

**Board of Selectmen
June 10, 2015**

Present: Richard C. Edwards, Chairperson; Kenneth S. Paul; Connie Twombley; Teresa A. Williams, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

Mr. Edwards called the posted meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. **Mrs. Twombley moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) & (b). Mr. Paul seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Twombley – ‘aye’; Mr. Paul – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’. The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Edwards led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present included: Tom Beeler, *The Granite State News*; Jim Miller; Mike Gingras, Highway Manager; Dave Lee; Ruben Knisley; John Fournier; Rep Ed Comeau (also videographer); Rep Lino Avellani; Rep Bill Nelson; Rep Glenn Cordelli; and Donna Martin (videographer).

1. Appointments

a) Representatives Comeau, Avellani and Nelson – Mr. Comeau introduced himself and advised he is on the House Committee for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. His main purpose as our representative is to listen to the people he represents, and he invited those present to ask questions of him. Mr. Miller referred to a representative from the DOT stating that a \$0.04 per gallon increase in the gas tax would fix our bridges and roads. The increase was approved, but nothing is being done on the bridges or roads. Mr. Comeau believes that the public was lied to. Revenue from that tax has been spread out over several agencies, including the Departments of Safety, Transportation and Justice. It appears to Mr. Comeau that Concord is more interested in preserving the State agencies than in meeting the needs of the people. In addition, the Federal Government provides funds to the State for bridge repair; however, they also change the standards for those bridges.

Mr. Miller referred to the State’s decision to postpone the bill to decriminalize use of marijuana, which is still being held in the same class as heavy duty drugs. Mr. Miller stressed that the punishment should fit the crime. Mr. Avellani and Mr. Comeau voted for decriminalization. Mr. Nelson had planned to vote in favor of decriminalization; however, having spoken with several doctors and chiefs of police, he changed his mind during discussion on the floor. Mr. Miller stated that we have a real problem with heroin, but we are wasting money on marijuana issues. We should be focusing on the real problem. Mr. Avellani stated that the bill did make it to the Governor’s desk. Mr. Nelson stated that the original bill was for medicinal marijuana; however, the language keeps expanding. He believes we need to go slow, but agrees that individuals should not wind up with a bad record due to marijuana. Mr. Edwards stated that there is not a place in our region where people can get help with chemical addictions. He is worried about our community, and he noted that pot is not killing our kids. Mr. Avellani spoke to personal responsibility and the need for good parenting. Mr. Miller reiterated that the punishment should fit the crime and noted that the legislature must base decisions on facts rather than on scenarios that may (or may not) occur in the future. He stated that there are many models to use as examples.

Mr. Paul referred to the number of liquor stores on every highway. Mr. Knisley noted that many people are hooked on OxyContin. Mr. Comeau stated that the grant money for the DWI checkpoint comes (in part) from liquor sales.

Mr. Miller requested that each Representative share some positive news from the State House! Mr. Nelson advised that Health & Human Services is tracking pricing for medical procedures in order to allow individuals to compare rates. Mr. Avellani advised that changes are being made to Workers Comp with the intent to get costs reduced. Mr. Comeau referred to the new 30-day residency requirement for those wishing to vote. A discussion of the voting procedure followed.

Mr. Edwards asked whether there is a drug-testing requirement for those being issued EBT cards. The answer: Not in NH. Ms. Williams asked whether the Meals/Room tax funding to the Towns has been restored. Mr. Avellani indicated that a study committee has been formed.

Mr. Nelson noted that there is a good team working on County issues. Ms. Williams asked about State aid for wastewater. No information was available. Ms. Williams referred to the use of cameras during elections (to be used when a prospective voter does not have valid identification). Mr. Avellani believes that the Secretary of State's office will provide cameras to take photos as necessary at elections. The \$100,000 for the purchase of cameras is still in the approval process.

Ms. Williams attended a meeting in Concord regarding the PLT issue. PLT is a risk pool management company, along with Primex. PLT has been under scrutiny over the last several years. As a result of this situation PLT has determined it does not have the resources to accomplish everything necessary to continue operations and, therefore, will no longer offer coverage as of July 1, 2016. Many towns have contacted their Senators trying to shift oversight of this issue from the Secretary of State to the Department of Insurance. 15-20 towns were represented and were involved in good conversation. The general feeling was that we need PLT to provide competition for Primex in order to keep costs down. Something needs to be decided within the next 60 days.

Briefly discussed the high cost of medical insurance and medical services.

Mr. Paul made several comments: Casinos would kill the state; the northern part of the State needs the Balsams project to move forward; other areas of concern to him were covered by previous conversations; and thanks for the help at the county level.

