

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 5, 2007
6:30 PM Town Hall

Preliminary

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Jack O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Present: Jack O'Reilly, Selectman Jan Stuart, Selectman Cosmas Iocovozzi, Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi, Members of the Highway Building and Site Needs Advisory Board- Lenny Thomas, Cliff Abbott, Peg Lamson, George Fletcher; Jean Bowser, Planner Tom Morgan, Lisa Zhe of the Portsmouth Herald and Sue and Alfred Smith.

Selectman Stuart moved to accept the minutes of February 20, 2007. Cosmas Iocovozzi seconded with motion passing 3-0.

Health/Dental Town Policy for Elected Officials and Board Members

After completing one term consisting of at least 3 years, if the position holder participated in the Town's pool for health & dental benefits while serving (at the participants' expense), that person has the right to opt the C.O.B.R.A. allowance. The Board directed Beatrice to draft up a policy for consideration.

Highway Building and Site Needs Advisory Committee

Len Thomas reviewed various sites with the Committee and they concluded that the current site is the least invasive of neighborhood concerns and traffic flow issues of safety. Member Peg Lamson stated that a couple of the members had visited the Stratham Highway Department and spoke highly of their set up. Cliff Abbott stated that he had a conversation with the designer and was able to bring some thought back to the table. Selectman Iocovozzi spoke of hoping someday both the transfer station and highway site could be together if possible. Al Smith stood and mentioned the potential hazards if they were both combined on the site of our existing transfer station. There is more than an acre at the highway site now. The Committee felt that with the limited hours of operation of the Transfer Station now and the fact that it is only open during lighted hours, it controls what could be very dangerous should the sites consolidate and the hours expand. Chairman O'Reilly went on to explain that this is a long range plan and any action required will come in time, in the instance of approaching the PDA for additional land being added to the current highway site. The Committee spoke of a suggested foot print – turning the bldg- showing less road view – as it is in the Historical District. It was mentioned that even Gail Pare, a member of the HDC felt the current site may be the best site. A sketch was handed out by Cliff Abbott with rough costs showing we should expect to pay around \$ 80.00 per sq ft. It would be a steel bldg with special DES approved drainage with separators to protect our environment. Stratham paid \$ 850,000 with 5 double bays with drive in salt shed. Our needs would be 3 double bays.

The Committee was thanked. Chairman O'Reilly stated that \$50,000 is proposed this year via a warrant article to start a cap. reserve fund for the building and site. If passed, perhaps a site plan would be the first step. The Board will revisit this issue sometime after Town Meeting.

FIRE TRUCK FOR SALE

Chairman O'Reilly spoke of the sealed bid the Town received for the Fire Truck. Board says to hold the bid – George Fletcher will again contact the person he has been in contact with who expressed interest.

TURKEYS

Selectman Stuart was contacted by NH Fish & Game as they want to tag our turkeys for tracking purposes. The Board felt they could use the Chicken Coop at Fox Point to get them out of the weather to tag and release.

TOWN MEETING CD PRODUCTION and STENOGRAPHER

The Selectmen discussed the fact we have contracted with a stenographer AND Wahl to Wahl sound and just wanted all concerned to know that it would be best for the Town to have a CD for sound and preservation AND it typed out verbatim.

RESPONSE TO SIGN VIOLATION COMPLAINT - MCINTYRE AND LITTLE BAY

In response to Ms. McDonald complaint regarding the placement of a FOR SALE sign at the intersection of Little Bay and McIntyre Roads, the Board felt that because this sign was placed by the owner advertising the land on which it sat for sale that it could stay. The circumstances last year when Ms. McDonald had a sign placed at that intersection and was asked for it to be removed is not the same; as the house she was selling was a mile down the road and the sign was not on the land owned by her nor on the land actually for sale.

