

MINUTES  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
APRIL 13, 2009

The Board of Selectmen met for their weekly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Campton Town Office. Present were, Selectmen Charles Cheney, Charles Wheeler, Craig Keeney and Marsh Morgan. Selectman Sharon Davis was not present due to a conflict in schedule. The Board signed the manifest and reviewed the bills. They denied one Intent to Build and referred the owner to the ZBA for a variance. The Board also signed 1 Notice of Intent to Excavate, 2 Elderly Exemptions and 2 Abatements.

At 6:45 p.m. Vice Chair Charles Wheeler opened the meeting with the first appointment being David Hilliard. Ann Marie explained that Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District was awaiting the official appointment of the representative and alternate to serve for the Town of Campton. David Hilliard suggested that Tim Kingston serve as an alternate, along side of him. Mr. Hilliard strongly felt Mr. Kingston would be a good candidate as he is knowledgeable in the field, friendly and out spoken, and lives in Campton. Mr. Hilliard also felt Tim would make an excellent backup person for him. The Board agreed on the appointment of Tim Kinston as David Hilliard's alternate and signed the appointment for both David Hilliard as representative and Tim Kingston as alternate. David Hilliard also mentioned that he would like to encourage more meetings with Campton and Thornton and the Board felt it was an excellent idea. Ann Marie will coordinate this with Tammie Beaulieu, Thornton Town Administrator. Selectman Morgan also mentioned that recycling of corrugated boxes didn't seem to be controlled thoroughly and David Hilliard assured him that a tighter reign would be enforced regarding this issue together with strict checking of transfer station permit stickers. The Board then thanked Mr. Hilliard for coming.

At 6:55 p.m. the meeting was running a little early, and Vice Chair Charles Wheeler called on Lester and Rita Mitchell as the next appointment for the evening. Lester Mitchell explained that he felt the conditions of the roads were worst this year than any other year and was appalled that 1.7 million dollars has been spent on the roads in 3 years with no improvement, in fact, he felt the dirt roads were being destroyed because of lack of proper grading, lack of crowning and lack of proper ditching. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell were also concerned about the fact that only 4-wheel drive vehicles could pass on the roads and his concern was pertaining to emergency vehicles not getting through quickly enough to save lives. In fact, Mr. Mitchell stated that it takes him 17 minutes to travel a distance of only 1.3 miles because of the poor conditions. Mr. Mitchell proceeded to state that something needed to be done to correct these problems or he would, "start proceedings to remove the Road Agent from office". Mr. Mitchell also proceeded to question each Board member to express their opinion on their satisfaction or dissatisfaction of the Road Agent's performance, and what they felt was needed to be done to correct the problems. Selectman Morgan confirmed road damage, but felt under the circumstances (the fact that certain roads do not have a solid base in the first place) he felt that Butch Bain was doing the best that he could do. Selectman Wheeler also felt that Butch Bain was doing the best that he could do with the extreme winter weather

conditions that we have experienced this past winter. Selectman Charles Cheney felt in some situations yes and some situations no. Selectman Cheney felt more emphasis needed to be directed on proper grading and getting the ditches and culverts cleaned out. Selectman Cheney confirmed that stone was the best choice for soft spots, but the stone needed to be leveled and packed down while the ground was still moist. He felt the purchase of the roller will be of great benefit in this regard. Selectman Keeney agreed with the above concerns and that he would like to see the roads “pulled in” to create the crown with the material pushed to the side by the grader. Selectman Keeney explained that he would like to see an increase in the depth of the ditches and focus on training on the grader.

At this point, Vice Chair Wheeler invited anyone else to speak. Dick Giehl expressed concerns about organizing the scheduling of the equipment rather than doing a small portion of road and then moving the equipment on to an entirely different section in Town; therefore, not addressing all the issues of a particular area before moving on. Mr. Giehl expressed his concern that this was costing the Town more money. Mr. Giehl did acknowledge that he realized the Road Agent is under a certain amount of pressure to satisfy the concerns of residents in many areas of Town. Mr. Giehl was concerned about proper ditching and the road getting washed out on Beech Hill because of insufficient ditching. Mr. Giehl expressed that on some areas of Beech Hill Road there was stone dropped in piles and not leveled or packed down which could cause safety issues. Mr. Giehl also mentioned that he felt that extended lunchtime routines needed to be addressed in order to increase daily productivity of the Highway Department.

