

MINUTES  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
November 1, 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, Sharon Davis, Craig Keeney and Marsh Morgan. The Board signed the manifest and reviewed the bills. They signed 2 Residency Applications, 1 Building Permit and 1 Driveway Permit.

A member of the public who attended the meeting who was not on the agenda was Milton R. Ouellette, Jr.

Chair Davis brought the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and moved for a Motion to accept the Minutes from the previous meeting. After some revisions made by Selectman Davis, a Motion was made by Selectman Morgan to approve the Minutes as revised, seconded by Selectman Wheeler, the Minutes were approved as revised.

Chair Davis called on Ann Marie to discuss the Fund Balance amounts for the tax rate. Ann Marie distributed to the Board information from the NH Department of Revenue pertaining to the "Campton Unofficial tax Rate". After discussion, and suggestions made by Selectman Cheney as to how the amount of \$203,516 (amount agreed upon by the Board) be applied, a Motion was made by Selectman Charles Cheney to use \$203,516.00 of the Fund Balance to offset taxes and apply \$100,000.00 of the total amount to the Capital Reserve Account for the Town Office Building for the 2011 budget. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Keeney, and the \$203,516.00 from the Fund Balance was approved to be used to offset taxes.

Chair Davis then called on Ann Marie to discuss North Country Council regarding a further discussion of their budget. Ann Marie explained that she spoke with Michael King of North Country Council to get comparison figures for 2009. Mr. King explained that 2009 there was more income and more grants available. This year there are not as many grants and costs are higher. Ann Marie suggested that the Board think about how North Country Council has, or has not benefited the Town in recent years, and whether or not the Town should consider continued membership since the dues are \$3,744.

Chair Davis again called on Ann Marie to give the update on the Blair Bridge. She explained that a truck had driven over the bridge and there is damaged on some of the beams. Police Chief Warn was notified; however, there were no witnesses so Chief Warn felt the chances of finding the person are slim. Stan Graton was also e-mailed, as he was out of town. He viewed the pictures of the damage that Ann Marie forwarded and confirmed that he felt the bridge was not structurally in danger from the accident, but he will give a quote next week on damages. The Town insurance company was also notified and Ann Marie will make arrangements to have the insurance adjuster meet with Stan Graton. Selectman Davis expressed concern about the planks on the decking needing immediate attention. Selectman Cheney suggested that the two entrances ways to the

Blair Bridge be tightened up (keeping in mind aesthetically pleasing) to avoid the problem of large vehicles entering the bridge.

Ann Marie also indicated that she spoke with Matt Moore regarding monies needed for the Blair Bridge Project before money from the grant is received by the Town. Because of the anticipated large sums of monies needed before grant monies are received, it was suggested she speak with a Bond Counselor on this issue. Selectman Keeney suggested Ann Marie speak with the Town Administrator in Bath as to how their Town handled a similar cash flow issue.

Matt Moore also indicated that Nancy Mayville, of the NH DOT has lost a staff member which will contribute to slower processing of the documents needed by the Town, from the State, in order to proceed with the Blair Bridge Project. Chair Davis suggested Ann Marie e-mail Nancy Mayville after the election.

At this time, Chair Davis called on Ann Marie to review correspondence. Ann Marie indicated that an e-mail was received regarding an online survey pertaining to the Pemigewasset River Corridor Management Plan. Ann Marie e-mailed this information to the Board as Jane Kellogg, Conservation Commission member, would like to encourage the Board to participate in the survey.

Ann Marie indicated that the Grafton County Treasurer forwarded the tax assessment invoice for the Town in the amount of \$545,260.00, and Ann Marie stated that this amount was only \$931.00 more than last year.

Plymouth Regional Clinic forwarded a request an appropriation of \$1,200 for their 2011 budget. After discussion, the Board approved \$1,000.

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. forwarded a request for an appropriation of \$5,330.00. After discussion, the Board approved a \$4,200 appropriation (being the same as last year).

An e-mail was received from Scott Laiumiere regarding Beebe River property owned by Mecap, LLC which is for sale. He explained that the State will provide a very low interest rate loan to fund the clean up of the site for any potential buyer. He also explained that the perfect buyer for the site would be someone who owns a construction or trucking company and can use their own company do the clean up and be paid for the work by the State loan.

