

Selectmen's Meeting
November 21, 2005

The Selectmen met for their weekly meeting. Present was Selectmen James McGarr, Charles Wheeler, Jon Homer and Charles Cheney. Selectman Johnson was home sick. The Board spent the first 15 minutes reviewing and signing the manifest. They approved five new residents, and signed an Intent to Build, and a Land Use Penalty warrant.

At 7:15 p.m. the Board met with Road Agent Richard Giehl. Dick wanted to have the Board sign the snow plowing policy that he and the Board had agreed to last week, and get that sent out to all the sub-contractors. He also wanted to let the Board know that he was planning on keeping Mackie and Ooley in reserve for the storms. Mackie will cover Butch Burhoe's route until Butch is up and about again after surgery, and Ooley will keep the salt shed yard clear. If a sub contractor's vehicle is down, they will be available to cover that route, and also ready to do an additional sanding and salting after the initial clearing of the storm. He also plans on keeping the salt shed locked except during a storm. He set up a small space to the side for residents to take a bucket or two of sand, but the big Town pile will not be accessible to anyone but the Town's plowers. Dick also informed the Board that he had some concrete donated that they put on the floor of the salt shed, and they are now ready to have a chemical toilet on the premises for the crew. He also advised the Board that he had not been able to find a block heater for the backhoe/loader and thought they always come standard with this piece of equipment, but he was unable to find the specs for this piece of equipment. Ann Marie offered to call Beaugard Equipment and talk to the gentleman who sold it to us. Dick mentioned that he had some grading and ditches left to do if the weather held out. Selectman Wheeler asked to be updated on the situation with the GMI Paving job. Selectman Cheney had contacted GMI, and he indicated that he was trying to set up a time and day for Greg Minor who had handled the job to come out to the job site.

At 7:30 p.m. the Board met with Grafton County Commissioner Bill Gabler. The Board had requested Mr. Gabler to come in to discuss the increase in the County budget. Selectman McGarr wanted to know if the fact that the Town had done a revaluation last year had been a factor in our increase this year. He wanted to know how the amount each Town paid was calculated. Mr. Gabler indicated that it is based on equalized valuation, and the Department of Revenue Administration calculations the equations. Mr. Gabler distributed some figures which showed the Selectmen the amount of increase that each Town experienced. Campton's percentage of increase was 12.84%, and we are the number 10 in the amount of money paid to the County rated by Towns highest to lowest payments. Commissioner Gabler was asked what caused the County budget to increase. He indicated that the fuel and energy costs, due to the high increases in these items, had to be addressed. He also indicated that the Sheriff's Department increased by \$269,000, the County Attorney's office increased \$158,000 and the Jail \$255,000. He explained that the

Selectmen's Meeting
November 21, 2005

Commissioners had learned that deputies had not been getting paid for training and weapons certification, and this, of course, had to be addressed in order to conform to labor laws. Also they had found out that the bailiffs had been required to buy their own weapons which again was not a good idea. Mr. Gabler also indicated that the County needs a new jail, and that will probably be a budget item within the next year. He also mentioned that there were areas that could be cut back, but the County delegation, which is made up of State Representatives, needs to say no to some of the budgetary requests. Selectman McGarr questioned whether the local Police had to do more paperwork that used to be done by the sheriff's department. Mr. Gabler indicated that the deputies are doing a lot of transporting to the different Courts for arraignments for people housed at the jail. He indicated that they are looking into having video arraignments to cut back on some of this traveling back and forth. The Board and Mr. Gabler spoke about the number of cruiser 12-15, and the equipment they have, the laptop computers, MDT's and some GPS capability. As for the jail, the farm operation actually is making a small profit. Mr. Gabler also indicated that this work keeps the prisoners manageable, because they get to work outside, release some of their stress, and are tired when they return to the jail. Chief Warn asked about the accommodations for the County Attorney who have 4 attorneys in the same area that they use to have two. The Chief was also very complimentary about Melissa Pierce who has handled some of Campton's cases. He indicated that she has done a good job preparing and presenting the cases in the Courtroom. Mr. Gabler explained that the County Attorney's Office is going to have some additional area put aside, and they are taking some walls down to increase their space. The other area that Chief Warn wanted to know about was the dispatch. He indicated that Campton is currently under the Town of Plymouth's dispatch, and the rates are going up again this year. He had inquired into Grafton's Dispatch in the past, and had once been told that they were not taking on any additional Towns. Mr. Gabler mentioned that the Dispatch Center is being moved to the old Registry of Deeds area since the Registry is now in another County building. Calls are based on events, so if dispatch receives 5 calls about one accident, it is only counted as one event against the Town. Chief Warn indicated that it works this way with Plymouth as well. Mr. Gabler indicated that the Dispatch Center needs to be available to all Towns within the County, and more Towns in the Dispatch could help spread out the cost. Mr. Gabler was thanked for coming in tonight. The Selectmen indicated they will plan on taking advantage of help from the jail like we did last month when we had some prisoners come up and pick up trash on Winterbrook Road.

