

MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
October 18, 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, Charles Wheeler, Craig Keeney, Sharon Davis and Marsh Morgan. The Board signed the manifest and reviewed the bills. They signed 2 Building Permits, 1 Residency Application, 1 Purchase Order for the Highway Department, and 1 Notice of Intent to Cut and updated the signatures for the Code of Ethics and Financial Management Plan as requested by Donna Lane for the Beebe River District Project grant.

Members of the public who attended the meeting who were not on the agenda were Kelly Bolger, Jessica Halm, Tammy Wooster, Jane Kellogg and Charlene Brown. At 6: 40 p.m. Chair Davis moved to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting. After Chair Davis made some revisions, Selectman Morgan made a Motion to approve the revised Minutes of the previous meeting. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Wheeler and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair Davis brought forth the first item on the agenda at 6:45 p.m. and called on Hannah Joyce, Town Clerk/Tax Collector as the first appointment of the evening regarding Tax Deeding. Hannah Joyce presented to the Board an information packet of several properties up for deeding. The Board reviewed each property individually and concluded that 9 properties should be deeded and 18 be waived. Hannah distributed to the Board a permission document to be signed by the Board for her to go forward with the deeding of the designated properties. Hannah also had the paperwork available for the Board to sign for the upcoming election.

Hannah indicated that she had spoken to the Town Auditors regarding a solution to the back taxes on properties that she has been carrying on the books for a number of years with no anticipation of payments ever being made. There seemed to be a discrepancy in clarification of abating and overlay solutions. Ann Marie and Hannah will meet, together with the Town Auditors to clarify the issue and report to the Board.

At 7:30 p.m., Chair Davis then proceeded with discussion regarding Groundwater Reclassification Application. Chair Davis distributed a handout to the Board and the public concerning her views on the issue. Chair Davis began by stating that there are State regulations already in place. She explained that the Town is not in a position to take on the new Groundwater Protection Management Program as staff is already maxed; the Town cannot afford to add to staff; the economy in Campton has not hit bottom yet and the State continues to push down financial burdens to Towns. Chair Davis expressed that the Town cannot take on anything that would add even the slightest increase to the tax burden. She continued by stating that businesses using regulated substances are already subject to best management practices and several businesses identified are not in favor of the Town adopting the program because Town regulation adds to the burden of

these businesses. Chair Davis further stated that the businesses identified are already complying with the regulated substance laws and regulations. Chair Davis concluded by stating that the real threat is households and/or unregulated businesses that may have an accidental spill and she recommended that the Conservation Commission offer a groundwater protection outreach awareness program. Based on the statements presented, Chair Davis stated that she is voting “no” regarding the Groundwater Reclassification Application.

Selectman Morgan agreed that groundwater protection was important; however, through agricultural business and State statistics it has been concluded that 80% of spills occur in homes and not in businesses; therefore, he is not in favor of the Application and is voting “no” regarding the Application.

Selectman Wheeler expressed that he believes that “all agree” that groundwater protection is important and acknowledged that the implementing of the program will be a burden on staff and some financial burden; however, he feels the State regulations that are already in place are not being properly enforced; therefore, he is in favor of the outreach awareness program and he is voting “yes” regarding the Groundwater Reclassification Application.

Selectman Cheney stated that the businesses that were identified didn’t keep any large quantities of hazardous waste to be concerned about. Selectman Cheney also stated that the businesses acknowledged that their insurance companies have restrictions and regulations in place that have to be followed before the business insurance can even be purchased. Selectman Cheney concluded that an education program would be the best route to follow and therefore is voting “no” regarding the Application.

Selectman Craig Keeney reiterated that State regulations are in place and the businesses are monitored more so than residential and he feels spills are more apt to occur in a residential environment. Also, businesses are educated on how to deal with hazardous waste; therefore he is in favor of the public awareness approach and more attention should be drawn to the State policy being enforced. Therefore, Selectman Keeney is voting “no” regarding the Application.

Selectman Wheeler then made a Motion to submit the Application for Groundwater Reclassification for adoption of Groundwater Reclassification. The Motion was seconded by Craig Keeney and with a roll call vote: Selectman Davis – no, Selectman Morgan – no, Selectman Wheeler – yes, Selectman Cheney – no and Selectman Keeney – no, the Board voted in the majority not to submit the Application.

Jessica Halm of the Conservation Commission thanked the Board for their time, but did express some frustration with the whole process regarding the Groundwater Reclassification. Jessica expressed that the Conservation Commission will continue with a public awareness program and the Board unanimously agreed that they would like to see the public educated through the efforts of the Conservation Commission with an outreach program.

At 7:50 p.m. Chair Davis called for a Motion to go into Non Public Session under RSA 91:1A:2c regarding 2 tax matters. Selectman Morgan made the Motion to go into Non Public Session. The Motion was seconded by Charles Wheeler and with a roll call vote: Selectman Davis – aye, Selectman Morgan – aye, Selectman Wheeler – aye, Selectman Cheney – aye and Selectman Keeney – aye the Board went into Non Public Session. At 8:00 p.m. the Board came out of Non Public Session.