Mr. Lee understands that a bill has been presented to change the criteria to obtain a Veterans' property tax credit to include all veterans, not just those serving during war. Mr. Nelson stated this bill has gone to committee. He agrees that one should get the credit if one has been willing to serve. Whether the representatives vote in favor of the bill depends upon how the final bill is presented. Discussion followed regarding the bill process.

2. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #1

--Mr. Miller distributed a Biennial Report of the NH Scenic & Cultural Byways Council (2011-2012) obtained at a recent meeting of Strafford Regional Planning Commission. He noted that it appears as though the State, which has done nothing about the Scenic Byway for years, has given us 6 months to accomplish a list of chores—otherwise we will lose the Scenic Byway designation. Mr. Miller stated that the wording in the aforementioned document is murky and refers to the requirement of having a management plan for the road.

It appears to him that the State and Federal Governments expect us to follow their rules without funding from them.

He is asking the Board to determine what benefits the Town receives from this designation and what are the costs of same. Mr. Miller stressed that we have a Planning Board and Zoning Ordinance, as well as a competent Heritage Commission. The designation seems to have strings attached. The Town could ask for the designation back at a later time if such is lost. Dover has decided not to continue with their designation. Ms. Williams stated that Strafford Regional is willing to assist the Town and is seeking volunteer members from the communities to work on this plan. Mr. Miller reiterated that we should know the benefits, and the people should decide whether the Town goes forward. Mr. Edwards would expect the Planning Board to make recommendations for appointments to this committee. Ms. Williams advised that originally the scenic byways was developed in an effort to promote tourism. Mr. Comeau, a representative to Strafford Regional, stated that the actual purpose is to control growth. The committee will put itself between the Planning Board and the property owner. He encourages the Board to determine why Dover said "no." Mr. Miller noted the document makes a number of references to the need for a management plan. He is concerned about putting that in the hands of a few people. Ms. Williams will be meeting with Cynthia Copeland of SRPC soon and will invite her to a Board meeting for further discussion. Mr. Knisley was concerned about the traffic such a designation might promote.

3. Unfinished Business

a) Welfare Guidelines – Arlene Fogg has provided revised guidelines for the Board's consideration. LGC developed basic guidelines a number of years ago, and many towns are adjusting those guidelines for their individual use. Ms. Twombly believes it is a good idea for all communities to have consistent criteria in order to avoid the potential of shopping for welfare. The Board will review this information and will address adoption of same at a future meeting.

b) Selectmen's Deed for Map 81, Lot 30 – In accordance with the Town vote, this deed is being issued to clarify ownership of the referenced property. **Ms. Twombly moved to execute the deed for Map 81, Lot 30, as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

4. New Business

a) Paving Bids – The Selectmen opened bids as follows: FR Carroll - \$70.90/ton; Pike - \$76.40/ton; Brox - \$78/ton; and GMI - \$68.90/ton. All bids were not submitted in exactly the same format. All bids were given to Mike Gingras to review and to eventually make a recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Gingras referred to a letter from NH DOT dated June 2014 sent to Fred Clough referencing the Town's paving of Rines Road, for which no State permit was issued. As a result of the project, water ran onto Route 109 and caused excessive icing during the winter. The State is directing the Town to repave a portion of the road, to include a swale. Water needs to run off to enter the culvert. Mr. Gingras has discussed this with Todd Nason. Mr. Edwards executed the driveway permit application provided by the State. Mr. Paul stated that we need to mitigate the run-off towards the river. He would expect the contractor awarded the overall paving contract to address this project as well.

Mr. Gingras advised he has viewed the product offered by both bidders for winter sand. One provider is located much closer than the other to Wakefield. Mr. Gingras recommends accepting the bid of Ossipee Aggregates at \$6.83/yard (\$5.25/ton). He anticipates the need for 3000 yards, for a total cost of \$20,490, with the Highway Department hauling the material. Mr. Paul referred to the hope to get a number of years out of the existing trucks. However, no funds are available in the budget to have an outside contractor haul the material. **Mr. Paul moved to accept the bid of Ossipee Aggregates at \$6.83/yard, as recommended by the Department Head. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

Mr. Gingras advised he has been looking for a roadside mower. He referred to \$25,000 having been approved for such a purpose. He had located a machine at North Country Tractor; however, it sold before Mr. Gingras could approach the Board. He would like the Board's permission to move quickly should another appropriate piece of equipment be located. Ms. Williams referred to the CRF for Heavy Equipment, which has a balance of approximately \$113,000. We would need to check with the Trustees of the Trust Funds to determine whether they would sanction use of that line for such equipment. If their answer is "no," then we could encumber the \$25,000 for next year, while hiring out the mowing for this year.

b) Purchase Order for Automated External Defibrillators – In accordance with the Town vote, this purchase order reflects purchase of 10 AED units, with accessories, plus a training unit. Mr. Paul suggested that Ms. Williams provide information on these units to area churches, as non-profits are eligible to purchase same through this provider. **Mr. Paul moved to execute the purchase order as presented. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

c) Appointments to Scenic Byway Committee – These appointments were tabled until the meeting with SRPC (and the proposed appointees) occurs.