An e-mail was received from Jim Mayhew concerning the fact that the Plymouth Board of Selectmen has not acknowledged to the public the deep cut in their funding amount if Education Funding Number SAU48 is passed.

DES provided an information brochure (available to the public) regarding "Do You Know Where Your Junk Car Goes" in order to provide residents with all the facts they need to make concerning the disposal of their vehicles.

Correspondence was received from Laura Spector, Town Attorney, concerning an issue with a property owner in Livermore Trailer Park and correspondence with the law office of Deachman & Cowie regarding tax lien priority of the Town. Attorney Spector informed the law office of Deachman & Cowie that taxes must be paid, before the trailer is removed.

Ann Marie also indicated that Lisa Ash informed her that Parks and Rec. are looking for more Parks and Rec. Commissioners and Ann Marie will place a notice in the newspaper. Ann Marie also stated that Parks and Rec. needs a new lap top and Lisa Ash indicated that she can get an "education discount". Lisa requested that the funds come out of this year's budget, as funds are available. The Board agreed to have the funds come out of this year's budget.

There being no further correspondence, Chair Davis proceeded with Other Business – Selectmen's Input. Ann Marie stated that last week there was a strange odor in the Meeting Room of the Town Office and Selectman Keeney and Hannah Joyce went down to view the basement. Selectman Keeney, while inspecting the basement, found three problems: (1) Water is coming in the back door where it has been previously boarded up and there is an open hole to the exterior of the building that also needs to be sealed; (2) The drain in the far corner of the basement is plugged and needs to be cleaned out; and (3) A portion of the basement floor is improperly sloped also causing a drainage problem. Because of the moisture and water drainage problems, Selectman Keeney stated that there did appear to be mold in the basement. After discussion of how extensive the Board wanted to proceed with the issues, it was decided that an air quality test be done for health reasons. Also, the Board decided to have Ann Marie contact Mark Laroche to seal the back door and hole, and also to unplug the drain.

Chair Davis then continued the meeting with an ongoing discussion regarding compensation of public employees which she previously discussed with the Board (in Non Public Session) on October 18, 2010. At that time Selectman Davis suggested that thought be given by the Board for compensation to be given to each full time employee, to be taken out of this year's budget. The compensation would be a small percentage (1%) based on the base pay of each employee, and would not be carried forward in the next budget year. The next budget year, she suggested thought be considered to budget a small percentage (1/2% be added to the 2011 wage line). Ann Marie distributed to the Board a calculation of each full time employee's hourly rate, their base hours per week, and their yearly compensation. With those figures she calculated a 1% figure on the yearly compensation for each employee, for a total cost figure of \$5,871.02 to the Town to compensate all full time employees. The compensation would not affect the tax rate. There was also discussion about the specific reasons why compensation would be considered and reasons why Board members did not feel comfortable with the compensation i.e. employees should be fortunate to have jobs, some Board Members have even suffered cutbacks in their own salaries at their place of employment and taxpayers reactions to such a move which might be construed as fiscally unreasonable. After further discussion, Chair Davis proposed a 1% incentive this year (which will not

affect the tax rate) and ½% next year, and would not be carried over to another year. Because the Board was still undecided, Chair Davis suggested the matter be tabled until the Board can review the budget and see where the Town is presently, and the matter placed on the agenda again for next week. Selectman Cheney, however, was emphatic that he was opposed to the compensation and still will be opposed after reviewing the budget. Selectman Cheney indicated that for two years in a row Social Security has not increased their benefits and many people are losing their jobs. Chair Davis expressed that Social Security was not increasing because they did a 5.2% increase when the economy was doing well and have spread that 5.2% increase out over 3 years, and it is anticipated by Social Security that there will be an increase next year.

Selectman Keeney suggested that when the Fire Department has their meeting it be suggested that full time employees pay at least 7% for their health insurance premium. Ann Marie confirmed that she will be at the meeting and she will present the suggestion.

Selectman Cheney indicated that there is a lingering issue between Josephine Belville, from the Department of Revenue Administration, who used to be Campton's State Monitor, and the Town Assessors, Commerford Nieder Perkins, LLC that was presented to him by Josephine Belville. The issues had previously been addressed to the Board. Ann Marie explained that, after speaking with Mark Nieder, the issues are being addressed between the parties and the State, but presently, a resolution has not been reached. The Board decided that this issue be resolved solely between the parties.

There being no further business, Chair Davis made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Marsh Morgan, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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