will be even more traffic. Ms. Donahue stated there are not that many residents on Oak Hill Road. Mr. Paul stated there are 40 houses between Oak Hill and Woodside Lane (with 80 lots on the road) and another 30-40 on Pond Road. The closure of the Canal Road bridge likely resulted in more heavy trucks on Oak Hill Road.

According to Ms. Donahue, the Road Agent believes the issues on Oak Hill are due mostly to commercial vehicles. She is concerned that the commercial drivers may not be taxpayers. Ms. Donahue wonders if we would be better served to make the commercial trucks stay on Route 109. She questioned whether it might solve some problems to designate Oak Hill Road as "local traffic only." Ms. Donahue does not want to see the road paved—she likes the dirt road. Mr. Paul stated that someday the road will likely be paved. He believes paving the entrances and hill are a compromise. Ms. Donahue hoped that the Town would take the cost of some of paving and use it to purchase better quality material to maintain the dirt road. Discussion followed as to the material used in the past.

Ms. Donahue questioned why this action is taking place at this time. Mr. Paul advised the issue was originally brought up by the Road Agent when we were considering paving jobs. Oak Hill Road is 2.6 miles long, and only about 1 mile is scheduled for paving. Ms. Donahue asked whether this is a done deal. She referred to a petition from 2003, when most petitioners were concerned with speed. She asked whether she should contact the other residents. Mr. Paul advised that Ms. Donahue is welcome to contact the residents. He personally does not believe that the speed of vehicles will increase. He stressed that the Board's main concern is the hill, as it is very hard on Town equipment. Winter maintenance on a paved road is much easier on a paved road.

Ms. Donahue wonders whether the input from residents would have an impact on the Board's decision. Mr. Paul noted that it would be best to pave the entire road. Ms. Donahue referred to the cost for maintenance per mile of road and was not sure the Town would see a cost savings. Mr. Paul advised we have established a means to track our costs. Ms. Donahue stated that historically Oak Hill Road has been a dirt road. Mr. Edwards stated that he does not mind a dirt road; however, the hill on Oak Hill is awful and needs attention. Paving the hill will benefit the Town's expenses, but it may not be seen as a benefit to the residents of that road.

Ms. Schlenker asked whether the Board has considered lowering the speed limit on Oak Hill Road. Mr. Paul stated one can only go about 20 mph up that hill. Mr. Kasprzyk stated that a slightly increased speed on pavement would be safer as the vehicle would have better control than on washboard. He noted the Board may eventually consider a weight limit.

Ms. Donahue stressed that the residents of Oak Hill Road are not complaining about the road. She thinks some other material could be considered. Mr. Edwards stressed that the impetus for paving the hill is Town maintenance. Mr. Kasprzyk added that the aprons are being installed because of safety concerns. Ms. Donahue still believes we will have a problem where the tar meets the gravel. She also sees this as a stepping stone to paving the entire road. Mr. Edwards advised that he is in a similar situation on his dirt road; but the tar has not broken up.

Ms. Nason agrees that it would be too bad to pave Oak Hill Road, it being an old historical road. Ms. Donahue noted that it was designated as a scenic road because of its stone walls. Recent road work was very aggressive. The Highway Department should be reminded that stone walls should not be disturbed. Mr. Kasprzyk will address that. The Board is scheduled to open bids for paving this evening, with the likely intent of accepting one. Ms. Schlenker asked whether residents will be informed of this work. Mr. Paul noted it was discussed as part of the budget process (not as a separate warrant article).

Ms. Donahue questioned how we designate the road as "local traffic only." Mr. Paul suggested we might consider restricting the weight, so that the road isn't used as a shortcut. Mr. Kasprzyk stated that if the Police Department determines there is a lot of commercial traffic going at high rates of speed, we could impose a weight limit. Mr. Edwards does not agree, noting that local contractors should not be penalized and should be able to travel that road. Mr. O'Connor noted he would not utilize Oak Hill Road as much if he could utilize Canal Road. Ms. Nason noted that truckers pay taxes too, with a high cost for registrations. Perhaps the road could be limited to "no through trucks."

Mr. Paul stated we should reestablish the traffic counter. Ms. Williams will check with the Police Chief. Mr. Fogg believes the answer to Ms. Donahue's questions is 25 signatures on a petition to the Board/voters. Ms. Williams will check with LGC regarding options. Mr. Edwards stated that we need to be aware of the high percentage of residents in the construction industry. Mr. O'Connor will check to see whether the road could be made a private road, so that the residents could maintain it as they see fit.

2. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment – None forthcoming.

3. Unfinished Business

a) Paving Bids – Bids were received from Brox and FR Carroll for work on Oak Hill Road, Harmony Drive and Heath Road. **Mr. Edwards moved to accept the proposal of FR Carroll at a maximum price of \$58,779. Mr. Kasprzyk seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

Ms. Donahue questioned whether the residents would have any input on the distance to be paved at the entrances of Oak Hill Road. Ms. Williams will direct the Road Agent to spray paint the proposed boundary of the pavement. Residents can certainly approach the Board regarding this matter if they so choose.

4. New Business

a) Town Hall Operation Hours – Mr. Kasprzyk noted that many people would like to see more accessible hours. Perhaps in the fall we could transition to 4 10-hour days. Ms. Williams suggested the possibility of being open later one day and leaving earlier on Fridays. Mr. Paul would like to see the final MRI report before making any decisions. He would also like to see the Town Hall open on Wednesday nights until 7-8 p.m. This will be discussed again in the near future.

b) Formation of Vehicle Maintenance Committee – Mr. Kasprzyk suggested the Town combine with the School Board in order to investigate the possibility of both entities saving money on vehicle maintenance.

The Town's expenses in this regard have been less than Mr. Kasprzyk had anticipated; however, he would like to form this committee to explore the costs of a mechanic, necessary in-house equipment, etc. Ms. Nason stated that they already have a Bus Committee, members of which include herself, Steve Brown (School Board member), Tim Eldridge (SAU Transportation Coordinator), and Andrew D'Agostino (SAU Business Administrator). Perhaps this could be expanded to include a member of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, Lt. O'Brien, and a Highway Department representative.

Mr. Edwards expressed concern regarding potential liability associated with maintaining school buses. Ms. Nason stated that NH DOT would require us to have certified bus inspectors. Discussion followed regarding scheduling issues and whether other towns are already doing this. **Mr. Paul moved to appoint Peter Kasprzyk to the new Vehicle Maintenance Committee. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

Mr. Brown would like permission to park the school buses at the Highway garage. The Board agreed by consensus, although the School will need to have a meter installed.

Mr. Kasprzyk noted that the Town has an excess amount of fill, while the School has need of clean fill. The Board agreed by consensus that the School can have our excess fill.

5. Proposed CRF Expenditures

a) Forest Fire Management \$47.39 – Mr. Kasprzyk moved to approve the expenditure from the Forest Fire Management CRF as submitted. Mr. Paul seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

b) Police Cruiser \$24,163.38 – Mr. Edwards moved to approve the expenditure from the Police Cruiser CRF as submitted. Mr. Kasprzyk seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

c) Highway Truck \$34,526.24 – Mr. Kasprzyk moved to approve the expenditure from the Highway Truck CRF as submitted. Mr. Paul seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

6. Correspondence

a) Balch Lake Improvement Assn – Mr. & Mrs. Wilson were present representing BLIMP and provided a 2012 summary of accomplishments and issues. In addition to the \$11,500 initial treatment, the State has identified 30 additional acres that will likely require treatment this year. Mr. Edwards believes that someone should fix Woodman Dam. However, that dam is privately owned and no one wants to accept that liability. According to Mr. Wilson, neither Acton nor Newfield will contribute any funds to this effort. Mr. Edwards suggested that Wakefield funds be used only in Wakefield waters so that the other towns would be more likely to contribute.

Mr. Wilson stated they are seeking \$3500 to help them increase operation of the DASH boat from 2 days per week to 3 days. A public hearing to consider this request will be scheduled for July 11.

7. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #2

--Mr. Fogg asked Mr. O'Connor whether they could work together on formation of a 501.c.3 for the PEG channel. Mr. O'Connor referred to the number of committees of which Mr. Fogg is already a participant. Mr. Paul stressed that this issue could be worked out between the 2 individuals.

--Mr. Bevard shared photos of the first event of the newly-formed Agricultural Committee—a pig scramble held on Pride Day.

