

MINUTES

April 23, 2007

The Selectmen met for their weekly meeting after not meeting for the past two weeks. Last week's meeting was cancelled because of the storm. Present were Selectmen Craig Keeney, Sharon Davis, James McGarr, Charles Wheeler and Charles Cheney. The Board reviewed and signed the manifest. They also signed some new residency applications, two Intents to Cut, an appointment for the Conservation Commission, and Chairman McGarr signed the lease/purchase agreement for the two Highway vehicles approved at Town Meeting.

The Board had some time before their 6:30 p.m. appointment so Selectman Sharon Davis asked the Chairman if the Board could review the minutes from the April 2nd meeting at this time. Selectman Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and this was seconded by Selectman Davis and voted in the affirmative by all. The Board still had some time before the first order of business so decided to review some of their correspondence. Ann Marie indicated that the Conservation Commission had emailed their minutes to the Board, and that Jane Kellogg was coming in to speak with the Board on May 7th to discuss the Tuck land along with the Campton Village Precinct Commissioners. Selectman Keeney indicated that Rick Tuck had given the Conservation Committee and the Precinct Commissioners an estimate of what he thought his property was worth. He provided copies of this proposal to the other Board Members. He also indicated that the Conservation Commission is looking at applying for an LCHIP grant, and the Precinct is also looking into grant money. Ann Marie indicated that the date had come and gone for the advertisement for the Beebe River Feasibility Grant, and the only person who applied for the position was Donna Kerwin Lane. Donna has been handling the Beebe River grants since 1998 so is more than familiar with the area and the project. Selectman McGarr suggested that we invite her to a meeting to discuss how this grant will be carried out. Ann Marie will contact her, and let her know that she has the job, and to invite her to come in to talk with the Board. Ann Marie then advised the Board about a letter from Stanley Jackson of Vintage Lands who felt that he should not have to pay a current use penalty since the Town had not assessed it within a year since he sold the other lots which made this remaining lot no longer eligible for current use. Ann Marie did some research, and found out that it had indeed somehow slipped through the cracks about sending out the current use penalty bill, but we had not "discovered" this until after the spring bill as is evidenced by the fact that last year's spring bill we were still assessing the lot in current use. The lot was taken out of current use by the assessor for the fall bill, but had not been given to him for a penalty to be assessed. The year's time would actually be sometime in early fall. Mr. Jackson's letter dated March 6th, still gives us a grace period within that year's time. Ann Marie had contacted Mark Nieder, who assessed the penalty, we sent out the bill, with a copy of the law explaining this as well. She had also spoken with JoJo Belville, our DRA representative, who indicated that we still had the right to assess this penalty. Mr. Jackson wanted the Board to consider a reduced amount. The Board agreed that the penalty amount should stay the same, and Mr. Jackson should be advised and sent a copy of the law.

At 6:30 p.m. the Board began their meeting. The first order of business was the swearing in of a new full-time police officer. Police Chief Warn officially introduced Michelle Toepel to the

Board. Michelle was joined by family, friends, and members of the Police Department. Town Clerk Hannah Joyce administered the oath, and Chief Warn welcomed her aboard.

The Board met next with Fire Chief David Tobine, Road Agent Butch Bain, and Police Chief Christopher Warn to discuss the emergency conditions caused by the storm last week. Chief Tobine explained that the calls started coming in at 5:24 a.m. and continued for the next 48 hours until 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The Chief notified the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen that he was activating the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). He also called Campton Elementary School Principal Jim George to open a shelter at the school. The shelter remained opened for three days, and closed on Thursday afternoon of the storm week. Selectman Cheney asked whether the shelter was used. Chief Tobine indicated that a number of people came to eat lunch and shower, and a few people did spend the night. The Chief indicated that he had some difficulty with the American Red Cross as they were suppose to provide some cots, and did not deliver them. Selectman Keeney called the Armory, and was able to secure some cots for the school, and advised the Chief of this. Chief Tobine also advised that the auxiliary power at the Campton Fire Station broke down, and the small building over the generator blew off. He indicated that a representative from Rhymes Gas felt that he could get it running again, and also recommended two tanks rather than one. Chief Warn had also expressed concern about the difficulty of operating without auxiliary power. It was agreed that if the generator could be fixed for a few thousand dollars that it should be done, and in the meantime the Chiefs could explore looking into grants for a new generator. When the new Town Buildings complex is developed, a generator was suggested that would tie into all the buildings on the site. The portable radios and cell phones came in handy for keeping communication available between the fire, police and highway departments. Road Agent Butch Bain explained that they have a lot of trees to be cut up and removed, and that he needs to invest in more traffic cones and barricades. He also asked the Board if he could rent a chipper for a few days to clean up the trees. The Board signed a purchase order for the rental of the chipper. Chief Tobine also commended the updates given by PSNH and the Coop about the status of power outages, and returns to service.

Chief Tobine also wanted to discuss a program that is being set up by the North Country Council in regards to a plan for an All Hazard/Wildfire/Water Resource process. North Country Council will help the Towns interested in this process set it up. The Chief indicates that it should take about six meeting to get this program set up. He would like to see the Board agree to participate and sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the North Country Council. Selectman McGarr made a motion to participate in this program, and it was seconded by Selectman Cheney, and voted in the affirmative by all. The Emergency Management Director (Chief Tobine) will organize it. Chairman McGarr signed the paperwork.