Chair Davis called on Ann Marie to review correspondence. Ann Marie was happy to announce that a notice was received that the State would be paving Route 175 starting this week. A notice was also received that there will be some tree pruning done around power lines.

The Coalition Communities forwarded a letter regarding the Towns suffering losses in State education aid (Campton's particular loss being \$88,182.00), if legislation isn't passed. The Coalition is encouraging officials and citizens to attend the information sessions scheduled on Monday, October 18th, in Moultonborough Academy Community Auditorium, 25 Blake Rd, Moultonborough, at 7:00 p.m. or in Portsmouth, at the Portsmouth City Hall Council Chambers, 1 Junkins Ave., at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 2010.

A thank you note was received from the Campton Old Home Day Committee for the support and participation of the Board. Hannah Joyce also distributed T-shirts and presented a framed picture of the Old Home Day Committee to the Board as an additional thank you from the Committee.

A packet of information from Fishman Realty Group in Portland, ME was received confirming that 8 plus acres including three buildings in Beebe River District are for sale at a reduced rate of \$19,500, rather than the previous figure of \$49,500.

A letter was received from Bridge House Homeless Shelter in Plymouth requesting funding in the amount of \$2,000 for the 2011 fiscal year. After discussion, the Board decided that they would continue with the pay per use fee only, rather than an additional \$2,000.

The NH Department of Environmental Services forwarded a letter regarding Notice of Inspection of the "Perch Pond Dam" noting it as a "Non-Menace" Hazard Classification, with an explanation of the staff inspector's findings. Selectman Cheney requested a copy of the inspection for his review.

North Country Council also sent a notice of scheduled sessions regarding the Regional Broadband Internet that will be held in Groveton, Haverhill, Ossipee and Plymouth. The Plymouth session will be held on Tuesday, November 9th, between 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Town Hall, 6 Post Office Square Plymouth.

North Country Council also forwarded a letter regarding the NH DOT Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan Process together with a Project Proposal Information Sheet which Ann Marie will resubmit, as she did not find any information pertaining to the Town of Campton which had been previously submitted. Also, notice was received from the Local Government Center regarding their 69th Annual Conference scheduled for November 17-19th, at the Radisson hotel in Manchester.

Ann Marie distributed to the Board the Profit & Loss statement for the period January through September 2010 which reflected the Town is, at this time, approximately “even with 2009 figures”.

Ann Marie also presented the 2011 Proposed Police Budget which proposed some increases in compensation which the Board tabled discussion on at the present time. Also, Ann Marie stated that a proposed increase in Prosecution was noted for \$10,000 to pay an officer/attorney \$15.00 per hour for 16 hours per week as Police Chief Warn indicated that he was having difficulty keeping up with prosecution work and managing the department due to increased arrests. Selectman Cheney had some questions about case numbers and outcomes and the other Selectmen thought that they were relevant questions. Ann Marie will talk to the Chief. It was also pointed out that although the 2011 Proposed Budget request is 2.85% higher than 2010, last year’s budget was decreased by over 4% which calculates out at only approximately a 1.3% increase. Ann Marie also indicated that Chief Warn had presented to her this evening an additional memo relating to wage comparisons which substantiate his proposed compensation increase. Ann Marie will supply copies to the Board for the tabled discussion.

Ann Marie also distributed to the Board an update on the Budget and she indicated that Welfare will probably go over budget this year.

Ann Marie also mentioned that she will be attending the Fire Commissioners’ Meeting and that Fire Chief Tobine came in and they had a discussion regarding the proposed addition for the Fire Department. Chief Tobine indicated that the previous plan could not be considered because of structural support issues, but they now have a downsized plan to consider. Chair Davis expressed that any new plan cannot be supported as they need to focus on the building plan that the Town spent money on to establish for the entire Town building facilities project. Chair Davis again stated that options were previously presented to the Fire Department to try to resolve their issues.

There being no further correspondence, Chair Davis called on the Board for Other Business – Selectmen’s Input. Selectman Charles Wheeler presented a check in the amount of \$605.00 for our Town Food Pantry. The contributors were: Paul Bunyan Room at Loon, Owl’s Nest Sunset Room, William Tell Restaurant, Country Cow, Blazers’ Fireside Tavern, Canoe, CJ’s Penalty Box and the Common Man Restaurant in Lincoln.

Chair Davis thanked Ann Marie for ordering the new chairs for the Meeting Room at the Town Office. Chair Davis also mentioned that Carol O’Neil passed away on Saturday.

Chair Davis expressed that while Carol only lived in the Town of Campton for 10 years, she was a very active member within the community, having taken part in Old Home Day activities, and the Farmers' Market.

At 8:30 p.m. Chair Davis made a Motion that the Board go into Non Public Session regarding a compensation matter under RSA 91-A:3,II(a) and that Ellie Dewey be excused at this time. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Morgan, and with a roll call vote: Selectman Davis – yes, Selectman Morgan – yes, Selectman Wheeler – aye, Selectman Cheney – yes, and Selectman Keeney – yes, the Board went into Non Public Session at 8:30 p.m. and Ellie Dewey left the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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