After Commissioner Gabler left, State Representative Bob Barker stayed on to let the Board know that County government is expensive, and it is an organization where everyone is in charge and nobody is in charge. He indicated that the Sheriffs Department, the County Attorney and the Jail all support the Court system. The Sheriffs department acts like a courier system bringing

Selectmen's Meeting
November 21, 2005

paperwork back and forth from one part of the State to another since the Grafton County boundaries are so spread out. He indicated that the only reason the farm made a profit is because they are cutting down parts of the County Forest, and they should be treating this as a tree farm. He indicated that County government is run by politicians. He indicated that it was going to cost over \$200,000 for them to move the Dispatch Center. He pointed out that in the private sector, banks use couriers, farms don't use state employees. He indicated that the real issue is do we need county government or not. There is some discussion in the Senate to abolish county government which they have done in other states. He also discussed his concern about police officers being part of SWAT teams, and how the FBI has never recovered its reputation from incidents like Ruby Ridge and Waco. He felt that police departments are being militarized, and that this was not their original purpose. The purpose of police is suppose to be for public service. Mr. Barker was thanked for his time tonight.

Next on the agenda was a discussion with the Town's computer consultant and technician, Kurt Smith on the security of the Town Office's computer systems. Since this was a security issue, the matter was being discussed under a Non Public Session, RSA 91-A:3,II (g). Selectman McGarr requested that the Police Chief be included in this discussion as well since they were talking security, and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Hannah Joyce also was present for the discussion. Chairman Wheeler made a motion to go into Non Public Session under this RSA, and it was seconded by Selectman Homer, and voted in the affirmative by all. When the discussion was finished, Selectman Wheeler made a motion to come out of Non Public Session, seconded by both Selectman McGarr and Homer, and voted in the affirmative by all. Selectman Wheeler also made a motion to seal the minutes, and this was seconded by Selectman Homer, and voted in the affirmative by all.

The Board met next with Michael Piazza to discuss the Selectmen's plans for the bond issue for the municipal buildings for March's Town Meeting. Mike indicated that the first thing he needed to know is if the Board had a definite site in mind. Selectman Wheeler indicated that he had been in touch with the representative for the owner of the property on Vintineer Road who had previously told us that they were interested in selling the Town 4 acres of land, but who now also indicated that they would be willing to sell the whole parcel which consists of 16 acres. Mike indicated that 16 acres of land could support all the projects that the Board is looking at including a Town Office, Police, Fire and Highway Garage. The other piece to this idea would be to sell to Pike the corner where the Fire, Police and Highway equipment is now located to offset the price of the 16 acre parcel. Selectman Wheeler had spoken to Derek Hill, Pike representative, and they were interested in discussing this possibility. The Board agreed that in order for this idea to work that they would need some kind of definite answer from Pike within the next few weeks. In the meantime, Mike indicated that if they could obtain the whole parcel that would be great, but he will like to proceed on

