

MINUTES  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
DECEMBER 6, 2010

The Board of Selectmen met for their weekly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Campton Town Office. Present were, Selectmen, Charles Cheney, Sharon Davis and Marsh Morgan. Selectman Wheeler and Selectman Keeney were not present due to conflicts in their schedule. The Board signed the manifest and reviewed the bills. They signed 1 Agreement letter for Northway Bank regarding a Tax Anticipation Note, 2 Residency Applications, 1 Veteran's Exemption and 1 Building Permit.

Members of the public who were present at the meeting were: Robert Bain, Nathaniel Vollmer, George Wright, Scott S. Vollmer, Tim Scanlon, Sally Davis, Pam Avery, Terri Qualters, Darlene King-Jennings, Pam Troiano, Wallace Dawson, Mark Troiano and Tom Mullen.

Chair Davis brought the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and moved for a Motion to approve the Minutes and two sets of Non Public Session Minutes of the previous meeting. Selectman Morgan made the Motion to approve the Minutes and 2 sets of Non Public Minutes as presented and the Motion was seconded by Selectman Cheney; the Minutes and Non Public Minutes were then approved as presented.

Chair Davis requested a public notice to acknowledge that the property tax bills have been sent out and that the tax rate has come down, as noted in the Minutes dated November 22, 2010.

Chair Davis then stated that the agenda will reflect a change in that Butch Bain, Road Agent will be the first appointment on the agenda this evening. Butch Bain explained, that his proposed 2011 Budget (distributed to the Board) reflects a figure to finance a 10-wheeler dump truck, which will replace David Thompson's truck. Butch distributed the possibilities of three options for the financing. He also explained that the replacement of a 10-wheeler as opposed to the 6-wheeler that the Town now has will enable the Highway Department to haul more material (saving trips), save on fuel and save on time. Also the 10-wheeler has an extended warranty. After discussion, and confirmation that the 10-wheeler will be set up for plowing, Selectman Morgan and Selectman Davis were in favor of the purchase; however, Selectman Cheney would like more time to "think the purchase over". Butch Bain provided all the documentation for the purchase and financing to Selectman Cheney to review further, and the purchase issue will be placed on the agenda for next week.

Chair Davis then called on Ann Marie to review correspondence. Ann Marie indicated that a letter was received from Flynn, Riedel & Young, Inc., the insurance adjusters who inspected the Blair Bridge regarding the recent collision. The insurance adjuster would like Stan Graton to inspect the bridge once again to see whether or not a permanent or

temporary repair is necessary and whether or not the incident resulted in any structural compromise of the roof structure.

At 7:00 p.m. Chair Davis then addressed the public stating that their appointment regarding their concerns pertaining to the PSNH Northern Pass project is allotted a one-half hour discussion. To begin, the Northern Pass transmission project is a collaboration among Northeast Utilities (Public Service of New Hampshire's parent company) NSTAR, and HQ Hydro Renewable Energy (HQHRE). In the United States, NU and NSTAR have created a limited liability company called Northern Pass Transmission, LLC (NPT) for the joint development of this project. At present, NPT and Hydro-Quebec TransEnergie (HQT) have executed a joint development agreement to coordinate the design of the transmission facilities, as well as the permitting processes associated with the siting of the line. At present, System planning studies and preliminary engineering for the project on both sides of the US-Canadian border is underway. Darlene King-Jennings expressed that the Northern Pass transmission project is going to come right through the Campton area. She explained there is no benefit to the State of New Hampshire. This project will be benefiting Massachusetts and Connecticut and will propose serious health risks to the people of NH and obviously Campton. She also explained that the company involved is by far, "not green". Darlene stated that the idea that this project will create 1,200 jobs is a hoax. She stated that very few jobs will be obtained by New Hampshire residents as the company, themselves, confirmed that they need experienced employees. Darlene proposed that a Warrant Article be drafted (rather than a Petition drawn) to present at Town Meeting to say "no" to the Northern Pass transmission project. Darlene did present to the Board the drafted Warrant Article that surrounding Towns will be utilizing at their Town meetings.