RESPONSE TO RECYCLING LETTER FROM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

A letter encouraging departments and committees will be going out under the direction of the Board of Selectmen to recycle office paper when ever possible as agreed upon with Waste Management and the Town. Office paper, if clean of debris, can be placed in the roll off bin marked *NEWSPAPER*.

REQUEST FROM CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR COPY OF PURCHASE & SALES AGREEMENT FOR KHALSA LAND.

The Administrative Assistant was asked to once again contact Town Counsel to see if it is public record to release the purchase and sales agreement for the 7.11 acres the town is offering as a bond warrant article.

NEWINGTON CITIZEN'S COMPLAINT – SUE SMITH

Sue Smith of 405 Newington Road wanted to be on record as expressing dissatisfaction with the Conservation Commission using town funds to pay for postage for their mailing of a letter to the residents asking for their vote in supporting a warrant article to appropriate and raise funds to support a wet lands delineation program of ½ acre or more. This is not required by law, contrary to what the people are being lead to believe. She strongly felt if funds were used to support issues, then funds should be available to rebut and stated that it was not a right move nor an ethical one. She expressed resentment that the Selectmen seem to always be negatively attacked at ‘keeping secrets’ or ‘conducting business behind closed doors’. Sue went on to say that she has been doing her homework and finds that this is not the case at all. In fact, she has found many instances where the Conservation Commission is lacking in proper procedures with minutes, who spoke at meetings, and attendance records. She found several violations in fact even one meeting where they had 8 people participating as members when the commission is only sanctioned for 7. She noted that on www.nhacc.org/basics it states that any town can vote to disband a Conservation Commission at Town Meeting or even take a route to make it dormant, as in two instances in NH, because the BOS decided that this commission was not beneficial to the town. She objects to the negativity and wants to remain proud to be a Newington resident.

Al Smith then went on to say that he would like to add that for many years he's been a resident of this town and has never seen a group or any official town body state their opinion on a warrant article that they support via a town-wide mailing. The town floor/public hearing is the proper time and place to discuss these issues. Not all of the members have turned our Conservation Commission into a self serving, self appointed, special interest group, but the ones that have are giving the whole group and town a bad name.

Town Facilities Use Applications:

Celiac Spru Mar 15 5:30pm Meeting Town Hall - Approved fee waived

GirlScouts March 11 12:30pm Luncheon Town hall- Approved fee waived

J. Carter May 12 1:00pm Birthday Party Town hall - Approved

Library Trustees March 25 11:am - Farewell Gathering Town Hall - Approved fee waived

L O'Reilly Band Rehearsal March 18 Old Town Hall - Approved

(Board 'may' consider a free show for residents in lieu of \$50.00 fee)

Transfer Station Licensing Update

Selectman Iocovozzi reported that the application is almost complete and that training classes will follow. Town will pay for the certification and time needed to attend.

Town Hall Server Back Up Problem

Planner Tom Morgan spoke to this issue and noted that the recommended software to use is an issue that Dennis O'Brien of NARCS and Lenny Kapley don't quite agree on. We have non supported software and a drive that is not operating properly. Selectman Stuart feels we should just have one computer person as with two, it confuses the issue. Tom suggests we start with a new drive, see then how the software reacts. Selectman Iocovozzi said we must act on this and asked Tom to get a price from each of them to fix. He will report back. In the meantime, to insure protection, Tom was to purchase an external drive to hold us over until the proper fix was in place.

Town Reports Available

Chairman O'Reilly notified the Board and those present that the Town Reports are now available and slated to be delivered on Wednesday. He reminded people of the elections to be held March 13 and the Town Meeting on March 17.

Town Investment Policy

Treasurer George Fletcher felt that the investment policy adopted Feb 20 by the Board was in proper order and suited for our needs.

The Board then asked the audience if anyone had any issues for discussion and with none being brought up, *Selectman Iocovozzi moved to adjourn at 7:36pm with Selectman Stuart seconding. Motion passed 3-0.*

Respectively submitted,

Beatrice Marconi
Admin. Assist.

