

MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
October 5, 2009

The Board of Selectmen met for their weekly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Campton Town Office. Present were, Selectmen, Craig Keeney, Sharon Davis and Marsh Morgan. Selectman Cheney is on vacation and Selectman Wheeler had a conflict in schedule. The Board signed the manifest and reviewed the bills. They signed 1 Residency Application, 1 Note Modification Agreement from Northway Bank, 2 Abatements, 3 Pole Permits and 1 Sign Permit.

Chair Davis indicated there would be an addition to the agenda as Kelly Bolger will be present to discuss the Fire Department Sub Station floor drain and the new Town Office Building.

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and called on Greg Colby as the first appointment. Mr. Colby explained that he represented Glacial Energy, which is an electrical supplier in New Hampshire, and the company has been in business for 5 years. He presented the Board with a price quote for electrical energy, which would encompass the Town Office and the Highway Department based on previous billings the Town had incurred for kilowatt-hour usage through Public Services of NH. Mr. Colby estimated a savings of approximately 13% on the kilowatt-hour usage (only). He stated that Glacial Energy would bill the Town for the kilowatt-hour usage and Public Services of NH would still own and maintain the lines and the Town would still be responsible for charges due Public Services of NH, minus the kilowatt-hour usage. Mr. Colby pointed out that there is no long-term contract to sign with Glacial Energy so the Town would not be locked in. Mr. Colby also explained that Glacier purchases the overage of electricity produced at a reduced rate and because of low overhead costs, they can carry this savings on to their customers. There was concern discussed about the long-term effect this concept will have on utility companies in the area; the hesitation about buying a commodity, and the fact that Glacial Energy has only established itself in the area for a very short time, (approximately four months). Chair Davis did indicate to Mr. Colby that the Board would take the information into future consideration.

Chair Davis then called on Ann Marie to review correspondence. Ann Marie indicated that she needs to RSVP to the White Mountain National Forest Headquarters (by October 16, 2009) regarding their dedication on October 30, 2009. At present, Selectman Morgan and his wife, Sandy will attend along with Selectman Davis, Ann Marie and Selectman Keeney and his wife, Ann Marie.

Ann Marie indicated she was in contact with Mark Richardson regarding the Blair Bridge Federal Grant and its progress. After some discussion by the Board, it was agreed that Ann Marie would contact our State Senators to hopefully receive some information as to when the grant monies from the historical bridge account may be available, and if the Town of Campton is going to be eligible to receive any monies.

Ann Marie indicated, on a good note, that Mitchell Municipal Group, P.A. (Town Attorney's firm) will not be increasing their rates for the year 2010.

North Country Council will be holding their regional training sessions on October 27, 2009 in Colebrook and in Albany on October 29, 2009; both sessions will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Ann Marie indicated she heard from Laura Spector regarding the Muto issue and it has been resolved with nothing more for the Board to become involved in.

A courtesy memo was received from Hannah Joyce, Town Clerk Tax Collector regarding installation of 6 poles on Route 3 and I-93 being placed by Fair Point Communications and NH Electric Co-Op. Selectman Morgan indicated that the poles have already been placed.

Ann Marie indicated that the Web Site report was available for review.

Ann Marie stated that she received Road Agent, Butch Bain's statements and pictures regarding the claims presented by Fair Point Communications pertaining to the disturbance of telephone wires encountered on Hodgman Hill Road when paving. Ann Marie forwarded the information on to Town Attorney, Laura Spector. Attorney Spector advised Ann Marie to also forward the documents to the Town's insurance company.

On a good note, Ann Marie indicated that she has a packet of e-mails from property owners on Hodgman Hill Road commending the Highway Department for the excellent paving job on the road. She will pass this packet on to the Road Agent.

Ann Marie also indicated that a thank you note was received from the Campton Old Home Day Committee.

There being no further correspondence, Chair Davis then presented revisions to be made to the Minutes of the previous meeting and then moved for a Motion to approve the Minutes. Selectman Morgan made a Motion to approve the Minutes as revised, seconded by Selectman Keeney; the Minutes were approved as revised.

Chair Davis then continued with Other Business/Selectmen's Input. Chair Davis inquired as to the progress of the re-evaluation. Ann Marie stated that she was in communication with Cheryl at Commerford, Nieder and Perkins, (Town Assessing firm) and they are running a little behind schedule. Cheryl did indicate she would get back to Ann Marie in a few days regarding their completion and actual dates that would be scheduled for interested property owners to meet with the Assessors. Ann Marie did emphasize to Cheryl the importance of the time frame in getting the tax bills out before the end of the year. Ann Marie will follow-up in a few days with Cheryl.

