

MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2015

The Board of Selectmen met for their weekly meeting at 6:30 p. m. at the Campton Municipal Building. Present were Selectmen, Charles Wheeler, Sharon Davis, Charles Cheney, Karl Kelly and Peter Laufenberg. The Board signed the manifest and reviewed the bills. They signed 1 Abatement and two Notices of Intent to Cut.

Chair Wheeler confirmed that the agenda this evening has been revised to add at 8:15 p.m. Lisa Ash of Parks & Rec. for review of the 2015 Proposed Parks & Rec. Budget.

The Thornton Select Board was present at this meeting and those present representing the Thornton Select Board were: Selectmen, Steve Morton, John Paul Hilliard, Marianne Peabody, Roy Sabourn and Bradford R. Benton, together with Tammie Beaulieu, Thornton Town Administrator. Present representing the Ellsworth Select Board were: Leonard Clayton and Michael O'Brien. Also present at this meeting representing the Fire Department Commissioners were: Kelly Bolger, Brenda Boisvert, Diane Richards, and Peter Hilton.

At 6:50 p.m. Chair Wheeler called the meeting to order and called on Nancy Marden to review the Proposed 2015 Budget for the Trustees of the Trust Fund and the Campton Historical Society Proposed 2015 Budget. After Mrs. Marden reviewed the Trustees of the Trust Fund Proposed Budget, the Board unanimously approved of the proposed budget in the amount of \$5,600.00 which is down from 6,400.00. Selectman Davis inquired about the Trustees of the Trust Fund Minutes which referred to investing in foreign investments. Mrs. Marden confirmed that that idea was voted down. Selectman Davis expressed relief on that decision. Mrs. Marden then reviewed the Campton Historical Society Budget and asked that the Town contribute \$7,500.00 this year rather than \$5,000.00 to cover additional fuel costs. After discussion, the Proposed CHS Budget and the Trustees of the Trust Fund 2015 Proposed Budget were unanimously approved as presented.

Chair Wheeler then called on Kevin McGuire to review the Campton/Thornton Transfer Station Proposed Budget. Mr. McGuire informed the Boards that the budget was down again this year and he proceeded to review the proposed budget which confirmed this fact. He discussed the fact that he is working on advertising for two part time positions rather than have two full time positions again, (as previously discussed with the Board) as one full time employee is leaving. He also informed the Board of a 1.7% increase in wages reflecting the COLA percentage. The Campton Select Board was pleased that the Proposed Budget was down. After discussion, a Motion was made and seconded by the Campton Select Board to approve the 2015 Proposed Campton/Thornton Transfer Station Budget and the Proposed Budget was unanimously approved by the Campton Select Board. A Motion was then made and seconded by the Thornton Select Board to approve

the 2015 Proposed Campton/Thornton Transfer Station Proposed Budget. The Proposed Budget was unanimously approved by the Thornton Select Board.

Chair Wheeler then called on Fire Chief, Daniel Defosses to present the Campton/Thornton Fire Department Proposed 2015 Budget. Chief Defosses went through the Proposed Budget line by line and explained the increases such as over time compensation, Retirement, Health and Dental which he attributes the increase to be mainly from the hiring of a new full time employee. Chief Defosses also explained in supplies line reflects a new laser printer was purchased and supplies for such are expensive. Chief Defosses also expressed that one new computer and one new printer was in the budget for 2015. Another cell phone is needed and will have features that will to aid the department more efficiently. The Uniform line increased, again, due to the new full time position.

There was discussion about #2 Engine needing a new pump as the pump is starting to fail. After further discussion by both Boards, it was agreed to forego the replacement of the new pump for this year. Therefore, \$15,000.00 was taken out of the 2015 Proposed Budget for the pump replacement.

Chair Wheeler inquired (throughout the presentation) if there were any questions and at this point he called on Selectman Steve Morton who was questioning the equipment line of the Proposed Budget. It was confirmed by Chief Defosses that the FD equipment line included the purchase of the snow mobile trailer and a stretcher from FD Rescue Supplies. Selectman Morton indicated that the snow mobile trailer and stretcher should not be in the operating budget, but rather should be shown as a capital investment. With that in mind it was proposed that a \$1,200.00 reimbursement be given to the Town of Ellsworth as the Town of Ellsworth does not contribute to the capital investment account, but does contribute to the equipment. Both the Campton Select Board and the Thornton Select Board agreed to the reimbursement to the Town of Ellsworth. Selectman Morton pointed out there were line item discrepancies and inquired who made the decision on the line items. Chief Defosses took full responsibility for the coding categories of the line items.

