

Selectmen's Meeting  
March 13, 2006

The Selectmen met for their weekly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Town Office. Present were Selectmen James McGarr, Charles Wheeler, Jon Homer and Charles Cheney. Selectman Johnson was out sick. The Board spent the first half hour reviewing and signing the manifest. They also approved three Intents to Build.

At 7:30 p.m. the Board met with architect Mike Piazza. Mike had been in last week, and spoke with Selectmen Homer and Cheney who were the only Board Members present last week. They had requested that Mike come back tonight with a breakdown of the \$320,000 figure he had projected for the Fire Department Substation. Selectman Homer had expressed his concerns about the cost last week, and this week still had problems with the bottom line costs of the project. He felt strongly that the voters would not support this figure, and thought that there was no need to have an office as part of the building. Selectman McGarr indicated to Mike that frankly the Board was still surprised with the 4.7 million price on the whole building project which the Board had to scale back, and felt that the Board was clear that they were looking at a figure closer to 2 million for the whole project. He indicated that the Board has been taking a lot of heat for this 4.7 million dollar price, including this \$320,000 figure for the substation. He indicated that he had received several calls from taxpayers who cannot understand how the Selectmen could consider such prices, and that frankly they were now questioning every nickel that the Board was proposing in their budget and was concerned that some of the articles they are proposing may be in jeopardy of not getting passed. Mike questioned the Board whether they felt it was his fault that these figures had come in where they had. He had used the drawings he showed the Board, and took figures from the industry books he has on the different buildings. Selectman Wheeler indicated that he had recently built a new house, and used his experience with that to gage what he felt the price would be for the different buildings. He indicated that it was also unfortunate that there was not more time between the time when Mike dropped off the figures, and when the Board first reviewed them and then the budget hearing. He indicated that we need to operate within a certain budgetary figure for these projects, and these figures should be very clear. Mike was also questioned by the Board about the building committee, and he indicated that he has no problems with working with a committee, and will approach it in the direction that the Board of Selectmen want. Selectman Cheney indicated that unfortunately the project had to be rushed along due to time restraints, and it was too bad we could not have gotten some kind of bids. He indicated that more people are looking at the substation plan and questioning it. Mike indicated that we have some design issues that we have to work within due to the restrictions in the needs and it fitting into the residential neighborhood. He indicated that he will go back to the drawing board, and look at ways to cut back the \$320,000. Selectman Homer indicated that he would like to see the ell taking off the building. Mike indicated that he will do some figures with one and without to see

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how much difference in price there would be. The Board agreed that they would meet with Mike before Town Meeting at 7 p.m.

Chief Warn stopped by as he had not been in to see the Board for the past few weeks. They inquired about some criminal matters that had happened recently in Town. The Chief indicated that he was putting letters of commendation into both Officers DeLuca and Shortt's files for the work they did on the recent homicide in Town. Chief Warn also discussed a couple of accidents over the weekend due to some icy roads. The hill by Beech Hill was the scene of one of these, and it was agreed by everyone that area has always been a problem. Chief Warn also requested that the Board allow him to keep the 2003 cruiser for an additional year so he could cut back use of the Explorer, and only use it when necessary. He would use the 2003 as an unmarked car for himself and any officers who went for training at the academy. Selectmen Cheney had a problem with an unmarked car, and indicated that if it was a Town car, it should have some kind of markings on it, at least a decal. The other Board Members agreed as well. Chief Warn also indicated that he had some problems with QW Entertainment at the Days Inn as they were suppose to be advising him as to when they held certain events, and have not been doing this. Selectman Wheeler indicated that Dan Mitchell was no longer there, and this was the person Chief Warn had been dealing with. The Chief will speak with the owners of the hotel.

The Board then reviewed their correspondence. Ann Marie indicated that she had received an email from Attorney Bates about the State filing a lawsuit against Chris Clarke and Spritzes Beverage for the clean up of the bobbin mill. Tim had learned this was from Ken Anderson, who works with Chris Clarke, and he wanted Tim to know that he was going to draft a motion for the Town to be included as a defendant. Tim will wait to see the paperwork before he proceeds. He also received a notice from the Court that the Motion to Dismiss for the Spritzes Beverage case will be held at Grafton Superior Court on Thursday, March 23, and he would like one or two Selectmen and Ann Marie to attend this hearing. Ann Marie also explained that Waterville Estates voted to do a betterment assessment on roadwork on Richardson Trail, and the Town, as the collector of taxes, will be responsible for billing out and collecting this tax. Ann Marie had ask Tim Bates to review Waterville Estates paperwork to be sure that they followed the procedures for the betterment process which is quite lengthy. Tim has contacted the Estates attorney, but has not heard back from him as of this date. Ann Marie reported that after our 2006 worker's compensation audit, we received a \$456.00 refund. Two letters were received from John Pesaturo, Sr. asking to be put on as the second representative for the Pemi River Local Advisory Committee, and also asking to be considered for the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

The Board then reviewed the minutes from both the February 27th, and the

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informal meeting on March 6th. With a motion from Selectmen McGarr, and seconded by Selectman Homer, the minutes were approved as written.

Under Selectmen's input, Selectman McGarr mentioned that he had spoken with Jane Kellogg, and she indicated that Dave McGraw is interested in the GIS project, and would be willing to work with May on the training for the program. Selectman Homer indicated that it would be interesting to know which Towns held both their Town and School Meetings on the same day. Ann Marie indicated that it had come up at the Thornton Town Meeting last year, but people did not want to sit through two meetings on the same day. They meet on Saturdays. Selectman Wheeler mentioned that he had spoken with May on Friday, and she was concerned about the mold in the basement. Some of the ladies in the office have been experiencing headaches, coughing, and sneezing. Chief Warn suggested that we contact the Local Government Center as they can advise us on different companies that can address these issues. He also cautioned the Board that once an employee expresses a concern like this that the Board must address it. Ann Marie indicate to the Board that Chief Tobine had come in the week before, and done a carbon monoxide test with the FD equipment, but the results were negative. He had also offered to talk to the JD as the health officer about the issue. Selectman Homer suggested that the windows be kept open a crack so fresh air comes into the building.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Marie Foote  
Administrative Assistant