Selectmen's Meeting
November 21, 2005

plans for the Town Office as basically it could be located anywhere within a 100,000 square feet of land. He indicated that this is the most complex building to design. He will still include the Police Department has part of the building diagram as discussed at the August Special Town Meeting and incorporate the large meeting room as well. He will also continue to work on additional renovations within the existing Police Building and Fire station and the Fire Department substation and leave the land acquisition in the Selectmen's hands. He indicated that the Town Garage will actually be the easiest building to design. He gave the Board a list which they need to consider for the budget, and indicated that they should try and think of everything that will need to be included. He cited an example of people will remember you saving some money on a building for about a week, but if you come back and want more money even a few thousand dollars because you forgot to include something, that people will remember that you were asking for more money. Some of the items that this list included are site acquisitions, renovation construction, general construction, subsurface investigation, site work, administration, loose and fixed equipment, contingency, legal, architect, and engineering fees, testing, computers, signage and specialty items. He also suggested that the Board consider having rendering drawing which he showed the Board an example. This would take a site, and actually impose the building onto it to give a visual view of what it would look like. He also wanted to have booklets made up which would show diagrams of the buildings, and the breakdown of the costs for each building. He suggested that the Board or Departments Heads do a narrative as well. He gave the Board a proposal for his services for this project which totaled \$20,500 which included the development of a preliminary drawing package for each of the four buildings to be presented at the Town Meeting. The package would include preliminary site plan, floor plans with overall dimensions and general notes, exterior elevations as determined by architect with vertical dimensions and notes, building sections as determined by architect with general dimensions and notes, provide color rendering of the Town Office Building, develop a project budget, and provide master prints for copy and distribution by Town Officials. Selectman Cheney questioned whether we need to put this work out to bid, and Selectman McGarr had concerns about the cost. Selectmen Wheeler and Homer both indicated that they felt that it had been the intention of the Board to have Mike do the work, and that he had already put a lot of work into the project. Both Selectmen felt comfortable with defending their decision on choosing Mike. The Board decided to take a vote on accepting this proposal, and Selectman Homer and Wheeler voted yes, and Selectmen McGarr and Cheney voted no thus creating a split vote. Chairman Wheeler expressed his disappointment that this happened as it would put more delays on an already tight schedule. Selectman McGarr then suggested that Chairman Wheeler could ask for a reconsideration of the vote. Mike offered to leave the room so the Board could discuss it among themselves. The Board had some discussion, and then took another vote with Selectman McGarr making the motion to reconsider accepting the proposal from Mike Piazza for his services on the municipal buildings.

Selectmen's Meeting
November 21, 2005

Selectmen Wheeler, Homer and McGarr voted yes, and Selectman Cheney voted no. Mike was called back into the room, and the Chairman Wheeler signed the proposal. Mike will have some preliminary drawings of the Town Office to show the Board at the December 5th meeting.

The Board continued the meeting with the review of their correspondence. They reviewed a draft of the Pemi Baker Solid Waste District budget. An invitation was received to attend a community meeting from the Grafton County Commissioners in regards to assessment of the Department of Corrections Facility. This meeting will be held on December 15th at 1:30 p.m. in North Haverhill. The State wrote informing the Board that the proper hearings had been held for the petition to remove the exemption from the Blair Road railroad crossing and it had been granted. The Board read some correspondence that Attorney Bates had forwarded to them from Attorney Cowie indicating that the Town should now be responsible for the Beebe River Village District since they had signed the CDBG grant for them. The Selectmen could not believe that Attorney Cowie would make some a statement, and was pleased with Attorney Bates response that this argument made no logic. The Board agreed that no Towns would ever help a district with grant monies if this was the case, and felt that to take such an issue to Court would be a frivolous suit.

Under other business, Chief Warn indicated that he had been approached by Rick Tuck about the storage facility next to his riding stables, and the amount of moving trucks that is now part of the business. These trucks are disturbing his horses. Ann Marie will check with May on what the Site Plan Review allowed on this site. Selectman McGarr indicated that he had spoken with Jane Kellogg and she wants to discuss the Conservation Committee's management plan with the Board. She was going to incorporate it into her budget presentation, but Selectman McGarr suggested that she keep the two items separate, and contact Ann Marie to be put on the agenda.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Foote
Administrative Assistant