Selectman Morton expressed concern regarding surplus spending and overages in line items and further emphasized to Chief Defosses that the procedures needs to be followed as specified in the Intergovernmental Agreement. It was mentioned by the Thornton Select Board that purchases over \$10,000.00 are labeled as capital assets and need to be approved by the Select Boards. There was also discussion concerning reducing the budget by another \$15,000.00 through wage and overtime cuts. After lengthy discussion and the legality, the idea was determined unfavorable. Further discussion concerned reducing \$300.00 in the heating oil (suggested by Selectman Hilliard). The \$300.00 reduction was approved by all three Boards and Chief Defosses. Other discussion involved the purchase of all air packs this year; however, staggering the delivery to 15 this year and 15 next year to ease future replacement costs having to be expended all at the same time.

Chair Wheeler then called on Selectman Davis who made a Motion to approve the 2015 Proposed Campton/Thornton Fire Department Budget in the amount of \$824,745.99. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Laufenberg, and with a roll call vote of the Campton Select Board there were 4 ayes and one nay, the 2015 Proposed Budget was approved (by majority vote) by the Campton Select Board. A Motion was then made by the Ellsworth Select Board to approve the 2015 Proposed Campton/Thornton Fire Department Budget in the amount of \$824,745.99. The Motion was seconded and with a roll call vote, the 2015 Proposed Budget of \$824,745.99 was approved with 2 ayes by the Ellsworth Select Board.

Chair Wheeler called on Selectman Morton who (expressed, “in the spirit of compromise”) he would make a Motion for an \$810,000.00 proposed budget. Selectman Sabourn expressed concern that perhaps if there was reduced spending of surplus, possibly \$15,000.00 could have been saved in the budget or used to replace the pump in the #2 Engine. Selectman Morton then made a Motion to approve the 2015 Proposed Campton/Thornton Fire Department Budget in the amount of \$810,000.00. The Motion was seconded, and with a roll call vote by the Thornton Select Board with 4 ayes and 1 nay, the Motion was then approved by the Thornton Select Board for the Proposed 2015 Campton/Thornton Fire Department Budget in the amount of \$810,000.00.

After further discussion by each Board member (from all three Boards) expressing their concerns of leaving the budget tight, the fact the Fire Department is a vital department contributing to the health and safety to individuals in the community, Chair Wheeler inquired if the Thornton Select Board would reconsider their Motion for approval of the Proposed 2015 Budget to \$824,745.99 rather than the \$810,000.00 figure. Selectman Morton expressed, “In the spirit of cooperation...” he made a Motion to reconsider the prior vote of \$810,000.00 as funding in the negative, and to reconsider the approval of the 2015 Proposed Campton/Thornton Fire Department Budget in the amount of \$824,745.99. The Motion was seconded and with a roll call vote of 4 ayes and 1 nays, by the Thornton Select Board, the 2015 Proposed Budget was approved by the Thornton Select Board in the amount of \$824,745.00. Selectman Morton further expressed that he was not happy with loose spending and old budgeting procedures and expressed the need to follow the procedures specified in the Intergovernmental Agreement in the future.

Chair Wheeler called on Selectman Laufenberg who suggested that the Fire Department provide updated financial information to the Board on a monthly basis. Selectman Morton suggested that the three Boards consider having a separate meeting to meet to discuss the Campton/Thornton Fire Department Proposed Budget rather than a Selectmen’s meeting. Chair Wheeler called on Kelly Bolger who asked if the Town Administrators could email the Fire Commissioners when meetings were scheduled. Chief Defosses agreed he would email the Fire Commissioners rather than the Town Administrators. At 9:10 p.m. the Thornton Select Board and the Ellsworth Select Board excused themselves from the meeting.

Chair Wheeler then continued the meeting by calling on Martha Aguiar and Paul Yelle regarding a new library building. Mrs. Aguiar inquired if there was going to be any

monies set aside in the 2015 Budget for a new library building. The Board indicated they would do their best, (after review of all budgets) to consider what the budget would allow to be set aside. Mrs. Aguiar requested \$50,000.00, but indicated she would be happy with \$30,000.00. There was discussion concerning a Warrant Article; however, Ann Marie Foote express the risk of the article not passing and then no monies would be set aside. Mrs. Aguiar thanked the Board for their time and expressed she would trust the Board's decision.

