

Selectmen's Meeting
March 27, 2006

The Selectmen met for their weekly meeting. Present were Selectmen James McGarr, Charles Wheeler, Jon Homer and Charles Cheney. The Board spent the first half hour reviewing and signing the manifest. They also signed three appointments, two alternates for the Planning Board, and an appointed Trustee of the Trust Funds. They also signed an Intent to Build, and three new residents.

At 7:30 p.m. the Board met with Grafton County Commissioner Bill Gabler. Mr. Gabler has been giving the Board regular email updates on what is happening with the County budget, and the Board had requested that he come in and discuss this proposed budget. Selectman McGarr began the questions by asking how the County budget for each Town was calculated. Commissioner Gabler indicated that it is calculated on the equalized valuation. Selectman McGarr was concerned about this approach as the Town of Campton has recently undergone a revaluation, and our equalized value would be higher than other Towns which have not updated their assessed values in a number of years. He indicated that the Town took quite a hit last year when the new revaluation figures were used, and the increase in budget for 2005 was only 2.6%. From Mr. Gabler's latest report, it looks like the next budget is going to increase by almost 10%. Commissioner Gabler indicated that the County does not determine the equalized valuations, and it is the Department of Revenue Administration that does that by statute. Selectman Wheeler agreed that he also felt that the way the equalized valuation was done was flawed in its method, and Towns who tried to keep their values up to date suffer when this is used towards deterring the amount that the Town pays to the County. Commissioner Gabler indicated that the State Constitution now requires the Towns to reval every five years, and this should help with the inequities. Selectman McGarr indicated that it is frustrating as even personnel in DRA don't know all the answers about explaining how the equalized ratio is determined. Commissioner Gabler suggested that the Selectmen contact their State Representative, and perhaps he could get the laws changed to make it a fairer process. The Board also discussed the Sheriff's Department with Commissioner Gabler. The Board indicated that they heard that there was a 10% pay increase for this department. Mr. Gabler indicated that the overall budget was up by 6.4%, but a lot of that increase was health insurance. He indicated that the County actually uses the regional cost of living which came to 2.75%. The Board had never heard of a regional COLA, and was interested in this concept. Commissioner Gabler passed along some information from a company that did the surveys which arrived at these figures. He did know where the 10% figure came from, but did know that there was a step increase added for the deputy sheriffs that added a dollar an hour to their rates as they have been having difficulty in hiring people at the lower rates. Another concern the Board had was the unavailability of the Sheriff's Department to transport prisoners to the County Jail especially in the evening hours. The local police have to transport, and it takes them out of Town

Selectmen's Meeting
March 27, 2006

for at least two hours when this occurs. Commissioner Gabler reminded the Board that the County Commissioners have control over the budget, but the Sheriff is an elected official, and they have no authority over the scheduling of the department. He indicated that there is a bill coming up which, if passed, would allow the local police to serve paperwork, like evictions which require a fee be paid for such delivery. The Capital Outlay line of the budget was also discussed, and Mr. Gabler indicated that some of this is for the damage done to the barn from the recent fire for wiring, electrical for the Courthouse, and bringing a bathroom into ADA compliance. He also reminded the Board that next year the County will be looking at a bond to build a new jail. The current jail was built in 1896, and its maximum capacity is 120 inmates, and there are currently 112-113 in the jail. He also indicated that the Nursing Home which makes up almost half of the County's budget has a capacity of 135 beds, and there are 15 people on a waiting list now. The moving of the Dispatch into the old Deeds office will not impact the budget as there are Capital Reserve funds for this project. Commissioner Gabler also indicated that the county population is up to approximately 85,000 people, and that Grafton County has been voted over the past two years in 4th and 5th place as most livable county, and this is attracting people to the area, but also putting a burden on our older facilities.

At 8 p.m. the Board met with Darlene Jennings and Christopher Bolan. Darlene and Chris had come in before Town Meeting to discuss the Neighborfest land. Now that the Town voters had given authority to accept gifts under RSA 31:95-e, a dialogue could be held about their proposal to give the Town of Campton the land that Neighborfest had acquired from Pike for recreational facilities. Unfortunately, Neighborfest has not been able to reach their goal, and have had to disband due to lack of funds and manpower. Some of the original members had agreed that they wanted to give the land to the Town of Campton to use for some kind of recreational use, and that they felt that Campton had always supported the Neighborfest programs. Darlene and Chris brought along a map of the parcel which they reviewed with the Board. The Board explained that they would have to schedule a public hearing to get voters input into this acceptance as required under the RSA, and Chris Bolan is going to have their attorney, Luke Glavey draw up a proposed deed which our attorney, Tim Bates can then review. Selectman McGarr made a motion to go forward with the draft of the deed, and Selectman Wheeler seconded it, with all voting in the affirmative to pursue the proper course to accept this land.

