

MINUTES
February 5, 2007

The Selectmen met for their weekly meeting. Present were Selectmen James McGarr, Sharon Davis, Charles Cheney, Jon Homer, and Charles Wheeler. The Board spent the first half hour reviewing and signing the manifest. They also approved three new residents, signed a purchase order, and Intent to Build.

At 6:30 p.m., the Board met with Town Clerk Hannah Joyce and Town Moderator Cecil Cooper. Hannah explained that it has been declared unconstitutional to list the candidates running for office, alphabetically on the ballot. She brought out a hat filled with plastic letters of the alphabet, compliments of her children, and asked the Board if they wished to verify that all 26 letters were in the hat. The Board agreed that they took her word for it, and Cecil Cooper pulled a letter from the hat. The letter was a "V" so names will be listed starting from V and then continuing from there back to ABC again. Selectman Homer wanted to know if there had been any problems with the counting of the ballots at the last election. Cecil indicated that the Town Clerk and Supervisors had made sure every ballot was countered, and the count of who signed in and out was off. He indicated that they check the records again, and he indicated that the problem is that sometimes people will make a mistake on the ballot, and rather than put it in the box all scratched out, will simply pocket it, and walk away. It was agreed that the proposed new paper ballot machine should make this process easier and more efficient. Before Hannah left, Ann Marie mentioned to Selectman Wheeler that he had wanted to know more about the COMPASS program which is an online registration program. Hannah indicated that the program has been in existence for about two years, and that 15 Towns are currently using it, but one Town wants to get out of it because of the problems they have encountered. She indicated that she and Treasurer, Mary Durgin had discussed it, and wanted to wait until all the bugs were out of the system before considering it. Hannah also indicated that there is a fee to the user for the service.

The Board met next with Building Committee Members, Patrick Miller and Cliff Barber. Patrick explained that based on the Building Committee's recommendations he would like to have the Selectmen put in the two proposed warrant articles. The first would ask voters to raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 for the creation of architectural and engineering design drawings for a new Town Office Building and expansions of the Fire and Police Buildings, all to be proposed as a single building master plan. Said sum includes the expense of a professional construction cost estimator. The second article would ask voters to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund for future Municipal Building Construction/Improvement projects. Selectman Davis indicated that this would also be the proper time to have the Selectmen vote on the contract for Dennis Mires to do the initial work to show how these buildings could be placed on the piece of land the Town is acquiring from Pike Industries which will be presented to voters at a public forum on February 17th. Selectman Davis indicated that Attorney Tim Bates had reviewed the contract, and made some amendments and changes to the documents which the architect had agreed to. She made a motion to approve and sign the contract. This was seconded by Selectman Homer, and voted in the affirmative by all. Patrick indicated that members of the Building Committee, Dennis Mires and his staff, the Town Department Heads, and any or all of the Selectmen were invited to attend a meeting on

Friday, February 9th at the Fire Station beginning at 1 p.m. The architects will listen to all the department heads, discuss their needs, look at the idea of sharing some common services, heat, electric, well, storage, meetings area etc. He will first tour the existing buildings. He will then put everything together from the information gathered at the meeting, and put this into the charette planned for February 17th at the Campton School, beginning at 9 a.m. Patrick also wanted to let the Board know that Tom Mullen had approached him and the committee about purchasing a different piece of land from Pike as they were almost at the end of their life span for a gravel pit, and would be looking at putting in a commercial enterprise. The Board indicated that they have already signed a Purchase and Sale Agreement, placed a down payment, and are scheduled for a boundary line adjustment of this property at the next Planning Board meeting. The Board agreed that they would keep going as planned.

Road Agent Butch Bain was next on the agenda. Last week the Town had received a letter from the State DOT about the condition of a bridge that spans over Beech Hill Road by the pond. The State was concerned about this bridge, and wanted it posted for 3 tons, and fixed as soon as possible. Butch had contacted Nancy Mayville, Doug Goselin and Ed Bray from the State. They had suggested that the Town looking into having the State do the work, and the Town would only have to pay a 20% matching fund for the total project. Butch was waiting to get an estimate from the State later this week. In the meantime, the bridge which is actually a large culvert under the road needs to have two feet of gravel placed over it, and the work can be done in the spring. The State is willing to waive the 3 ton limit for now if the Highway crew does this. Otherwise fire trucks would not be able to travel over it, and this would create a serious problem. John Timson had relayed the information that he and his father had helped then Road Agent Eddie Pattee, put this culvert in almost 30 years ago. The Selectmen and Butch agreed that this would be the way to go with this project, and Butch will get back to the Board about the cost of the project.

