

MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MAY 5, 2014

The Board of Selectmen met for their weekly meeting at 6:30 p. m. at the Campton Municipal Building. Present were Selectmen, Charles Cheney, Charles Wheeler, Karl Kelly and Peter Laufenberg. Selectman Davis was not present due to conflict in schedule. The Board signed the manifest and reviewed the bills. They signed 1 Appointment to Planning Board, 1 Appointment to Zoning Board, 2 Appointments to the Conservation Commission, 1 Building Permit, 2 Intents to Cut, 1 Intent to Excavate, 1 Contractor's Application for Payment regarding the Blair Bridge Project and one letter to the Trustees of the Trust Fund.

At 6:45 p.m. Chair Wheeler called the meeting to order and indicated that Kelly Bolger informed him that he will be late this evening to give an update on the Blair Bridge Project so Chair Wheeler continued the meeting by calling on Ann Marie regarding the Town Deposit and Investment Policy. Ann Marie distributed a copy of the policy to each Board member. Chair Wheeler informed the Board that Selectman Davis contacted him and she indicated that there were no new laws since last year and the Deposit and Investment Policy (as written) is ready for approval by the Board. There was some discussion concerning the authority of the Board of Selectmen as it pertains to the policy. Ann Marie also mentioned that the Selectmen and the Treasurer will need to meet annually to review the investment of public funds in conformance with the provisions of applicable statutes. Chair Wheeler then called for a Motion to approve the policy. Selectman Cheney made a Motion to approve the Town of Campton's Deposit and Investment Policy as previously adopted by the Board. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Kelly and with a roll call vote: Selectman Wheeler – yes, Selectman Cheney – yes, Selectman Kelly – yes, and Selectman Laufenberg – yes, the approval of the Deposit and Investment Policy as previously adopted was unanimously approved.

Chair Wheeler then called on Ann Marie to review correspondence. Ann Marie indicated that Police Chief Warn forwarded a memo regarding Pawnbrokers and Second-Hand Dealers Ordinance which he would like to have adopted by the Town. (Copies were distributed to Board members.) Ann Marie explained certain issues that have arisen in Town involving stolen property; hence, the need for the adoption of the Ordinance. Chair Wheeler suggested that Attorney Laura Spector-Morgan review the proposed Ordinance and then the Board review after her suggestions. Ann Marie will forward the proposed Ordinance to Attorney Spector-Morgan.

Ann Marie explained to the Board the need to apply for a Tax Anticipation Note as funds are low at present. Ann Marie indicated that she applied for a Tax Anticipation Note (through Northway Bank as this bank has the best rates). The amount requested is \$700,000.00 due and payable 12/30/14, at an interest rate of 0.91%, with no prepayment penalties, and a bank fee of \$250.00. Ann Marie presented the documents necessary for processing the loan this evening and all documents were signed by the Board. Selectman

Laufenberg inquired when the loan would be paid back and Ann Marie indicated that she usually pays the Tax Anticipation Note back after the fall bills go out.

Ann Marie stated that the Minutes of the meeting of 4/18/14 from Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc. regarding the Blair Bridge Project have been received. She informed the Board of some of the progress. The floor beams and decking are approximately 85% complete, the roofing is complete and the sprinkler system has been installed. Ann Marie also indicated that Dave Foster, Resident Project Representative has now been replaced by Joe Ripley for the remainder of the project.

Ann Marie provided to Board members a copy of a memo she sent to the Campton Library Trustees pertaining to timesheets not being submitted each week by the Librarian and Library Assistant. Ann Marie expressed her concern that the Town will be in a bad situation with the auditors or the Department of labor if the issue persists.

Ann Marie informed the Board that the auditors were at the office last week. The auditors expressed that they were very impressed with the single audit of the Blair Bridge Project. Ann Marie stated that Diane Richards was very helpful assisting the auditors and the auditors will be meeting with Diane in the future discussing different ways to do the accounting.