5. Proposed CRF Expenditures

a) Police Vehicle \$2986.68 – This represents the cost to move various equipment from one cruiser to the new one. **Ms. Twombly moved to approve the \$2986.68 expenditure as presented. Mr. Paul seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

b) Police vehicle \$1095.38 – This represents the cost of new lighting for the new cruiser. **Ms. Twombly moved to approve the \$1095.38 expenditure as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

c) Police Vehicle \$209 – This is the cost to remove all public safety equipment from the outgoing cruiser. **Ms. Twombly moved to approve the \$209 expenditure as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

d) Town Hall Improvements \$198.48 – This represents the cost of new economy light shades for the Tax Collector's office. **Mr. Edwards moved to approve the \$198.48 expenditure as presented. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

6. Correspondence

a) Great East Lake Improvement Assoc – The Board is invited to attend the annual meeting scheduled for July 11, from 10a to 1p at Weeks Park on North Shore Road.

7. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #2

--Mr. Comeau advised the roll call House votes can be found at www.fosters.com.

8. Administrative Matters

a) Administrator's Update

--The owner of the former Side Pocket Corral will lease the premises to Jim's Wheelhouse and is seeking permission to sell beer and wine. He requests that the Board supply the State with a letter of approval.

Mr. Edwards moved to advise the State that the Board has no objections to this proposal. Ms. Twombley seconded the motion, which passed 2-1.

--We have received a request from the Paul School to allow them to dispose of construction debris at the Transfer Station at no cost. Mr. Paul noted that the Paul School has their own budget and should get their own dumpster. It has been estimated that the debris would weigh about 1 ton and would cost about \$200 for disposal. **Mr. Paul moved to approve the Paul School to dispose of up to 1 ton of construction debris at no cost. Ms. Twombley seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.** Mr. Paul suggested the Board appoint an advisory committee to draft a new Transfer Station Ordinance, for review by the Board prior to inclusion on the warrant.

--The NH Farm Museum is preparing to mail a solicitation for their membership drive. The Town normally charges \$50 for a list of names/addresses of property owners. The Museum is asking whether the Town would be willing to waive that fee given their non-profit status. The Board agreed by consensus, as long as the information can be provided to the Museum in digital format. Otherwise, the \$50 fee must be paid.

--The Board executed the 2015 Warrant for Unlicensed Dogs.

--Flags for utility poles: Ms. Williams has not heard from the Ladies Auxiliary in some time. However, Ms. Williams did obtain the permit information from Eversource. Flags can be displayed for 6 months. Any brackets can remain in place, but they might be removed by line crews. One needs to reapply for approval each year. All Wakefield villages should be included. Ms. Williams will wait to hear from the Ladies Auxiliary.

--The Board agreed that Ms. Williams should get a price to fabricate a railing for the middle of the front steps of Town Hall.

b) Building Permit Releases – **Mr. Edwards moved to approve the building permit release for Tyrie-Wilcauskas on Veazey Point Road. Ms. Twombley seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

Mr. Edwards moved to approve the building permit release for Kimball on Buck Road. Ms. Twombley seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

c) Payment Manifests – **Ms. Twombley moved to approve AP 19, a void in the amount of \$3570.68, representing stale checks. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

Board of Selectmen
June 10, 2015
Page 6

Ms. Twombly moved to approve PR #13 in the amount of \$65,612.25. Mr. Paul seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to approve AP #18 in the amount of \$710,650.30. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

d) Minutes – Mr. Edwards referred to the Town of Middleton not assisting one of its residents in paying an outstanding invoice for ambulance services. Ms. Williams advised that Chief Nason recommends that this Board not waive any portion of that invoice, or any invoice involving a Middleton resident. If the Town of Middleton is unwilling to pay, then the WFA will begin charging that Town for the services provided. Ms. Williams will draft a letter for Town Counsel’s review. **Ms. Twombly moved to accept the minutes of the May 27, 2015, meeting, as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

Richard C. Edwards, Chairperson

Kenneth S. Paul

Connie Twombly