

MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

May 1, 2017

The Campton Board of Selectmen met at 6:30 p.m. at the Campton Municipal Building. Present were Selectmen, Peter Laufenberg, Charles Wheeler, and Charles Cheney and Carina Park, Town Administrator and Eleanor Dewey, Office Assistant and recorder. During the work session, the Board signed the manifests and reviewed the bills. They signed 3 Warrants for Excavation Taxes, 3 Notices of Intent to Cut, 1 Solar Exemption, and 1 spouse Veteran's Exemption.

Call to Order: Chair Laufenberg called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Minutes this evening were recorded.

Members of the public who attended the meeting but were not on the agenda were: Mike St. Cyr, Gregory Jencks, Chris Kelly and Jade Hartsgrove.

**Approval of Minutes: Chair Laufenberg inquired if there were any revisions or concerns regarding the Public and Non-Public Minutes of April 17, 2017. There were no revisions and a Motion was made and seconded to approve the Public Minutes and the Non-Public Minutes as written, and with a roll call vote: Selectman Laufenberg – aye, Selectman Wheeler – aye, and Selectman Cheney – aye, the Public and Non-Public Minutes were unanimously approved as written.**

Privilege of the Floor: None

New Business: Chair Laufenberg called on John Whitney, Campton Village Precinct Commissioner. Mr. Whitney explained that he was in this evening to discuss the possibility of the Town taking over the lighting that the Precinct presently handles. He gave a little history on the lighting in Town and explained that if the Town took over the lighting the Precinct could eliminate and save approximately 60 property owners from having to pay Precinct fees (just for lighting, and they do not have, nor probably never will (for various reasons) benefit from water from CVP. Mr. Whitney stated that the lighting operating cost is between \$16,000.00 and \$17,000.00 a year and the utility company does the maintenance. Mr. Whitney further explained that lighting is a service and property owners should not be paying for a Town service. Mr. Whitney expressed that the Campton Village Precinct would like to stay "relevant as a water Precinct"; however, it has been difficult with all their projects. Discussion ensued and questions arose as to separate billing for lighting, possibly establishing a redefined designation of the boundaries of the Campton Village District, which all need to be researched. With that being said, Chair Laufenberg indicated that a decision certainly would not be made tonight. Chair Laufenberg explained that the Board first would have to decide if they want to take over the lighting, and, more than likely, it would be handled with a Warrant Article for Town vote. Chair Laufenberg indicated that the request would be further discussed by the Board at budget time.

Chair Laufenberg informed Mr. Whitney that the Board wanted to speak with the Campton Village Precinct Commissioners regarding the TAN interest that the Town incurred due to tax bills being delayed, and the issue relating to problems incurred with CVP's documentation provided to the State by CVP. Mr. Whitney explained to the Board that the CVP was not notified of any problems until late into the process, and on November 16, Mr. Pierce (CVP bookkeeper) spoke with DRA and he was told everything was straightened out on that date and Mr. Pierce never heard back from the State after that date. Mr. Whitney expressed that the tax rate was not set until one month later and he wanted to know why. Discrepancies as to what transpired seems to vary with a "he said, she said" situation, and Chair Laufenberg confirmed that the Board was informed that the holdup was at the State level due to issues with CVP's documents that were submitted to the State. Mr. Whitney also mentioned that revenues submitted by the Town to CVP seemed to vary in time frame which might contribute to some of the problems. Mr. Whitney expressed that, under the circumstances, it was unfair to set blame on the CVP. Carina expressed that for the future, some bookkeeping changes have been implemented to address past issues and CVP will be receiving revenue on a monthly basis. Carina also stated that she spoke with Michelle Clark at DRA and she is willing to review documents this year in early summer (before Carina goes out on maternity leave) so that if there are any problems they can be detected early. Hannah Joyce, Town Clerk/Tax Collector did express to the Board that there are some glitches in the new web portal; however, it was explained that the information was submitted in the spring, but the State did not acknowledge a problem until the fall. Chair Laufenberg informed Mr. Whitney that there seems to be some miscommunications, and the Board will go back and revisit the matter.