Vice Chair Wheeler called on Rod Scheffer a resident who lives on Beech Hill Road. Mr. Scheffer also confirmed that he felt the roads were in the worst condition since he has lived in Campton and he has lived in Town for numerous years. He would like the Board to re-visit the possibility of more grading training to hopefully rectify the problem. Mr. Edward Somerford, a resident who lives on Randall Road, confirmed that he has traveled the roads for 13 years and feels that the same problems exist every year in spite of weather conditions. He stated he did not have a problem with the manner in which Road Agent Butch Bain was performing his job, in fact, he just wished, “he would do more of it” such as applying more stone. Even though Mr. Somerford felt Butch was doing an “admirable job”, he was concerned about safety issues and the liability of the Town if there was an accident due to unsafe conditions of the road. At this point, Mrs. Mitchell reiterated her concern about emergency equipment getting through in a timely manner. Mr. Somerford did present questions pertaining to what substantiates a good base. Selectman Cheney proceeded to explain the criteria for a good base and also that drainage issues and culverts also need to be addressed. He explained that this is a lengthy and costly project. Some discussion centered on monies available to initiate this project. Mr. Somerford questioned the Board as to whether or not they felt an on going preparation of establishing a good base would alleviate the “every year at this time” problems, and if so, he hoped the Board would consider a plan. The general consensus of the Board was that a good base preparation and ditching was necessary to correct existing problems. They also agreed that existing roads would have to be dug several feet, and this would be quite costly.

Vice Chair Wheeler invited Kevin Coburn, a resident living on Eastern Corner Road to add any comments regarding the road issues. Mr. Coburn indicated that the stone is a good choice at present, but as time progresses when the roads dry out and the stone is graded, there will be excessive complaints about flat tires. Kevin Coburn was in favor of the application of magnesium chloride. He stated that the magnesium chloride doesn't allow the roads to dry out, holds the moisture from the evening (excellent for packing purposes and keeping down dust) and even though there is an expense for the chloride, it will save the wear and tear on grading equipment.

There was also dismay expressed by Mr. Mitchell that Road Agent Butch Bain was not present at this meeting to address his questions and concerns. Selectman Charles Wheeler apologized by acknowledging that he had over-stepped his boundaries and indicated to Butch that it was not necessary that he be present for the meeting this evening. After much thought, Mr. Mitchell did express to Selectman Wheeler that his decision not to have the Road Agent present for this particular meeting was perhaps the best decision.

Mr. Somerford, in summary of the above, wanted to know what the Board planned to do from now forward in order to eliminate the roads returning to the same poor conditions next year.

Vice Chair Wheeler reassured the residents that the issues discussed this evening concerning the gravel roads and the Highway Department would certainly be addressed and a decision as to what kind of action could be taken to rectify all their concerns. The residents thanked the Board for their time.

Vice Chair Wheeler then called on Ann Marie to review correspondence. Ann Marie distributed the 2009 first quarter budget review to the Board for their review and information.

Ann Marie also indicated that the Fire Commission Minutes are available from the March 11, 2009 meeting.

A notice from North Country Council, Inc. was received regarding a Solid Waste/Recycling Meeting scheduled for 4/16/09, between 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at North Country Council, 107 Glessner Rd., Bethlehem, NH.

A letter was received from USDA Forest Service that the Pemigewasset Ranger District is planning a 2009 prescribed burning program to take place from May through October to which a map was enclosed indicating the particular areas affected by this program. Ann Marie anticipates there might be a number of calls pertaining to smoke issues during this time.

Ann Marie also indicated that a letter was received from a resident in Town requesting the allowance to file an abatement (after the designated expiration date) due to the fact

that the State indicated to them that they were misled by information given to them by the Town Office. The Board agreed to extend the allowance of the abatement to be filed by the property owners.

Also, the Minutes of the Conservation Commission Meeting regarding the sale of the Pattee house are available; and Ann Marie indicated that the house will be listed with a local real estate agent for the sale.

Ann Marie also distributed web site statistics to the Board for their review.