Chief Warn then met with the Board to go over the wage line of his proposed 2007 budget. He indicated that he did not want to argue about salary with the Board, and will accept whatever they propose. He gave copies of a budget which proposed a 3.3% cost of living for his staff, and three different scenarios for his own salary, based on the COLA amount, 5% and 7%. He also wanted to assure the Selectmen that no matter what their decision, he did not have any intentions of leaving the Town. Selectman Davis cited some other organizations in the area, including Plymouth State University, Northway Bank, and the NH Electric Cooperative were proposing increases of 2 to 3 percent. She made a motion to give the members of the department, the three percent proposed for the other employees, and to give the Chief an increase to \$55,000 as a wage adjustment which would fall between the 3% and 5%. This motion was seconded by Selectman Cheney. Selectman Wheeler indicated that the Chief was doing a good job, but based on what had been recommended for other departments, that he agreed with this motion. It was voted in favor by all. Chief Warn also indicated that he needed a few minutes later in the meeting to discuss a matter in Non Public Session.

Selectman Davis presented the Board with a proposal to include \$12,000.00 in the 2007 budget for a temporary housing unit to be added to the Town Office. This unit would be leased for three years with the idea that even if the first phase of the buildings project gets approved this year that

it would still be at least three years before a new Town Office would be in existence. In the meantime, there is a need for some meeting space for the Board, and some private offices and additional space for the Selectmen's Office. The private office area could be used by other employees of the building as well if needed. This would address the privacy needed for certain functions of the job, and also provide more space for meetings, the auditors etc. Selectman Davis had looked at four different possibilities and the William Scottsman model seemed to be the most efficient for our needs. This would involve a three lease with a total 3 year package of \$34,130.00 including set up and knockdown with the first year's cost at approximately \$11,533.00. The other Selectmen suggested that some additional money be put in for a walkway between the two buildings. This will bring the amount for the budget to \$13,000.00. Selectman Davis also shared some information that she had about the Regional pandemic Influenza and the planning points of contact.

At this point, the Selectmen decided to meet with the Chief in Non Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (c) with a motion from Selectman Davis and seconded by Selectman Wheeler, and voted in the affirmative by all. Approximately 15 minutes later, the Board came out of Non Public Session with a motion to seal the minutes from Selectman Davis, and seconded by Selectman Wheeler, and voted in the affirmative by all.

The Chief mentioned that the matter about a local person taking sand from the Town's pile without authorization had been investigated, and that he felt that there had been some miscommunication. He advised the Selectmen that in order to keep unauthorized vehicles from taking sand, that the Town should place a sign at the shed so the Police could better enforce any violators. Chief Warn also advised that at this point, he wanted the Board to know that he wanted to take the 3% increase like the rest of his department and avoid any conflicts or bad feelings with other Town departments as well. Selectman McGarr made a motion to accept this proposal, and it was seconded by Selectman Warn, and voted in favor by all. Selectman Davis had left the room for a few minutes, and was advised of the decision upon her return.

The Board then went on to correspondence. We received notice from the U.S. Census Bureau that they are gearing up for the 2010 Census Local Update of Census Addresses, and will be sending the Town a formal invitation in July to participate. Ann Marie advised the Board that we received a citizen's petition, with 25 registered voters as required, to have the voters decide whether to combine the offices of the Town Clerk and Tax Collector into a single office of an elected Town Clerk/Tax Collector, with a 3 year fixed term, with said person being elected starting in 2008. The Board looked over the petition. Minutes from the Pemi Baker Solid Waste Meeting, and their annual budget were distributed to the Board as well as the monthly website stats from Beverly Chappell.

The Board then went on to review their correspondence. Selectman Davis pointed out one small typo. Selectman McGarr made a motion to approve the minutes, and Selectman Wheeler seconded it, with all voted in the affirmative.

The Board then went on to other business and Selectmen's input. Ann Marie wanted to get some input about what to put on the Town Report cover. She suggested the new Fire Substation might be a good picture. Selectman Davis indicated that she had spoken to some people who would

like to see something that reflect the character of the Town rather than a building. Selectman McGarr volunteered to take a picture of the skating pond that he and some friends had set up for the kids in the neighborhood.

The Board then reviewed the remainder of the proposed 2007 budget with Ann Marie. Ann Marie also brought up that under equipment, a laptop was being proposed for the Selectmen's Office, but she would also like to propose a remote access for her to do work at home when she was out of the office. The Town would need to provide the high speed internet, and modem and rotor. Our IT person would be willing to install it for no cost to the Town. Selectman Davis said that there should be an off site location for some Town functions in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. The Board agreed to this idea. The laptop could also be used by the other employees in the office for meetings.

Ann Marie also mentioned that Patti Barker had mentioned that Dick Smith had recently passed away, and that it would be nice to mention him in the Town Report. Selectman Cheney and Davis both commented that he did a lot of work for the Campton Village Precinct and the Campton Historical Society.

Selectman McGarr mentioned that Chris Kelly had asked that the Selectmen look over his road in his subdivision so he could begin to sell his lots, and he had gone over and looked at the road, and it looked good. Selectman Homer and Road Agent Butch Bain agreed that the road met the standards to sell the lots. This approval does not mean that they are acceptable as Town roads at this time just that lots can be sold. A letter will be drafted for the Board to sign.

The Board had a decision to make on a legal matter, and with a motion from Selectman Davis, and seconded by Selectman Wheeler, and voted in the affirmative by all, to go into Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (e).

When the Board came out of Non Public Session, they agreed that they had no problem with these Non Public minutes being made public.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Foote
Town Administrator