Selectman McGarr indicated that while Chief Tobine was here that they should update the other Selectmen on the incident on Bog Road. A vacant mobile home on Bog Road had an oil spill of their home heating oil which ran down the hill into some wetlands below. The Chief had called the DES, and they were doing a clean up of the area. If the owner of the property does not have any means of paying for this clean up, and the funds will probably come out of the superfund. Garbage on the site of this property has also been a big issue. The owner has tried to clean up some of it, but a large amount is still present. Selectman McGarr suggested that Chief Tobine may want to investigate other properties that may have potential for similar type leaks.

Chief Warn mentioned that he understood that Chief Tobine still was interested in obtaining the Ford Explorer for his department. Chief Tobine confirmed that he did, and that the Fire Department's mechanic had felt comfortable acquiring it even if there were potential transmission problems. Chief Tobine felt that he would rather invest money in transmission work than take the change with an unknown used vehicle. He also explained that members of his department used this vehicle to ride together for training that they took on their own time, and this helped so they did not have to use their own gas or vehicle. They also use the vehicle for members of the department who respond to an emergency after the vehicles have gone out, and they do not have a lot of personal vehicles on the scene, but rather travel together in the Department's vehicle. The Commissioners have also given the Chief permission to take money out of his vehicles maintenance budget to paint the Explorer. The vehicle can be housed in the Central Station, and the Forestry Truck is being moved down to the new substation. The Selectmen agreed that if Chief Tobine felt comfortable with accepting the vehicle and is aware of some of the potential problems, the Board would not be against it. With a motion from Selectman Wheeler, and seconded by Selectman Keeney, the Board agreed to give the Explorer to the Fire Department. Chief Warn also wanted to let the Board know that the Fire Department was very helpful in working with the Police Department in all the storm related incidents, and felt that the two departments had a good working relationship.

Patrick Miller came in next to meet with the Board. He apologized for not being available for the past three weeks, but his work commitments have increased, and will unfortunately be increasing again. He is hoping that Cliff Barber will take over as Chairman of the Committee which he has agreed to if he could have a co-chair to work with it. He is going to be speaking to Brian Hilliard another member of the committee to see if he would be willing to share the responsibility with him. Patrick indicated that he felt that it was important to get out another request for proposal for the architect and engineering work budgeted at Town Meeting. While he believes that Dennis Mires and Company did a great job getting all that they did for Town Meeting together, the scope of their job did not include the actual work itself, and felt that since we are dealing with public funds that we need to put the proposal out, and that should be done soon so there won't be a holdup on the construction of the Town Garage. Selectman Davis indicated that there was not going to be any A&E plans for the garage, and the other Board Members agreed as well that this would not be necessary for the garage. Some local contractors have agreed to help put the specs together for the building with the Road Agent. Selectman Davis also wanted the Board to know that she and Cliff Barber had met last week with Brian Donovan. Brian indicated that Pike would be willing to straighten the boundary line between the Town's property and Pike's on the west side of the Fire Department if the Town wanted some additional land. The price being \$45,000 an acre. Selectman Davis also indicated that they had a meeting a few weeks ago with Brian as well, and at that time some land behind Persons Concrete was discussed. It was agreed that this area had some issues that the Town did not want to address so they would not pursue it further. Selectman Davis also wanted the Board to know that Brian had told her and Cliff that Pike has no plans for their property or any persons representing them on plans for this property at this time, and does not think that they will for a number of years. They will be bringing their crusher back to this location this summer. Talk went back to the Town Garage, and the option of whether the building will be steel or wood will probably come down to price. Selectman Keeney indicated that he would be willing to head up a sub-

committee for the Highway Garage plans, and Selectman Davis indicated that she would work with the Town Office sub-committee. Selectman Davis indicated that the Building Committee needs to meet to discuss and approve all this.

The Board went on to other business since they had already reviewed correspondence and minutes earlier in the evening. Selectman Keeney had some input from discussions at the Planning Board meeting in regards to putting a copy of the Town Road specs in the packet for sub-divisions. He also indicated that the Planning Board thought that the Road Agent should inspect the roads. The Selectmen were not in agreement with this as they felt that they wanted to get away from this, and have an engineer actually certified a road specs, and the Road Agent was not an engineer nor were the Selectmen. It was also discussed that a road should not be formally accepted as a Town road until it had gone thru a two year cycle of use. The other Board Members felt that this was a good idea. A sign off sheet would be required to be signed for the owner or developer of the project. Selectman McGarr indicated that he was going to stop in the office and talk to May Brosseau about including this information in the Planning Board packets. Selectman Keeney also indicated that the developers/owners should keep the slips for the work that they pay for materials or any sub-contractors work on the roads.

Selectman McGarr indicated that he wanted to bring back the issue of the Town Library being opened during school hours. He still felt very strongly that this was a liability and jeopardizing the school's security. He learned that the Town Librarian is letting people in the Library entrance during school hours by knocking on the window rather than going through the school's main entrance. Selectman McGarr made a motion which was seconded by Selectman Wheeler to send a letter to the Librarian and Library Trustees ordering them not to open the Library during school hours, and not to allow any one from the public in through the Library entrance if they were there themselves during school hours. If the trustees or the Library employees were to be in the Library during school hours, they should use the main school entrance as well to comply with school security. The Board voted to authorize such a letter, and to have Chairman McGarr sign it.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Foote
Town Administrator