

MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

August 14, 2017

The Campton Board of Selectmen met at 6:30 p.m. at the Campton Municipal Building. Present were Selectmen, Charles Wheeler, Sharon Davis and Karl Kelly, Charles Cheney and May Brosseau, Assistant to Town Administrator and Eleanor Dewey, Office Assistant and recorder. It was noted that Chair Laufenberg would be present later. During the work session, the Board signed the manifests and reviewed the bills. The Board signed 2 revised Land Use Change Tax applications and 1 new Land Use Change Tax application and 1 Release of Lien, 2 Building Permits, and 1 Warrant for Unlicensed Dogs.

Call to Order: Vice Chair Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Members of the public present at this meeting were: Robert "Butch" Bain, Ted Hammond and Susan Hammond. The Minutes were recorded this evening.

Approval of Minutes: Vice Chair Kelly inquired if there were any revisions or concerns regarding the Public Minutes of July 31, 2017. There were no revisions, and a **Motion was made to approve the Public Minutes as written. The Motion was seconded and with a roll call vote, the Public Minutes were unanimously approved, as written.**

Privilege of the Floor: None – Mr. and Mrs. Hammond acknowledged that they were present this evening to discuss the Owl Street property, (when it comes up on the agenda this evening).

Old Business:

CIP Committee – May explained that Selectman Laufenberg is concerned that there has been no interest from the public about becoming a member of the CIP Committee. May explained, after advertising in the newspaper, on the website and on the bulletin board; only one response has been received and that was from Tim Scanlon, (a member of the Planning Board). Selectman Laufenberg wanted the Board to think about some possible recommendations for members from the public. The Board agreed to revisit this matter at their next meeting after they have had time to think about it.

Campton/Thornton Transfer Station Retaining Wall - In the Board's packet is an estimate of the cost for the retaining wall discussed previously. The estimate presented is \$36,500.00. As agreed previously, the Board would like the retaining wall repaired as soon as possible due to dangerous safety issues. Discussion ensued. The Board agreed this evening that the Campton Board of Selectman is ready to move forward with the project and May will contact the Thornton Board of Selectmen to see where they are at regarding this matter. The Board did acknowledge this evening that the estimated cost figure has increased from the previous estimated figure; however, at present, no contractor has provided a formal quote.

Chair Laufenberg joined the meeting at this point.

New Business: Chair Laufenberg was now present this evening and he continued the meeting with New Business – Auction Property – Owl Street. Chair Laufenberg explained that the original bidder on the property backed out from the purchase because of the IRS lien still recorded at the Grafton County Registry. The Town was told this lien was going to be satisfied; however, the Town does not know the present status of that lien. Chair Laufenberg explained that standard procedure is to offer the property to the next lowest bidder. The auctioneer has done that and Mr. and Mrs. Hammond (the second lowest bidders) have declined to pay \$44,000.00 (their final bid at the auction) and have offered their “initial bid” of \$24,000.00, declaring the property is not worth \$44,000.00. Chair Laufenberg stated the Board needs to decide whether to accept the \$24,000.00 offer or schedule another auction which the auctioneer confirms he can arrange in 2 weeks. Discussion ensued pertaining to legal questions as to whether or not the Town can actually accept a lower offer than the last bid made (by the Hammonds); and, any possible liability of the Town if the Town accepts a lower offer (because of third party involvement); and discussion was also raised as to why it was felt the Hammonds’ bid at \$24,000.00 should or should not be accepted by the Town; together with discussion of costs involved in holding another auction. **The Board agreed that Chair Laufenberg will contact Town Attorney regarding questions presented this evening before a decision is made.** Mr. and Mrs. Hammond thanked the Board for their time and will wait to hear any decision made by the Board.

Correspondence Continued:

CNP Pole Assessment – May gave an update on the Pole Assessment information that was received from the Assessors and this information is in the Board’s packet. May did remind the Board that an extension for the MS-1 will be filed as Carina drafted the information for the extension before she went on maternity leave. The Town will await further word from the Town Assessors on the progress as the Pole Assessment figures are the only items holding up the process.

Tax Agreement status - The Board has in their packet updated information from Hannah Joyce, Town Clerk/Tax Collector. **It is so noted that the Board agreed the tax agreements are going great.**

Pitney Bowes – Postage Meter - May explained that Pitney Bowes sent 2 updated replacement postage meters for the Selectmen’s Office and the Town Clerk/Tax Collector’s Office. May informed the Board that after discussions with Pitney Bowes by Hannah Joyce and herself, it was discovered that the new equipment would require an IT person to be present for installation as the new system would be going through the computer system and the cost of the IT installation would be \$1,500.00. After discussion between Mrs. Joyce and May, it was concluded that the Town did not need such elaborate postage meters and the analog meters that the Town presently have are sufficient. The 2 new meters were sent back to Pitney Bowes.

An email was received from Paul Hatch of NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management regarding meetings to be scheduled with the various Towns that were affected by the most recent flooding. May is waiting to hear back from Mr. Hatch as to the specific dates for the meetings to be held in the Campton Community Room.

Chair Laufenberg informed the Board that the State of NH voted to return \$30 million to the various Towns in the form of a one-time lump sum Highway Block Grant aid based on a formula using the figure of the Town's annual Block Grant aid. The funds have been provided by the State for the Town to be used for infrastructure, at the Town's discretion. The \$110,563.26 (already received by the Town) is a one-time lump sum in addition to the "annual" Highway Block Grant aid received by the Town. Robert "Butch" Bain, Road Agent was present at this meeting and Chair Laufenberg called on Butch for his comments. Butch had some suggestions for the use of some of the funds, i.e. ditching, etc. It was also mentioned the possibility of using some of the funds for the repair of the Alden Pond Dam. **It was agreed by the Board that Butch will draft a list of recommended highway projects (being very specific) for the use of some of the one-time lump sum grant for the Board to review.**

Non-Public Session – None

Board Concerns and Directives – Chair Laufenberg called on Selectman Davis who gave an update on the 250th Celebration. Selectman Davis informed the Board that the Committee decided to extend the Campton's Upper Village walking tour on August 26th at 3 pm as, the weather interfered on August 5th with the tour and the public inquired if the tour could be offered again. A self-guided tour brochure is available in the Selectmen's Office. Also on August 26th an All Nations' Potluck Dinner will be offered by the Campton Baptist Church from 5 to 7, followed by an old-fashioned country dance and children's activities at The Mountain Fare Inn from 6 to 8 with Sue Hunt's band playing and there will be an open mike session. On September 30th there will be a big gala celebration at the Pattee Conservation Park and the Campton Historical Society. A 60 X 40 tent will be provided for dining and dancing all day and there will be fireworks at night. Selectman Davis stated that the Committee is trying to get Mr. Avery to come with his horses to shuttle the public. The next meeting of the 250th Committee will be on September 6, 2017, at 4:00 pm the Campton Historical Society and Selectman Davis will inform the Board of the finalized agenda for September 30th after that meeting.

Adjourn: There being no further business; Chair Laufenberg declared the meeting adjourned at 7:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor M. Dewey, Office Assistant and Recorder