Terri Qualters, a homeowner and realtor in Campton stated that research has been compiled regarding property values being decreased by 30% as a result of the placement of the high towers and she encouraged citizens, homeowners, the Board and all who would be affected by this project to oppose it. She also stated that she is involved in a real estate purchase contract that presents contingencies pertaining to the Northern Pass transmission project. Because of the contingencies, Terri stated that she did call the company to try to get written documentation as to exactly where the lines were to be placed, and while the engineer did divulge areas, he stated he was not at liberty to distribute documentation to her. Terri explained that the beauty of the New Hampshire landscape is at risk and that is one of the major attractions for the public to choose to live and visit New Hampshire.

Pam Troiano stated that many in the community do not want to see high tower lines come in and do not want to see their grandchildren's health affect.

George Wright asked, "How does the Board of Selectmen feel about this project?" Mr. Wright was also concerned that the right-of-way for some of the lines would be taken by eminent domain. Chair Davis stated that the Board is just becoming familiar with the Northern Pass proposal and the Board has not had an opportunity to discuss the matter.

Tom Mullen indicated that in order for the lines to cross the border a presidential permit has to be granted and it was his understanding that the deadline date for that is December 16, 2010. Tom Mullen was opposed to the project and expressed that the project will have to be, “stopped at its grass roots and there has to virtually be an up rising by public outcry”. Mr. Mullen explained that this project would profit the utility services not New Hampshire. Also, he stated this project is going to be sold wholesale and not available to electricity consumers in New Hampshire; and besides, New Hampshire does not need the use of this power. Mr. Mullen also stated that Hydro Quebec has been known to produce contaminating by-products such as methane gas. It was also noted by Mr. Mullen that the project will create a reduction in property tax values in Town rather than increase taxes thought to be created by the towers. Darlene King Jennings stated that while Terri Qualters confirmed a 30% reduction, a 75% reduction in values has been discovered in areas where the lines are within a one-half mile range. Mr. Mullen also indicated that the towers are approximately 135 feet tall and will be placed within a one-mile distance from the highway...” taking the beauty of New Hampshire with it.” Mr. Mullen expressed that this project is fundamentally wrong as the project will not achieve anything for the public good in New Hampshire. It was suggested that the Planning and Zoning Board become involved. Selectman Morgan explained that once a project has been proposed, the Zoning and Planning Board cannot institute new regulations after the proposal, but he will have the Planning and Zoning Board Clerk contact our Town Attorney regarding Zoning and Planning Board requirements.

Sally Davis, a Thornton summer resident expressed that she agrees that a large force of individuals needs to become involved to oppose this project.

Pam Avery inquired if there will be any wide-spread notification to the public regarding this project. Ann Marie confirmed there was documented information that indicated there will be public hearings in the future.

Pam Troiano suggested a committee be designed, at the Board of Selectmen level, so the public can stay on top of this project, and she asked that the Board consider this project with other towns in the area.

Chair Davis then acknowledged that all who wished to speak had done so and she asked Darlene King-Jennings for the wording of the proposed Warrant Article. Darlene presented the proposed Article to Chair Davis and Ann Marie will present it to Laura Spector, Town Attorney, for review. Chair Davis further explained that when the Board gets a response from the Town Attorney, and when a full Board is present, a determination regarding the Warrant Article will be made, and she added that she hopes this can be accomplished without a petition.

At 8:00 p.m. Chair Davis called for Other Business – Selectmen’s Input. Ann Marie distributed to the Board the proposed 2011 Zoning Board Budget, which was reduced by \$500, and also the Police Department’s revised proposed 2011 Budget, which reflected the Board’s requests. The Board appreciated the Chief’s cooperation with these

revisions. The Board concluded that they were in favor of both proposed budgets that were submitted.

Selectman Cheney indicated that this evening was the first time he had seen the extensive information presented regarding the Northern Pass transmission project and he stated that he would like to hear from both sides in order to form an opinion. Chair Davis stated that she is familiar with the project. Chair Davis expressed concerns that it appears that the Northern Pass would not be regulated; consequently, “they can charge what they want”. Chair Davis also stated that the State of New Hampshire has excess power due to efficiencies and new distributed generation so there is no need for more power in the area. Chair Davis expressed opposition from the standpoint that there is no “public good” created from this project.

Ann Marie indicated that Selectman Keeney spoke with Stan Graton, and he is aware of a bridge that might be available for Eastern Corner Road, in the approximate amount of \$30,000.

Ann Marie will also e-mail Nancy Mayville to encourage the execution of the State agreement pertaining to the Blair Bridge project.

There being no further business, Chair Davis made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Morgan, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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