8. Administrative Matters

a) Liaison Reports – **Mr. Kasprzyk**: The Cemetery Trustees will be demonstrating their new software on June 21 at 8 a.m. in the conference room. The Heritage Commission received the CLG grant to nominate the canal and bridge to the National Register of Historic Places, and their application received more votes than any other application submitted this year. The Commission will be keeping very good records as this project will be used as a national example. A public hearing to accept the \$6500 grant will be held on July 11. The Railroad Museum will be opening on June 30 at 10 a.m. and will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 10-3. The Commission is working on its website, historicwakefieldnh.com. The Highway Department continues work on Oak Hill Road. They have picked up the new pickup and are making plans for the new salt shed. The Road Agent wonders whether the new truck should occasionally be drive to Wolfeboro to be washed as the water at the Highway garage has a high salt content. Mr. Kasprzyk is communicating with the Food Pantry to see whether the Town could tie into that water supply. It was agreed that the water at the Highway garage should be tested and the tank should be cleaned soon. The Conservation Commission has everything lined up regarding the purchase of the Union Meadows property and is just waiting on title work. Federal review of the project will likely take several months.

Mr. Edwards: Parks & Rec will host fireworks on July 2, 100% of the costs being paid via donations and fundraisers. There will be 8 vendors. CROW has invited Parks & Rec as guest speaker at the August 6 meeting. The Santa breakfast normally hosted by the PTA will now be headed by Parks & Rec. The PTA is donating \$3000 towards this effort. 23 individuals participated in Hershey track meets. A few complaints were received about Ames Park, including lack of maintenance, which has been addressed. Also, a number of owners of back lots appear to be mooring their boats off the shore. Parks & Rec will erect signs and rope off a swimming area. The maintenance bid for 2013-2015 is ready to be published. Perhaps this should be considered as an in-house position. Renovations to the skate park will be accomplished this week. The Town beach has been very busy. Mr. Edwards did not attend the recent Planning Board meeting; however, according to the minutes, the Route 16 site walk was rained out. Cindy Bickford, Assessing Technician, attended the meeting to educate the Planning Board regarding Boundary Line Adjustments.

Mr. Paul: WPI has an RFP ready for renovations. There will be a walk-through with the NH Historic Society on July 19. The OHPAC is preparing grant applications. Mr. Paul stated that the Board should probably consider additional board meetings in order to sign documents. More discussion to follow at the next meeting.

b) Administrator's Update

--NH Fish & Game has submitted a letter regarding the conservation easement on the Union Meadows project. This letter from them relates to the appraisal that must go to Washington with our application. Discussion followed regarding the appraised value. **Mr. Paul moved to execute the document as submitted. Mr. Kasprzyk seconded the motion, which passed 2- 1.**

--Ms. Williams suggested that one member of the Board be appointed to execute documents on behalf of the Town at the closing. **Mr. Kasprzyk moved to authorize Kenneth Paul to execute documents on behalf of the Town at the closing for the Union Meadows property. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0-1.**

--E911 representatives will be around town to collect data. Their vehicles will have State identification, and the individuals will carry ID's. Notices will be posted around town.

--Ms. Williams advised that the funds awarded for the Brackett Road project will actually go to AWWA as the project will run through that organization.

--Arlene Fogg is implementing the work force program for recipients of General Assistance. She is beginning with a program next week within Town Hall. She is also working with the Transfer Station Manager.

--We must decide what to do with the old Code Enforcement vehicle. The Board decided to put the vehicle out to bid. The Highway Department also has an older vehicle. This could be utilized at the Transfer Station. We will determine whether it must be registered in order to be insured.

--Information was previously submitted to the Board members regarding Ken and Arlene Fogg's property on Summer Street. The attorneys and surveyors are trying to address this issue. Town Counsel has recommended a particular process to the Board. Discussion followed as to responsibility for paying associated costs. Mr. Relf Fogg wonders whether any conflict of interest exists as Town Counsel had previously advised the property owners on this matter. **Mr. Kasprzyk moved to proceed with Town Counsel's recommendations and to approve legal fees up to \$1500 for this matter. Mr. Paul seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

c) Building Permit Releases – Mr. Kasprzyk moved to approve building permit releases for Harlow-Powell on Thorn Hill Road and Knights on Linda Lane. Mr. Paul seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Kasprzyk noted that the Conservation Commission will host a yard sale on Wakefield Road (across from the Poor Peoples Pub) on Saturday, June 16 to raise funds for the campership program.

Ms. Nason presented the board with a list of call numbers used with the old siren located at Town Hall. Mr. Kasprzyk noted that the Heritage Commission is very interested in ownership of that siren.

d) Payment Manifests – Mr. Edwards moved to approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$84,355.20. Mr. Kasprzyk seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$709,202.48. Mr. Kasprzyk seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

e) Minutes – Mr. Kasprzyk moved to approve the minutes of May 23, 2012, as presented. Mr. Paul seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

Kenneth S. Paul, Chairperson

Peter M. Kasprzyk

Richard C. Edwards