Mike Dunklee had stopped by, and just wanted to offer some advice on the proposed Highway Garage. He wanted the Board to rethink the idea of a metal building, and look into a woodframe building similar to what he built for his shop, but, of course, bigger. The building would have 8 feet concrete walls, with 4 feet in the ground, and 4 above. He indicated that if they are looking at radiant heat, and put this in a metal building that when they bring the plow trucks in for the night, the condensation would be like a sauna. He also thought that if they really

Selectmen's Meeting
March 27, 2006

wanted to save some money, they could put in a outside wood furnace to heat the building. Mike indicated that he would even volunteer to dig the cellar hole, and that they could probably get some other people in Town to set the walls. He wants to see common sense back in this Town, and did not think that has been used lately. He expressed some opinions on how he thought the Highway department should be run. Mike wanted to be considered for the building committee as well as the others who had expressed interest.

At 8:30 p.m., the Board adjourned into Non Public Session for a Personnel Matter with Chief Warn under RSA 91:3, II (c) with a motion from Selectman Wheeler, and seconded by Selectman Homer. voted in the affirmative by all. The Board came out of Non Public approximately 25 minutes later with a motion from Selectman Wheeler, and seconded by Selectman Homer, and voted in the affirmative by all. The Chief also discussed some vandalism in the area done by juveniles using paint ball guns. He also indicated that he wanted to explore the idea of doing some intergovernmental policing with the Town of Ellsworth who does not have a Police Department. He indicated that the only thing the Town would have to have in place is a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Towns.

Next on the agenda was correspondence. Discussion again was Beebe River, and a letter from Attorney Bates advising the Court that the Town does not consent to being added as a defendant on a case with the State v. Christopher Clarke, and that if Attorney Anderson wishes to pursue it, that the Town be served in the proper way. Also Selectman McGarr inquired if we had received any correspondence from the State about this matter, and any non compliance by Mr. Clarke. Ann Marie indicated that all we had received from DES was a letter indicating that permit to modify the application for KC Tire Recycling had been labeled "dormant" for failure to submit required information. A letter from the Department of Revenue Administration advised the Town that Mad River Power Associates will now be identified as a utility, and therefore, given a assessed value by the Utility division of DRA, and will, therefore, no longer be able to make payments in lieu of taxes which they have done for the past 20 years. Selectman Cheney suggested that Mad River Power representative be contacted so he will be aware of this, and maybe have some suggestions as to how we should treat this for the spring bill. Ann Marie reported on a meeting that Chief Tobine and she attended in Plymouth about the ambulance service, and dialogue that the Town of Plymouth is exploring in regards to the ambulance expenses and possible billing of all clients. We have heard further from the Verows about Wanosha Trail and Summit Drive. Selectman Cheney indicated that he is going to contact GMI again to talk to them about the paving done last year on this section of road. Selectman McGarr requested that Ann Marie pull the bills for the work done last summer for next week's meeting. Robert Barach had sent a letter indicating that he has been approached by Martha Aguiar to be on the ZBA. He noted that he would prefer to have Martha on the Board over

Selectmen's Meeting
March 27, 2006

the other two interested parties as she has been a long-time resident, and served on the ZBA in the past. The Board just wanted Ann Marie to check with Bob to see if John Pesaturo had talked to him as he had expressed a desire to be on the Board, and the Selectmen had suggested that he talk to Bob. The Selectmen had also received another letter from John asking about putting a windmill on his property. The Board advised that he should check with the Planning Board, and then get an Intent to Build if it is a permitted use. Ann Marie had gotten the names of some companies from Selectman Davis in reference to the Town Office's mold and mildew problems. She indicated that Northway Bank had used these companies, and were pleased with their work. The Board also discussed dates for the public hearing for the Beebe River Feasibility study, and agreed to hold it on April 10th at the Old Town Hall. Ann Marie had already checked with Walt Stockwell about the availability of this date. The Board will also hold the public hearing about accepting the Neighborfest land as well on that same date.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Selectman Homer requested that a sentence be added in the discussion about the Capital Improvement Plan about the Road Agent doing a road inventory as part of this project. With a motion from Selectman McGarr, and seconded by Selectman Wheeler, the minutes were approved with this change, and voted in the affirmative by all.

Under Selectmen's input, Selectman Wheeler indicated that he had spoken with Derek Hill from Pike, and they will start the process of sub-dividing the land that they agreed to sell the Town and get the paperwork started for the purchase. Selectman Wheeler also indicated that Mr. Hill indicated that Pike was not completely closing the door about more land for a Town Office, but did not know when such a door may open. Ann Marie gave the Board a copy of a fax that Selectman Sharon Davis had sent while away in San Diego outlining what she thought could be the purpose statement for the Building Committee. The Board looked it over, liked the concept, and will discuss it with her next week. Ann Marie also mentioned that Sharon indicated that she would be willing to be the Selectmen's representative for this committee as well if they were agreeable to that. Selectman Homer indicated that he would like to get involved with the Conservation Commission again, and if the other Board Members had no objections, would like to be the ex-officio on this Board. The Board supported Jon taking this on again.

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Foote

Selectmen's Meeting
March 27, 2006

Town Administrator