

MINUTES  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

The Board of Selectmen met for their weekly meeting at 6:30 p. m. at the Campton Municipal Building. Present were Selectmen, Sharon Davis, Charles Wheeler, Charles Cheney, Karl Kelly and Peter Laufenberg.

Members of the public who attended the meeting but were not on the agenda were Kevin Coburn and Greg Jencks.

Ann Marie informed Chair Davis that the agenda changed to add one additional Non Public Session regarding the Tax Agreement agenda.

At 6:30 p.m. Chair Davis called the work session of the Selectmen's Meeting to order and the Board signed the manifest and reviewed the bills. They signed 1 Building Permit and 1 Tax Agreement.

Chair Davis then requested a review of the public and Non Public Minutes of September 21, 2015. After one revision made by Selectman Wheeler to the public Minutes, a Motion was made by Chair Davis to approve the public Minutes as revised and the Non Public Minutes as written. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Wheeler and the public Minutes were unanimously approved as revised and the Non Public Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Chair Davis called on Ann Marie to review correspondence. Ann Marie distributed to the Board a list of dates to remember in October:

- October 5 – Meet with Tax Collector to discuss properties up for deeding
- October 15 – DOT Meeting regarding streetlight discontinuance by State of NH DOT, at 7 Hazen Dr., Concord at 1 p.m. RSVP required by 10/8/15.
- October 17 – Town Owned Property Auction at Campton Municipal Building at 11:00 a.m.
- October 26 – Governor's Advisory Council on Intermodal Transportation and 10 Year Transportation Improvement Plan (State roads), 3:00 p.m., at Plymouth Town Hall.

Ann Marie stated that Cindy Kudik sent an email regarding supporting the NH Community Rights Constitutional Amendment. Ann Marie indicated that a Warrant Article would be required and it was recommended by Chair Davis that Ann Marie forward the information to Dan Crean, Town Attorney for review.

Ann Marie informed the Board that Jonathan Gould, formerly with Northway, is now employed by Union Bank and he inquired about the possibility of the Town refinancing the Building Bond and the Beebe River Bond. Ann Marie stated that she met with Mr.

John Malm and a 1.9% interest rate was offered; however, all Town bank accounts would need to be switched to Union Bank. It was determined that a refinance would not be appropriate at this time.

Ann Marie stated that she has prepared a packet of documentation of all correspondence by the Town pertaining to Northern Pass. Ann Marie requested permission to forward this information to Tom Mullen as he requested. The Board agreed to provide the copies of the documentation to Mr. Mullen as it is public information.

Chair Davis indicated that the Board had five minutes before the Non Public Session so she inquired if Kevin Coburn would like to address the Board; however, if he felt he could not finish in five minutes, he could request to be scheduled on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Coburn began by thanking the Board and the Road Agent for their time and assistance and he agreed to speak five minutes this evening. Mr. Coburn explained that he tried to discuss his concerns about the road grading and pitching of the road in front of his property (performed by the Town and GMI Asphalt for paving preparation), the evening before the paving was scheduled to commence. Mr. Coburn explained further, in detail, that his concern was that the way the road was graded and pitched, water would be draining down his property. Butch Bain, Road Agent confirmed that the Highway crew, at first, thought there was a ledge issue at the site in question; however it was determined that it was rock and the rock was removed by the Town and grading done to correct the issue. Butch Bain further stated that GMI consulted with the owner of GMI and GMI reassured him that the grading and pitch would work with no problems. Butch also confirmed that he had full confidence in GMI and GMI assured him that they would stand by their work and correct any issues if any did arise. Mr. Coburn cited discrepancies in math calculations which would validate that the present grade and pitch would cause drainage issues on his property. It was confirmed that Butch Bain did have a plan of action if issues did arise; however, he expressed full confidence in GMI's work performance. Chair Davis and Selectman Wheeler expressed to Mr. Coburn that if any issues arose he could call to be scheduled on the agenda to discuss with the Board further. Mr. Coburn expressed that he felt the issues should be further discussed right now, at this meeting, while he was presently available and not at a future date. Discussion ensued about the new agenda policy, which agenda procedures were presented to Mr. Coburn at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Coburn excused himself from the meeting. Selectman Cheney expressed that he felt Mr. Coburn had legitimate concerns.