Ann Marie questioned as to whether or not the Board had reviewed the proposal from Matthew Moore, of Matthew Moore Civil Engineering, PLLC and what their decision was pertaining to hiring Mr. Moore. After some discussion, the Board agreed they needed the professional services of Mr. Moore to accommodate the Town on the Blair Bridge project.

Ann Marie also indicated that a letter was forwarded, certified mail, to Nancy Mayville at the NH DOT addressing the Blair Bridge project. Ann Marie stated that there has been some discrepancy in the previous figures quoted and present figures quoted by the State regarding estimated costs in order to proceed with funding of this project, and an explanation was needed by the State.

Also, Ann Marie presented a piece of the fence that John Timson, Cemetery Sexton, had provided to her to show the deterioration of the fence at the Eastern Corner Road Cemetery. It was unanimously agreed by the Board that the entire fence needed to be replaced as it was not repairable, contrary to the Board's previous decision last week. Ann Marie indicated that John Timson was also approached by a resident stating that the fence at the cemetery by Hutts Corner also needed replacing. The Board decided to replace the Eastern Corner Road Cemetery fence (as previously mentioned above) and to just repair the fence by Hutts Corner.

Out of courtesy, Vice Chair, Charles Wheeler called on Kevin Coburn to speak even though Mr. Coburn was not scheduled on the agenda. Mr. Coburn explained that the purpose for his coming to the Selectmen's Meeting was to discuss an entirely different issue than what he actually became involved in early at this meeting, i.e. the roads. The issue that Mr. Coburn brought before the Board was stemming from the recent Town Election and what Mr. Coburn believed to be illegal tactics, and the response letter he received from the Board pertaining to same. Mr. Coburn did voice specific incidents that he and his wife witnessed previous to the Election and during the Election that disturbed him. Mr. Coburn expressed that he felt he was some kind of "villain" with the language that was used in the response letter directed to him from the Board. Mr. Coburn explained that it was not his intent to create any issues, but he wanted to know what was going to be done in order to make sure that the problems encountered will not happen again. Vice Chair Wheeler explained to Mr. Coburn that a mandatory meeting has been scheduled for May 4, 2009 for Town employees to attend regarding Right to Know Law and Electioneering which will be presented by Town Attorney, Laura Spector. Vice

Chair Wheeler explained that this meeting will clarify any confusion as to what is and what is not proper protocol pertaining to electioneering and will enlighten employees on Right to Know Law. Vice Chair Wheeler indicated that the Board felt this meeting would clear up any future problems on this subject. At this point Kevin Coburn thanked the Board for their time and wished no ill feelings towards anyone.

Next on the agenda was Other Business/Selectmen's Input. Vice Chair Wheeler called on Selectman Craig Keeney. Selectman Keeney distributed to the Board a copy of an e-mail from Town Attorney, Laura Spector responding to Minutes of a Non Public Session held 4/6/09, requested by Road Agent, Butch Bain. After discussion and reviewing the e-mail provided by Attorney Laura Spector, the Board decided to officially make the Non Public Session Minutes public, as requested by Selectman Keeney. Selectman Keeney added that he would like to try to get away from going into Non Public Session as often as the Board does. Ann Marie expressed the necessity of certain issues being discussed in Non Public Session, but also agreed that certain issues such as salaries are public information and should be addressed in a public meeting not a non public meeting.

At this point, Vice Chair Wheeler made a motion to approve the Non Public Session Minutes (as written) and make the Non Public Session Minutes dated 4/6/09 with Road Agent, Butch Bain public; and accept the other Non Public Session Minutes of 4/6/09 as presented; and to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting (4/6/09) as written. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Marsh Morgan; and the Motion was unanimously approved.

Other business discussed by Selectman Keeney was the fact that Mason Road is "going in the right direction" and he would like the Board to consider the possibility of using magnesium chloride. Selectman Charles Cheney confirmed that magnesium chloride retains the moisture in the road, compacts the road and holds down dust. The only problem he foresees is if it rains, the chemical gets washed away.

There being no further business, Vice Chair Wheeler made a Motion to adjourn, Selectman Marsh Morgan seconded the Motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor M. Dewey  
Office Assistant to Ann Marie Foote, Town Administrator