

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION OF THE
JOINT SELECT BOARDS (CAMPTON/THORNTON/ELLSWORTH)
OCTOBER 22, 2014**

The joint Select Boards of Campton, Thornton and Ellsworth met at 6:30 p.m. at the Campton Municipal Building. Present representing the Campton Select Board were: Selectmen, Charles Wheeler, Sharon Davis, Charles Cheney, Karl Kelly, Peter Laufenberg, Ann Marie Foote, Campton Town Administrator, and Ellie Dewey, Office Assistant. Present representing the Thornton Select Board were: Selectmen, Steve Morton, John Paul Hilliard, Marianne Peabody, Roy Sabourn, Bradford R. Benton, and Tammie Beaulieu, Thornton Town Administrator. Present representing the Ellsworth Select Board was Selectman Anthony Landroche. Selectman Landroche presented to Chair Wheeler a written authorization from the Ellsworth Select Board authorizing Selectman Landroche to vote at the meeting this evening.

Selectman Wheeler, Chairman of the Campton Select Board opened the Work Session by stating that this is an open meeting of the joint Boards (with no public input) to discuss the Campton/Thornton/Ellsworth Intergovernmental Fire/Rescue Service Agreement (IFRSA) and the Intergovernmental Agreement for Disposal of Solid Waste, (IADSW).

Chair Wheeler called on Selectman Steve Morton to proceed down the draft pages where there were yellow highlights indicating revisions/additions to the IFRSA. The items that initiated a considerable amount of discussion are summarized below:

Item #4.a. concerning “including at least one Thornton Commissioner”. Selectman Morton explained that the Thornton Commissioners have one Commissioner that is out ill for an extended period and this situation has initiated the additional language. Chair Wheeler was concerned that since there has been no previous history of there being a problem, this may create an issue of the possibility of not being able to conduct business. The Thornton Select Board stated that if there is a problem they will appoint an individual to be present.

Another item of discussion was 4.b.1. pertaining to “Preparing and adopting Personnel Policies, Procedures, Wage Plans, and Benefit Contracts with the signed approval of the Boards of Selectmen”. Chair Wheeler expressed concern that this could possibly be construed as micro-managing. Selectman Morton explained that the Commissioners already do the work specified, but the IFRSA should reflect everything being done, such as listing all powers and authority. By so specifying, the Commissioners cannot grant themselves more authority than what is written in the agreement. Discussion ensued concerning definition of encumbrances and surplus as there was a previous issue of a \$13,000 surplus wherein the Fire Department went ahead and depleted the \$13,000 despite the warning of the Thornton Town Administrator that it was not in their authority to do so.

After discussion, it was agreed by all Select Boards that a “quarterly” written update be presented to the Select Boards. (See 4.b.8.).

Item 7.b. It was agreed by the joint Boards that the Fire Chief make recommendations for hiring and firing and bring those recommendations to the Commissioners. The specific language to be inserted to reflect this revision was not spelled out at this meeting.

Selectman Morton explained that all other highlighted insertions in #10 and #13 were just for clarifying purposes.

This concluded the discussion regarding the IFRSA.

At 7:40 p.m. Chair Wheeler suggested a ten minute break for refreshments that Ann Marie Foote provided.

At 7:50 p.m. the Work Session was continued to discuss the Intergovernmental Agreement for Disposal of Solid Waste, (IADSW). Selectman Morton explained, along with Tammie Beaulieu, Thornton Town Administrator that most of the additions were for clarifying purposes. However, Item 4.(B)(3) it was agreed by the joint Boards that the hiring, “removal and discipline” of the Transfer Station/Recycling Center Manger be added language of powers and duties of the Select Boards. The actual specific language to be inserted will be determined after this meeting.

Item (D) Powers and Duties of the Transfer Station Manager is a whole new addition spelling out the Manager’s duties.

Discussion ensued concerning campaigning at the Transfer Station. The Thornton Board was not in favor of this. Some concerns mentioned were liability, snarling up the process of the Transfer Station and the fact that the public is coming to the Transfer Station for the sole purpose of disposal of their waste, not to be approached by political candidates. After discussion with joint Boards, it was agreed by all Boards that there will be no campaigning at the Transfer Station. However, discussion ensued about consulting joint Boards when issues come forward to the Thornton Select Board, as the Campton Select Board was not aware that the Thornton Board had agreed not to allow campaigning at the Transfer Station.

Item 5. Finance; budgets; debt. The joint Boards agreed that the additional language was appropriate. The additional language brings transparency to all Boards and the public. The language will also initiate the Transfer Station Manager to deliver the budget proposals to the Campton and Ellsworth Select Boards, and the Transfer Station Manager will be required to do the presentation at the joint Board Public Meeting.

This concluded the discussion of the IADSW. Selectman Sabourn commended Selectman Morton and Tammie Beaulieu for all their efforts in preparing the draft agreement for this evening session. The Campton Board thanked them for their hard work.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellie Dewey, Campton's Office Assistant, Selectmen's Office