Road Agent Summer Schedule – Chair Laufenberg called on Butch Bain, Road Agent, who informed the Board:

One round of grading has been completed on the West side of Town and sweeping has been completed;

He should have a quote for guard rails on Beech Hill by the dam this week;

He will be meeting with Stan Graton tomorrow to inspect knee braces that need replacing on the Blair Bridge;

Regarding the Alden Dam Butch discussed a sink hole that has been filled in and the fact that he received permission from the State to drop the water level one foot; however, he was concerned that there might be additional sink holes and would like permission from the Board to remove the pavement to inspect for possibly more sink holes. **The Board concurred to explore any additional sink holes;**

He informed the Board that he will have several cubic yards of fill this year, and because of past issues of dumping and pushing fill over on private property he discussed the matter with Carina. It was suggested that a waiver form be drafted for property owners to sign to relieve the Town of liability issues. **The Board concurred and Carina will draft a waiver for the Board to review at the next meeting.**

Butch stated that he researched Southmayd Road and Tower Road with May to see if there is any designated right-of-way on file and they did not find any information. Butch stated he then went and measured the road and he estimates that the patch work that Mr. Tower completed recently encompassed approximately 90% of Town responsibility. Selectman Cheney mentioned the entrance way to the Post Office has enlarged over time due to drivers' habits, and, with that in mind, the Town is not responsible for maintaining any expansion portion. Selectman Cheney would like to look at it again because of substandard conditions and to review road standards before any work is considered to be done by the Town.

Beebe River Water & Sewer Warrants – Chair Laufenberg called on Hannah Joyce Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Mrs. Joyce expressed concern that she was presented 5 Beebe River Water & Sewer Warrants for processing by her office. She expressed concern because she stated she was never invited to participate in any initial discussions, previous to the Board's decision to have her office process the Warrants, nor did the Chair inform her of the huge impact that would be placed on her Department. Chair Laufenberg clarified the miscommunication between Mrs. Joyce and himself. Mrs. Joyce wanted to know why this decision was made and why the present system is not working since Diane Richards, bookkeeper, and Carina have taken over the billing of the Water and Sewer (approximately a year ago); and, now the burden of collecting is put on her office. Carina explained that 5 Warrants were sent, not all 26 billings were sent to her, only the 5 extremely delinquent accounts. Town Attorney recommended that this was the best route to collect funds from the 5 properties. He recommended sending to the Town Clerk/Tax Collector a Warrant for the full delinquent amounts so that interest could be collected and then the Town Clerk/Tax Collector could lien and deed the properties, as necessary. Carina explained that at present the water cannot be shut off so this is why the Board made this decision. Mrs. Joyce informed the Board that her office cannot take on this added task and suggested looking at other options presented by Town Attorney. It was brought to Mrs. Joyce's attention that this option allowed for the collection of interest and other options would involve legal action which would be costly. Mrs. Joyce stated that going forward in 2018, she is open to conversation, at budget time, to discuss what is involved with her office taking on this responsibility. Selectman Cheney suggested the Board take under advisement Mrs. Joyce's suggestions provided this evening. Mrs. Joyce inquired if she could be included in the conversation. Mrs. Joyce was informed that if the option chosen pertained to her office, she would be included in the discussion.

Correspondence: An invitation was received from Genesis for their Community Forum to be held on May 10, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. Carina will RSVP if anyone is interested in attending.

CADY also forwarded an invitation to their Regional Prevention Summit scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup>. Carina will RSVP if anyone is interested in attending.

A letter was received from DES regarding the recent sink hole issue thanking Butch for discussing the issues with them and to keep DES apprised of the Town's progress on permanent repairs.

A letter was received from DOT regarding Mark Johnston's driveway permit alterations and the State is now working with Mr. Johnston to resolve those issues.

