

MINUTES  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
DECEMBER 22, 2008

The Board of Selectmen met for their weekly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Campton Town Office. Present were Selectmen, Charles Wheeler, Craig Keeney and Marsh Morgan. Selectman Davis was not present due to illness and Selectman Cheney had a conflict in schedule. The Board signed the manifest and reviewed the bills. They signed 1 2008 Equalization Assessment Data Sheets Certificate, 3 Veteran's Exemptions, 1 Veteran's Exemption for Total and Permanent Disability, 1 Assessment Reduction Recommendation from Commerford, Nieder & Perkins, LLC, 2 Employee Requests for Personal Leave and 1 Application for Current Use.

Acting Chair Charles Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. with the first discussion being Centralized Deposit Procedures. Present for this discussion were Ann Marie Foote, Town Administrator, Hannah Joyce, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Chris Warn, Police Chief and the Town Treasurer, Mary Durgin. Ann Marie reiterated the new procedure effective 1/1/09 (as indicated in her Memo dated 12/15/08) for the centralized depositing of all revenue, from each Department, to be processed through the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office. She explained that this policy adopts the recommendations of the Town Auditors and MRI and meets State Statutes. Police Chief Warn had submitted a Memo dated 12/17/08 to the Board and Town Administrator explaining the burden on the Police Department in the implementation of this daily procedure. The Chief stated that after discussion with the Board and auditors, that the Police Department's procedure of a weekly release of any and all funds to the Town Clerk by the Police Department was acceptable (with the exception of a small safe/lockbox being purchased). However, if the Police Department received \$500.00 or more in one day, it would be delivered to the Town Clerk/Tax Collector on that day. After extensive discussion, it was the Board's consensus that clarification needed to be made by the auditors as to who can legally collect monies and who can legally deposit monies by addressing the bonding issue and if necessary, bonding additional individuals. It was also agreed by the Board that at present, the Police Department is to continue with their present depositing procedures until clarification is received by the Board from the auditors. The Board also agreed that the auditors need to discuss the recommended procedures with the Police Chief. It is the intent of the Board to resolve any issues of the centralized depositing procedure before January 1, 2009.

A confidential memo (regarding another matter) was also delivered to Acting Chair Charles Wheeler by Police Chief, Chris Warn to which Selectman Wheeler indicated he would address through a Human Resources Committee meeting.

Acting Chair, Charles Wheeler next called on Ann Marie Foote, Town Administrator for a continued review of the Town Budget. Ann Marie proceeded to go over specific line items for General Government Building – electricity is upgraded to \$12,500 and heating to \$8,000, which she hopes, will be adequate. She had to increase Custodial and Rubbish to \$2,600 as the custodians are now taking the rubbish. She allotted \$3,200 for the

phone. Yard care is up because of care needed at the Fire Sub Station and Police Station. Fire Department repairs are up because of allowance for rectifying a drainage problem. The water bill she left the same. Insurance – she raised property liability due to tax-deeded properties that the Town owns. Workers Compensation remains the same, but Ann Marie stated this figure was hard to predict. Trustees of the Trust Fund figure was increased by \$4,700 to include the Charter Trust fee. The Signs and Posts figure was lowered to \$600 as Ann Marie felt we have not experienced as many road signs disappearing as in previous years.

Selectman Morgan questioned the Pemi Baker Solid Waste figure which Ann Marie corrected. The Health Officer's cell phone was included in the budget, but may change after meeting with our cell phone provider giving us a different program for all Town phones. Health Officer, James McGarr has been invited to that meeting scheduled for next week. As far as Welfare, Ann Marie indicated she is going to wait until the end of the year, as she may need to increase the \$45,000.00 figure. Patriotic Purposes is still at \$600 which will work for the flags. The betterment for Kati A/Millie's Circle is higher at \$17,854.61, but that will be recouped.

Interest on Tax Anticipated Notes is up to \$6,000. Capital Outlay reflects the quote from Kurt Smith, Town Computer Technical Support person regarding the purchase of two Dell computers, upgrading to Quick Books Pro, and upgrading BMSI to convert to a windows version. This price quote was distributed to the Board. There was discussion about acquiring other price quotes, but the Board, through past experience, noted that Kurt has been extremely "fair" with the Town and has provided excellent service over the years; and the Board feels very comfortable with his dedication to service.

Acting Chair, Charles Wheeler then called on Ann Marie to review Correspondence. Ann Marie stated a letter was received from NH Municipal Association regarding discussion in Washington DC about the need for an economic stimulus package that addresses the nation's infrastructures needs and will get the economy moving again. NH Municipal Association advises to "get your projects ready" and to prioritize the list with such projects as: paving, road repairs, overdue maintenance, bridge repairs, etc. The Board agreed that a definite project list would be prepared and submitted to NH Municipal Association and felt this would be an excellent means of financial assistance in the repairs of the covered bridges and additional paving projects in Town.