At 7:00 p.m. Chair Davis made a Motion to go into Non Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II(c) regarding tax agreements. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Wheeler and with a roll call vote: Selectman Davis – aye, Selectman Wheeler – aye, Selectman Cheney – aye, Selectman Kelly – aye, and Selectman Laufenberg – aye, the Board went into Non Public Session at 7:00 p.m. The Board came out of Non Public Session at 7:10 p.m. One scheduled person for a tax agreement did not show up.

Chair Davis continued the public hearing and addressed the Town of Campton Heads of Departments by stating that the Board has asked them to come in to get a head start on

the budget season and to discuss common goals and concerns for the upcoming budget year. The Heads of Departments in attendance at this meeting were: Police Chief Warn, Hannah Joyce, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Robert “Butch” Bain, Road Agent and Lisa Ash, Park & Rec. director. Chair Davis called on Selectman Cheney who indicated that there were no figures set in stone and no decisions made about salaries at present. The Board asked Ann Marie to update the wage rate using a 2% increase as an example to see where the Town is on the wage study done two years ago. Ann Marie will distribute the spreadsheet to the Heads of Departments for review when preparing their Proposed Budget.

Chair Davis first called on Police Chief Warn to discuss his concerns. Chief Warn expressed a lack of community involvement until the actual Budget Hearing and then they wait until Town Meeting to take any action. Chief Warn also addressed concern that the Board is the “Budget Committee” and the focus is on the bottom line. Chief Warn expressed that he would like to focus on what the money value is and why the need, and it was suggested to perhaps have an advisory budget committee. Chief Warn expressed that he would like to get the Town’s people more involved. Chair Davis inquired as to what suggestions Chief Warn had in order to get people involved. Chief Warn suggested more advertising, more notices and by word of mouth. It will take time for the public to become familiar with the process of involvement. It was also suggested that the public be invited to a work session and have more than one budget hearing. Selectman Cheney suggested televised meetings.

Chair Davis called on Lisa Ash, Park and Rec. Director who expressed growth concerns of the Park and Rec. Department. She now has registered 98 students as opposed to 75 students. Mrs. Ash stated she is growing so rapidly and she feels the growth will affect over spending of the budget. She is now focusing on just after school programs and summer programs as they are the most popular. Matters of revenue coming in and offsets were discussed. Mrs. Ash spoke regarding personnel and the ratio of 1 counselor to every 4 students was a safe ratio. Mrs. Ash stated the required ratio is 1 to 10; however she thinks that is a stretch and could lead to liability issues. Unfortunately a 1 to 4 ratio leads to more employees and higher wages for qualified personnel. Mrs. Ash suggested perhaps a scholarship policy. Chair Davis suggested Mrs. Ash present a proposed scholarship policy to have the Board review. Mrs. Ash agreed to provide a guideline proposal.

Chair Davis then called on Hannah Joyce. Mrs. Joyce indicated that she might have some input after all the departments have been heard.

Chair Davis called on Butch Bain, Road Agent. Mr. Bain expressed the need to increase the paving line and have a separate Warrant Article for road improvements for paving. Mr. Bain informed the Board that a backhoe is needed and he is looking at, down the road, a new grader. Ann Marie indicated that the truck has one more year left on the lease. Mr. Bain also mentioned he would be looking at hiring Harry Hughen full time. Selectman Wheeler suggested increasing the gravel line and working on the paving line as the public is concerned in these two areas. Selectman Cheney was in agreement with

increasing the gravel, but he also mentioned alternatives should be looked at such as reclaiming vs. paving and the cost effectiveness of reclaiming certain roads where traffic is light rather than paving.

Chair Davis called on Mrs. Joyce again for her concerns and she informed the Board she had no input.

Chair Davis stated that the next target would be to review the Department Heads preliminary budgets. Chair Davis informed Department Heads that the Board would like an explanation line added to their preliminary budget to explain each line item in their budget. Chair Davis stated that Chief Warn has made a practice of doing this and the Board has found it helps expedite matters. Chair Davis further stated that once the Department Heads devise their format it will not be a burdensome task. Mrs. Joyce expressed that she did not have time to insert explanation lines in the preliminary budget.