Chair Davis then called on Kelly Bolger, as the Board's next appointment. Mr. Bolger indicated that a price quote was received for floor drainage for the Fire Department Sub Station in the amount of approximately \$2,768 for the piping and another \$900 (approximately) for the storage tank. Ann Marie confirmed that funds were available in the budget, (at the prices quoted). The Board then agreed to go forward with the drain project based on this information.

Kelly Bolger also inquired of the Board as to how they wanted to proceed with the new Town Office project. After discussion on possibilities and mixed opinions on proceeding, it was decided that Kelly would contact the firms (previously involved in the estimate of construction costs) to acquire an "Opinion Letter" as to whether they see an increase or decrease; or, a holding of prices at the present time.

Chair Davis then called on Ann Marie who presented to the Board her Memo regarding the continued discussion of the possibility of hiring of a Town Manager or an additional position in the Selectmen's Office. Basically Ann Marie felt the position would duplicate work already done by her, Hannah and the Board even though she acknowledged her appreciation for the Board's desire to lessen her workload. Ann Marie indicated the position would require a significant increase in the budget, which she does not believe the Town could afford at this time with the economy, lack of jobs, foreclosures and reduced revenues. Ann Marie did express that three large projects were going on all at once in the Selectmen's Office, i.e. a new accounting system, the re-evaluation and the Blair Bridge Project. Ann Marie felt some of her duties will be reduced by Matt Moore and a Clerk of the Works when the Blair Bridge Project gets underway. She stated that she would like to participate in some workshops next year regarding the new accounting system and she will also have the opportunity to work with the auditors in February to gain more knowledge; and the re-evaluation will be over in a few months.

Ann Marie felt that the biggest issue that the taxpayers were concerned about is the continued increase in taxes. She suggested creating a position for an individual who would attract more industry to the area and jobs. She felt that possibly hiring a consultant who has expertise in attracting business, helping business people get financing to start up a venture; (possibly to fill the empty buildings on Southmayd Road) would help increase revenue. She also felt a consultant would have the time to attend the Grafton Economic Committee and North Country Council meetings to assist in the revenue increasing process. Ann Marie also explained that no benefits would be required to be paid to this particular individual if hired under a contract; and if the Board was not pleased with the performance, they could simply not renew the individual's contract.

Selectman Keeney mentioned concerns about time expended on the GIS Mapping project that May is currently involved in and felt that that time was jeopardizing her having time to assist Ann Marie. Selectman Keeney also felt that the cost factor of time expended outweighed the benefits of the GIS program. Selectman Morgan confirmed that the GIS program has greatly benefited the Planning Board.

The Board inquired as to Ellie Dewey's thoughts pertaining to the Town Manager discussion. Ellie explained that she and May realize that Ann Marie has 3 added major projects to work on and they are focused on working as a team to try to assist her by sharing additional tasks. Ann Marie has also delegated the workload (where she can) for different tasks to accommodate her with these projects. It is hoped by May and Ellie, that by working as a team with Ann Marie, they can free up time for her to accomplish the additional tasks at hand.

At this point, the Board continued with extensive discussion about encouraging more business in Town; how to produce more efficiency within the Town's Departments; the actual budgeting process; Kelly Bolger's input on suggesting the possibility of Ann Marie delegating certain tasks to employees; the pros and cons of a Town Manager; and the Board's ideas on how they would like Ann Marie to proceed in preparing for the upcoming budget reviews. After this extensive discussion, the Board agreed that a memo would be drafted to be distributed to all Department Heads detailing the specific procedures the Board would like adhered to in the upcoming budget process.

Selectman Morgan also mentioned a suggestion that a counter be constructed in the Selectmen's Office for more efficiency, control traffic and safety reasons. Ann Marie indicated that she would acquire a price quote from Mark LaRoche for this project. Also, it was mentioned (to be considered) the possible purchase of a copy machine for the Selectmen's Office to increase efficiency.

Chair Davis regretfully informed the Board that Donna Kidney had passed away. Chair Davis noted that Donna had served as Supervisor of the Checklist for almost twenty years and she was also a past President of the Historical Society. A graveside service is scheduled for Saturday, at 11:00 a.m., at Blair Cemetery.

There being no further business, Chair Davis made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Morgan the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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