

Selectmen's Meeting
October 31, 2005

The Selectmen met at 7 p.m. for their weekly meeting. Present were Selectman Donald Johnson, Jr., James McGarr, Charles Cheney and Charles Wheeler. Selectman Homer was unable to attend this evening. The Board spent the first half hour reviewing and signing the manifest. They also approved three new residents, signed several Intents to Build, and one pole permit. While they were reviewing the paperwork, they discussed again options for a piece of land to locate Town facilities. Ann Marie advised the Board that per Selectman Cheney's suggestion, she had contacted Connie McCoy about her family's land on NH Route 175, and they were not interested in selling any of it. Selectman Cheney also questioned the ownership of the triangular piece of land by the lights at the intersection of Routes 175 and 49 where Road Agent Richard Giehl is repairing the culvert. Selectman Cheney did not think that the Town owned this land, and minutes from previous Town Meetings did not really clarify the matter. He suggested that some research be done to determine who does own it so the Town does not incur any further liability if in fact it is not ours. The other Selectmen felt that since Dick Giehl was working in conjunction with the State on this project, and it was almost complete at this time, that it was good that the culvert was being repaired once and for all, especially before winter set in.

At 7:30 p.m., the Board met with SAU 48 Superintendent Mark Halloran and Campton Elementary School Board Member Danny Desrosiers. Both Mark and Danny wanted to update the Board on the plans for the renovations to be done at the school for the coming budget year. Mark explained that they had several public hearings about the school, and originally started out with a proposed bond of over 4 million dollars. After some good public input, they have now scaled the project back to a little over 2 million. Danny explained that he felt comfortable with this bond because it was dealing with maintaining the building and did not involve additional personnel or classrooms so it was a pretty straight issue. They gave the Board a list of the priority issues which include septic system repairs, work on the building exterior, including the roof membrane, refurbishing the existing boilers and pumps, updating the heating and ventilation system, installing a fire sprinkler system, replacing original plumbing fixtures, a generator, updating electrical, a new locker room additions, and renovations to the stage area, new ceilings, upgrades in the fire alarm system, electrical panels, and replacing lights. One thing that both Mark and Danny wanted to know is if the Selectmen had any plans for the Town Library. The Board felt at this time that they did not, and Mark indicated that the school had not factored any changes involving the Library either so the plans would remain the same. He also indicated that this being a school renovation that the School District is eligible for a 40% reimbursement of funds spent. He also explained that the Thornton School had done some similar renovations a few years ago, and also decided to leave the Town Library within the school. Another thing he mentioned was that the Campton School is the only school in the SAU that does not have locker rooms and showers, and that this is a necessity as children grow

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into their preteens, and some children may have an opportunity to use these facilities that might not have the best conditions within their own homes as far as bathing facilities. Selectman McGarr asked about the heating system, and Mark indicated that it was a computer driven system which is programmed to adjust with the weather outside. Selectman McGarr also suggested that perhaps it might make sense from a maintenance stand to replace the wood fascia with PVC, and save on future painting needed on the trim. The Selectmen advised Mark and Danny that they are considering their own buildings needs as well, and it was helpful to know the school's plans.

Chief Warn stopped by to see the Board to give them a letter of resignation from Officer Brent Wilmot who is leaving to accept a position in Claremont. Both Brent and his wife have family in Claremont and would like to be closer to their family. Chief Warn indicated that Officer Wilmot was a good police officer, and he regrets that he is losing him, but can understand the reasoning. Selectman Wheeler made a motion to accept Officer Wilmot's resignation with regret, and wish him well in the future, and this was seconded by Selectman McGarr, and expressed by all the Board, and accepted.

The Board then proceeded to go over correspondence. The Department of Revenue Administration sent a technical information release which indicated that the 2002 State education tax had been declared unconstitutional, but advised municipal officials that the Court's decision was limited to 2002 tax year, and not other tax years, and that the decision is being appealed, and should not be considered final until the NH Supreme Court has ruled on the appeal. Taxpayers remain responsible for their tax bills, including the state property tax portion, and should pay their bills, and taxpayers seeking a reduction in their assessment should pursue the normal abatement process. Ann Marie called the Grafton County Commissioner's Office about the increase in our County tax, and was advised to talk with the DRA as they determine this amount. Ann Marie had also spoken with Candy Andrew, the Town Administrator from Thornton, and their amount of tax had increased quite a bit as well. Further investigation showed that the tax actually increase more last year, but there has been a steady increase over the past few years. Correspondence from Pemi Baker Solid Waste District indicated that they will be pursuing separate hauling and waste disposal contracts after looking at several options. The waste disposal contract will be with North Country Environmental Services and the hauling contract will be with Waste Management. The Town received an ISO report which rates our fire protection and water sources for fires. Ann Marie suggested that Fire Chief David Tobine could probably explain this report in more detail. The Board agreed to request him to come in some time and go over this report with them. Ann Marie also reminded the Board that DRA auditor, Robert Anderson will be here tomorrow to set the 2005 tax rate, and they will meet at the Old Town Hall at 3 p.m.

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The minutes of the October 24th meeting were reviewed. With a motion from Selectman Wheeler, and seconded by Selectman Johnson the minutes were approved as written by all.

The Board went on to Selectmen's input. Selectmen Wheeler and McGarr advised the other two Board Members that they had gone up to Waterville Estates last week to speak with Ann and Ed Verow who have been sending letters back and forth to the Board about the recent paving up there. The Selectmen indicated that they had rode along with the Verows, and found that there is no signs of the amount of paving being done that had been included in the Town's bid request, the bid accepted, and the bill paid for this work. They looked at the other roads that were included in the bid, Pinnacle, Winterbrook, and Wanosha and these roads were done very satisfactory, but Summit is lacking. The Board decided that they needed to get some answers on this, and after some discussion decided that the best course was to go the contractor. Selectman Cheney indicated that he has worked with this company and the contact person, Vincent Minor, and agreed to contact him, and find out what happened.

Ann Marie explained that another sign has appeared on Route 49, and the Board advised her to call them about the violation, and ask them to remove it.

Selectman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, and this was seconded by Selectman Wheeler, and voted in the affirmative by all. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Marie Foote
Administrative Assistant