

MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MARCH 7, 2011

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. Selectmen, Charles Cheney and Charles Wheeler were not present due to conflicts in their schedule. The Board signed the manifest and reviewed the bills. They signed 1 Residency Application and 1 letter addressed to NH State Representative Charles Brosseau expressing their opposition to the Northern pass Transmission project.

Chair Davis brought the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. and called on Jessica Halm and Jane Kellogg of the Conservation Commission. Jessica explained that she and Jane Kellogg were present to express the concerns of the Conservation Commission in regard to the Board's decision not to recommend Warrant Article 28, and they have come before the Board to ask for reconsideration. Jessica explained that the Conservation Commission would not have decided to put this article forward if they did not have the Board's support. Jessica expressed that after Jane Kellogg and Jules Doner met with the Board previously, it was her understanding that the Board supported the Article. Chair Davis explained that after the Board had further discussion (as a whole body) their concerns were that the Town would not benefit. Jessica felt an explanation needed to be discussed on this issue as the Warrant Article (per RSA 36-A:4-a) needed to be clarified. Jessica then proceeded to distribute to the Board information pertaining to the process and laws that have to be followed by the Conservation Commission for purchasing a property interest within municipal boundaries; purchasing a property interest not within municipal boundaries; and also laws pertaining to contribution toward land protection projects where a municipality will NOT hold a property interest. She did mention that the Towns of Rumney, Sandwich, Holderness and Plymouth have passed this particular article in their Towns. Jessica further explained that in order for the land protection projects where the municipality will NOT hold a property interest (as in the issue of the present Conservation Easement); the Town has to first pass Article 28 as the initial step. After this step, there would still have to be a public hearing and a majority vote by the Conservation Commission. Jessica and Jane explained the advantages of a Conservation Easement (where the Town does not own the land; therefore no liability to the Town). The land presently proposed for a Conservation Easement would have a Land Trust responsible for maintaining the property which is one advantage. The Town would also benefit from still being able to collect taxes, enjoy the undeveloped land and wildlife; and further expressed that undeveloped land cost the Town less money in services. Jane and Jessica both expressed the fact that the Conservation Easement (allowing approval of Conservation Commission to contribute to the land owner's costs in the processing fees) is an excellent way of acquiring Conservation land without the Conservation Commission investing a large sum of money being contributed from Conservation funds. Again, in order to be able to accomplish this, Article 28 would have to be approved by the Town. Jessica expressed that the Conservation Commission feels strongly that they need the Board's support regarding the Warrant Article. It was also explained by Jessica that the

Conservation Commission could still acquire Conservation Land from a willing property owner; however, it would involve a property interest by the Town, thereby presenting the burden of maintenance and liability issues placed on the Town.

Chair Davis explained that there is not a full Board present this evening; and therefore, a reconsideration decision could not be reached this evening. The general consensus was that there needed more time for further discussion and public awareness. Chair Davis suggested that Warrant Article 28 be tabled and it was agreed that Chair Davis would present (at Town Meeting) the tabling of Article 28 along with an explanation of the decision to table the Article. Jessica and Jane thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

Chair Davis then moved for a Motion to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting. After discussion of some revisions, Selectman Keeney made a Motion to approve the Minutes as revised. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Morgan, and the Minutes were unanimously approved as revised.

Chair Davis then called on Ann Marie to review correspondence. Ann Marie indicated that a letter was received from North Country Council, Inc. regarding possible cuts in funding of the NH DOT Ten Year Plan and Betterment Program. Ann Marie indicated that the only possible cut listed for the Town Campton was a culvert replacement on I-93.

Another letter was received from Laurel Brown, Communications Manager regarding the Northern Pass project reiterating the announcement of Public Scoping Meetings and the tax impact on Towns and their interpretation of “substantial economic benefits to New Hampshire”.

A letter was also received from the Wentworth Board of Selectmen (directed to Representative Charles Brosseau) expressing their opposition to the Northern Pass Transmission Project. Selectman Morgan suggested that a letter also be forwarded to Representative Brosseau from the Campton Board of Selectmen; therefore, a letter was drafted for the Board members’ signatures this evening.

A letter was received from Raymond S. Burton, Executive Councilor, District One, expressing his pleasure to participate in the Grand Opening of the newly renovated Campton Mountain Ski Area.

A letter was received from NH Department of Revenue Administration pertaining to Statewide Mosaic Parcel Maps and Ann Marie will pass this information on to May Brosseau and Ron Reynolds to inquire as to what is involved and whether or not it would be feasible for the Town to participate in this project.

A bulletin was received pertaining to a “Careerfest” being held on March 15, 2011, at White Mountains Community College, 2020 Riverside Drive, Berlin, NH, at no charge. The “Careerfest” will have workshops pertaining to job searching, networking, effective

communication skills in job searching and social media basics for job seekers. Selectman Marsh Morgan suggested that the notice be placed on the Town web site.

Ann Marie indicated that inquiry was made regarding the “Fuel Adjustment Policy” for contractors who plow the Town roads. It was concluded that the issue was moot, at the moment, because gas and diesel prices have not risen to the level in which the contractors would receive an additional hourly adjustment (per the Fuel Adjustment Policy).

There being no further correspondence, Chair Davis proceeded with the next item on the agenda, preparing for Town Meeting. After discussion and confirmations concerning some Warrant Article, it was the consensus of the Board that they were prepared for the Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at 6:30 p.m.

At 7:55 p.m., Chair Davis made a Motion to go into Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a) concerning a personnel issue. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Morgan, and with a roll call vote: Selectman Davis – aye, Selectman Morgan – aye, and Selectman Keeney – aye, the Board went into Non Public Session. The Board came out of Non Public Session at 8:15 p.m., and the Non Public Session Minutes were sealed.

Chair Davis called on Selectman Morgan regarding Other Business – Selectmen’s Input. Selectman Morgan stated that he attended the School Board Meeting and the School Board inquired if he had any suggestions for encouraging a larger turnout for the meeting since only 18 people attended the meeting as opposed to approximately 150 people attending the Northern Pass Transmission Project meeting. Selectman Morgan indicated to the School Board (in a comical fashion) that, “the School Board needed to do something wrong first”, as his way of attracting higher attendance.

There being no other business nor Selectmen’s input, Chair Davis made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Morgan, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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