Regarding the old Campton Inn property a letter was forwarded to the previous owners, certified mail, return receipt notifying of their right to repurchase. The return receipt was returned to the Selectmen's Office; however, it was stamped by the Post Office, but the card was never signed by the previous owners (Mr. and Mrs. Bean). Carina contacted Town Attorney who informed her that either the noticing process would have to begin again or, contacting Mr. and Mrs. Bean by phone and getting confirmation of that notification. Carina has since left an extensive message for Mr. and Mrs. Bean; however, they have not returned her phone call. **The Board concurred to have Carina hold off this week to see if Mr. and Mrs. Bean contact her, and if not, to restart the noticing process again.**

Mary Durgin, Treasurer has contacted Northway Bank regarding a credit card for the Town. It was agreed by Mary Durgin and the bank that the Town Federal I.D. number will be used rather than individual Social Security numbers. Individual Social Security numbers would be indicated when the card is issued, but not used for billing purposes. Carina inquired if the Board would like her to distribute the cards to all Heads of Departments or just one card and to whom? **Discussion ensued regarding reasons for the credit card and possibility of a pre-approval process mentioned by Mike St. Cyr, a member of the public who was present at the meeting. The Board concurred to revisit this question at the next meeting and Chair Laufenberg asked Carina to inquire regarding the pre-approval issue.**

**Chair Laufenberg called on Mike St. Cyr who inquired (back to Old Business) regarding the Alden Dam and his concerns of huge engineering costs. It was confirmed to Mr. St. Cyr that no figure with the engineer has been locked in at this time, and a certain budget limit will be set by the Board for such repairs.**

DES also sent two FYI notices of two active NH public drinking water drinking areas, i.e. Chesley's and a condo association in Waterville Estates.

**Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II (c): Chair Laufenberg continued the meeting by calling for a Motion to go into Non Public Session under RSA 91 –A: 3, II (c) regarding a tax agreement. The Motion was made and seconded, and with a roll call vote: Selectman Laufenberg – aye, Selectman Wheeler – aye, and Selectman Cheney – aye, the Board went into Non-Public Session at 8:00 p.m. The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 8:03 p.m.**

**Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II (c): Back in Public Session, Chair Laufenberg called for a Motion to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (c) regarding another tax agreement. The Motion was made and seconded, and with a roll call vote: Selectman Laufenberg – aye, Selectman Wheeler – aye, and Selectman Cheney – aye, the Board went into Non-Public Session at 8:05 p.m. The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 8:15 p.m.**

**Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3 (c): Back in Public Session Chair Laufenberg called on Robert Bain, Road Agent who requested a Non-Public Session. A Motion was made and seconded to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II(c) regarding a personnel matter, and with a roll call**

**vote: Selectman Laufenberg – aye, Selectman Wheeler – aye, and Selectman Cheney – aye, the Board went into Non-Public Session at 8:17 p.m. The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 8:40 p.m.**

**A Motion was made by Chair Laufenberg to seal the Non-Public Minutes regarding personnel. The Motion was made and seconded and with a roll call unanimous vote the Non-Public Minutes regarding personnel were sealed.**

Board Concerns and Directives: Carina mentioned the issues concerning Burhoe Way again as Mrs. Burhoe and her daughter were in to speak with her. Carina reiterated to Mrs. Burhoe and her daughter that the Board concurred that this is a civil matter; however, Mrs. Burhoe might still come in to speak with the Board. Maps regarding the right-of-way are available in the Selectmen’s Office. The road sign has been removed and Carina will contact the owner of the old Campton Town Office in order to have the road sign returned to the Town.

Carina inquired if the Board would like to continue with Sunset Hill regarding Landscaping. Carina indicated that the cost will be less this year as there will be no irrigation maintenance. **The Board concurred to remain with Sunset Hill for landscaping services.**

Selectman Cheney inquired if the auditors’ report has been received. Carina will give the auditors a call as the report has not been received as yet.

Carina mentioned that she spoke with Pump Systems regarding the pump at Beebe River and they will be presenting a proposal to the Town for repairs/replacement of the pump and Carina should have that information for the next meeting.

Carina also mentioned that Stan Graton will be meeting with Butch Bain regarding the Blair Bridge next week.

Adjourn: There being no further business, Chair Laufenberg declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor M. Dewey, Office Assistant and Recorder