Chair Wheeler called on Lisa Ash, Parks & Rec. Director regarding the Parks & Rec. 2015 Proposed Budget. Mrs. Ash expressed that the Campton Parks & Rec is showing huge growth and she is very pleased with the revenue; however her goal is to be on the conservative side this year using anticipated revenue of \$53,500.00 this year as opposed to \$52,500.00 last year. Mrs. Ash reviewed each line of the Proposed Budget for 2015 indicating small increases in salary, Office, Publications, Postage, Training, Contract Services, Supplies, and Field Trips. The Telephone line was reduced by \$150.00 and mileage stayed the same at \$1,450.00. The bottom line for 2015 is \$100,995.00, as opposed to \$98,996.00 in 2014. The Board was in favor of the proposed budget as presented.

Chair Wheeler then called for a Motion to approve the Minutes and Non Public Minutes of January 12, 2015. Selectman Davis made a Motion to approve the Minutes and Non Public Minutes as written. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Laufenberg, and with a roll call vote the Minutes and Non Public Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Chair Wheeler then called on Ann Marie to review correspondence. Ann Marie stated that the Town Attorney forwarded a copy of a letter to the Stickneys regarding the Dack property indicating that completion of construction of Stickney Road needed to be undertaken or legal action would be taken within 30 days of the January 20, 2015 letter.

Ann Marie read an email from Sam Greene, the Town's State DRA monitor regarding the implementation of a Veteran's Tax Credit which was questioned by a property owner, Mr. St. Cyr. Mr. Greene confirmed the implementation was done by the Selectmen's Office properly and Chair Wheeler requested that the email be sent to Mr. St. Cyr.

The NH Department of Safety forwarded information pertaining to a fireworks ordinance. Ann Marie will pass this information on to the Police Chief and the Fire Chief.

Mary Poesse, of North Country Council Regional Transportation Improvement Program encouraging the Town to become involved in the program.

The Campton Historical Society sent an invitation to a "Pot Luck, Popcorn and a Movie", on Saturday, February 7th, pot luck dinner is 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the movie is at 6:15 p.m., at the Campton Historical Society, Rte. 175.

A picture was sent by Mr. Jason Openhym of Bel Air, MD of the flower and mountain landscape at the “Welcome to Campton” sign in August, 2014. The Board suggested the picture be placed on the back cover of the annual report. Ann Marie will speak to the printer on this issue.

A copy of a letter was received from BCM Environmental & Land Law, PLLC, which was addressed to Robert Welsh pertaining to ownership of the water system and sewer system that serves the Beebe River Community. Ann Marie read the conclusion of the ownership issue to the Board and the conclusion reads as follows:

It appears that the lot owners own those portions of the sewer and water systems that they owned prior to the formation of the BRVD. With respect to the components of the waste and sewer systems that the BRVD installed and owned, ownership of those components does not appear to have passed to the lot owners under the 2012 Order. Ownership of those newer components is unclear, but appears to be the Town’s. Finally, ownership of the common sewer lines appears never to have been transferred out of Tru-Tech, and the current ownership of those lines is unclear. The lot owners, however, do have broad easements allowing them to repair, maintain, and replace such lines.

Ann Marie indicated that a letter was received from an individual complaining about the property taxes; however, she could not decipher the signature of the writer.

Ann Marie confirmed that the boiler at the Fire Station is a 1980 boiler. David Robinson Heating and Dead River are working on a price quote for the replacement of the boiler.

There being no further correspondence, Chair Wheeler called for Other Business – Selectmen’s Input. Selectman Davis indicated that she will have information on the School Budget process and the Board requested a copy of the School Budget prior to the Budget Hearing.

Selectman Davis suggested that the Board meet for another budget work session and the session was scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2015, a 6:00 p.m.

Ann Marie indicated that the Town Budget Hearing needed to be scheduled. The Board scheduled the Town Budget Hearing for Wednesday, February 11, 2015, in the Community Room, at the Town Office Building, at 6:30 p.m.

Ann Marie indicated that the Tax Anticipation Note will be paid off next week.

Chair Wheeler inquired if the Board would reconsider renewing the old BMSI Tax Program for another year in the amount of \$2,239.00, as requested by the Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Chair Wheeler explained he felt this is a tool that will ease the burden of the Tax Collector’s Office transition to the new Avitar tax program purchased by the Town. After further discussion concerning the pros and cons of this decision, Selectman Davis made a Motion approve the renewal of the old BMSI tax program for

one year (only) in the amount of \$2,239.00 and that the \$2,239.00 cost be reflected in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Budget. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Laufenberg and with a roll call vote: Selectman Davis – aye, Selectman Wheeler – aye, Selectman Cheney – aye, Selectman Kelly – aye, and Selectman Laufenberg – aye, the Motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Chair Wheeler declared the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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