Ann Marie indicated a letter was received from the Town of Ashland regarding a Joint Public Forum for the potential sharing of services that is scheduled for January 27, 2009, at 6:30 p.m., at the Ashland Elementary School Cafeteria. They are inviting representatives from the Towns of Holderness, New Hampton, Plymouth, Campton, Bridgewater, Bristol and Rumney.

NH Local Government Center forwarded a letter regarding the NH Public Radio 2009 Interactive Town Meeting Map project to which Ann Marie will provide necessary information to participate in the project.

A letter was received from Nancy Mayville, Municipal Highways Engineer of NH Department of Transportation regarding beginning the process of qualification based selection (QBS) process in compliance with the State Aid Bridge guidelines. The letter enclosed a list of active consultants that design bridges to assist in the Blair Bridge project.

There was discussion concerning the Operation Maintenance and Response Information sheet that needs to be filed with the State concerning the Deer Run Pond Dam. The Board agreed that the report should be completed by Road Agent, Butch Bain.

Ann Marie stated a copy of a letter was received from the Hanover Board of Selectmen which was addressed to the Grafton County Delegation urging the Delegation to reassess and refrain from moving forward with the new County Jail facility. The Board indicated that they have already addressed this issue and concur with the Hanover Board of Selectmen.

There being no further correspondence Acting Chair Wheeler proceeded to move for a Motion to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting. Selectman Marsh Morgan made a Motion to approve the Minutes as presented, Selectman Keeney seconded and the Minutes were approved as written.

Next on the agenda was Other Business/Selectmen's Input. Ann Marie indicated that the Bump Bridge should be opened by Christmas. Selectman Craig Keeney indicated that Stan Graton had mentioned to him that he had performed some work on the bridge which he felt needed to be done, (while he was at that stage in the repair, even though it was not authorized by the Board). Selectman Keeney stated he also discussed with Stan Graton the Blair Bridge project. Mr. Graton felt the State's process of selection of contractors has a very strict pre-qualifying criteria; and therefore, enables the Town to get the "best of the best" contractors to complete the project. Selectman Keeney expressed the need to get this project under way and he was given a copy of the list of the qualified contractors provided by the State.

Selectman Keeney addressed the issue of all full time employees presently being hired and that the NH Retirement system is stating it is mandatory for such employees to participate in a 5% contribution rate. In addition, Town's contribution for such individuals gets added to the retirement system and does not contribute to any portion of the individual's benefit upon retirement, unless, of course, the individual has worked for the Town for 10 years and becomes vested. The Board agreed to have the Town Attorney research this "mandatory" issue.

Also, Selectman Keeney inquired about the higher percentage portion of the Town of Campton's contribution to Solid Waste. Acting Chair, Charles Wheeler requested that this matter be placed on the Tracking Report for future research as the present fee has already been submitted.

Ann Marie discussed the previous request of David Thompson and David Goodwin, Highway Department employees, carrying over their vacation time for 2008. David Thompson did not become eligible to start taking vacation (10 days) until November, 2008, to which he took one day in November, 2008. The majority of the Board agreed to make an exception in his case as 2008 was his first year in the system for eligibility and there was only a short period of time to allow for him to actually use all his available vacation time in 2008. In David Goodwin's situation, the Board felt he had enough time in the system to allow for the actual use of his vacation time so the Board agreed that he can only carry the time over as allowed under the Personnel Procedures Manual which is 5 days.

Ann Marie informed the Board that the letters have gone out to property owners pertaining to setting up appointments with the Town Assessor's to view the interior of their homes to assist them in their data process.

Cliff Barber, a property owner in the Town of Campton, also a member of the Building Committee, expressed his concern, and urged the Board to act upon a response from the NH Municipal Association's letter and Senator-elect Shaheen's request (earlier mentioned by Ann Marie in Correspondence) for a compiled list from the Town on "ready to go projects" that the Town could benefit from an "Economic Stimulus Package" from the government. Some of Mr. Barber's suggestions (and the Board) were projects pertaining to repairs on the covered bridges, allowance for more paved roads and improvements of recycling. Mr. Barber felt the stimulus package would be an excellent opportunity for the Town to receive some monetary assistance on these projects and to "think big" when compiling the list to be provided to the NH Municipal Association.

There being no further business, Acting Chair, Charles Wheeler then moved for a motion to adjourn. Selectman Marsh Morgan moved to adjourn and Selectman Craig Keeney seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor M. Dewey  
Office Assistant to Ann Marie Foote, Town Administrator