There being no further correspondence or concerns indicated by Ann Marie, Chair Wheeler called on Fire Chief Dan Defosses regarding an update on Comstar. Ian Halm, Deputy Fire Chief and Diane Richards, Fire Commissioner were also present. Chief Defosses indicated that Comstar does the billing for the Town ambulance service. Chief Defosses explained that he wanted to give the Board a “heads up” that there is some uncollectable debt regarding the ambulance service and Comstar has suggested this debt in the approximate amount of \$180,000.00 (accumulated since 2007 and has been carried on the books) and should be written off. Chief Defosses indicated that while this figure appears to be large, it has accumulated since 2007 and in comparison to other Towns the average yearly write-off for Campton using the \$180,000.00 figure is lower than some surrounding Towns. Ian Halm added that in order to try to decrease the debt problem in the future, a collection agency (which threatens individuals’ credit scores) has been hired. The collection agency charges a 7% fee on any debt collected. Chief Defosses explained that they will continue the process of trying to collect debt, but the likelihood of success on old accounts that relate to deceased persons with no estates is slim. Comstar’s recommendation is to do the write-off each year rather than let it accumulate from year to year. Chief Defosses indicated that it is hoped that in the future the debt write-offs will decrease with “Obama Care” as everyone will have insurance coverage.

Chief Defosses expressed a thank you to the Board for the new lights at the Fire Department and emphasized how appreciative the department is for the improvement. The Board thanked Chief Defosses, Ian Halm and Diane Richards for appearing this evening to give the Board a “heads up”.

Chair Wheeler continued the meeting by calling for a Motion to approve the Minutes of April 21, 2014. After one revision made by Selectman Kelly, Selectman Kelly made a Motion to approve the Minutes as revised. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Laufenberg and the revised Minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair Wheeler then called for Other Business – Selectmen’s Input. Chair Wheeler called on Ann Marie who indicated that the typewriter table which was ordered for the Town Clerk’s Office was not accepted by Hannah Joyce, Town Clerk/Tax Collector. After discussion it was decided that Selectman Wheeler and Selectman Kelly would meet with Mrs. Joyce to discuss what type of table she would like purchased.

Chair Wheeler called on Selectman Cheney who inquired if the electrical work had been done in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector’s Office. Selectman Kelly confirmed that the electrical work was completed on Tuesday consisting of 4 electrical outlets.

Chair Wheeler called on Selectman Kelly who inquired about the custodial position for the Municipal Building. Ann Marie indicated that Sheryl Egan (who performs the present cleaning services for the Municipal Building) is interested in the position and Kelly Bolger is supposed to meet with Sheryl to discuss the position. As yet, Kelly has not been in contact with Sheryl. Chair Wheeler stated that he will discuss the matter with Kelly Bolger.

Chair Wheeler informed the Board that he recently attended a meeting regarding Northern Pass. Nine towns were represented at the meeting. It was determined that any Town who expresses concern on how the project will affect their Town will have the opportunity to fill out an application (being represented as an “intervener town”). Aesthetic issues is one of the three criteria’s that Northern Pass will have to defend. Chair Wheeler expressed that there is hope that on this one criteria Northern Pass could not defend successfully. Chair Wheeler stated that he sent for information to apply for the Town of Campton becoming an intervener Town. He indicated that there is no monetary cost for applying. Chair Wheeler stated he will keep the Board updated throughout this procedure. Selectman Laufenberg inquired if there has been a determination made as to depreciation of property values. Chair Wheeler acknowledged that this is an area that will have to be addressed.

Chair Wheeler then called on Ann Marie who stated that she spoke with Linden King today and arrangements are under way for the Memorial Day ceremony and inquired if any Board member would be interested in attending to speak at the cemetery. Chair Wheeler asked Ann Marie to e-mail him the details of the event as he thought he would be able to attend.

There being no further business, Chair Wheeler declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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