Chair Davis called on Chief Warn who inquired as to what the Board has to say about the budget. Chair Davis expressed that getting more people involved always is a worry and a problem. Discussion ensued pertaining to balancing a fair wage to employees and taking into consideration all other incurred expenses, (and requests) of running the Town. The Board still has to have consideration for what the tax payers can bear when setting the tax rate and this is always a difficult task. Selectman Wheeler expressed the Board would like to satisfy employees with wage increases and satisfy the taxpayers with a low tax rate, but unfortunately it can't all be done. Selectman Wheeler stated he was in favor of televised meetings.

Chair Davis called on Selectman Cheney who questioned just how much of an increase the taxpayers wants to see in the budget. He expressed that he does not like the Town of Campton being compared with other Towns. He expressed that the Town of Campton's people have their own minds. He also expressed again that he favors televised meetings. Selectman Cheney thanked all the Department Heads for all the work they do for the Town.

Chair Davis called on Selectman Kelly who agreed that early preparation and early involvement of the public was a good idea. He also expressed that he favors televised meetings.

Selectman Laufenberg also expressed community involvement and suggested a budget work session with the public invited and at least 2 budget hearings. He also mentioned he was in favor of televised meetings.

Ann Marie expressed ideas of attracting more business in Town, such as Selectman Laufenberg is doing through the efforts of the Economic Development Committee would be a good idea rather than having to focus on increasing the tax rate. Increased business in Town would bring the tax rate down. The loss in values due to the revaluation and a sharp decrease in new construction did not help with lowering the tax rate.

Chair Davis thanked all the Department Heads for coming and discussing their concerns and common goals. She also reminded the Department Heads to include in their preliminary budget an explanation line of each line item.

Chair Davis made a Motion to go into Non Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II(c) regarding a personnel issue. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Wheeler and with a roll call vote: Selectman Wheeler – aye, Selectman Davis – aye, Selectman Cheney – aye, Selectman Kelly – aye, and Selectman Laufenberg – aye, the Board went into Non Public Session at 8:10 p.m. The Board came out of Non Public Session at 8:17 p.m.

Chair Davis continued the public meeting and made a Motion to seal the Non Public Minutes. The Motion was seconded and by unanimous vote the Non Public Minutes were sealed.

At 8:18 p.m. Chair Davis made a Motion to go into Non Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II(c) regarding a personnel issue requested by Butch Bain. The Motion was seconded by Selectman Wheeler and with a roll call vote: Selectman Wheeler – aye, Selectman Davis – aye, Selectman Cheney – aye, Selectman Kelly – aye, and Selectman Laufenberg – aye, the Board went into Non Public Session at 8:18 p.m. The Board came out of Non Public Session at 8:28 p.m.

Chair Davis continued the public meeting and made a Motion to seal the Non Public Minutes. The Motion was seconded and by unanimous vote the Non Public Minutes were sealed.

Chair Davis continued the meeting with Other Business. Chair Davis called on Hannah Joyce, Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Mrs. Joyce distributed to the Board the packet of properties up for deeding. Selectman Cheney inquired if Mrs. Joyce provided information in the packet as to how current the taxpayers are. Mrs. Joyce stated she provides this information to Ann Marie every month and Mrs. Joyce inquired if this information was given to the Board. Ann Marie confirmed she receives the information each month, but the Board does not have those figures at present. Mrs. Joyce had no further business to discuss.

Chair Davis called on Selectman Laufenberg who inquired if the Chief could engage Sergeant Payer and Janet to collect data pertaining to information since the issues were discussed in Non Public Session. The Board was in favor of with Sergeant Payer and Janet assisting Chief Warn.

Selectman Laufenberg inquired about Tom Mullen's request and a response to him. The Board agreed to provide the packet of documents that Ann Marie prepared on the Town of Campton's involvement in Northern Pass, but Chair Davis stated that issues have changed since Mr. Mullen's presentation so the Board will wait and see what happens after the environmental impact meetings have been completed. Selectman Laufenberg also stated that he agrees with Minutes being recorded.

Chair Davis called on Selectman Wheeler who stated he was fine with televised meetings. Selectman Wheeler expressed he would like to encourage more people to participate at the budget hearing and suggested perhaps providing food at the meetings. Ann Marie mentioned to the Board that when the Board was previously approached to have televised meetings, the members were not in favor of it.

There was no Public Input or Selectmen's Input so Chair Davis adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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