

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**Minutes of 03-01-10**  
**5:35 p.m.**

*Selectmen:*

*Peter F. Brothers, Chairman*  
*Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman*  
*Robert C. Flanders*  
*Charles G. Palm*  
*Colette Worsman*

*Town Manager:*

*Phillip L. Warren*

*Recording Clerk:*

*Karin Landry*

Call to Order: Chairman Peter Brothers called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. He introduced the Board, Town Manager, and the Recording Clerk, and made announcements pertaining to fire exits, listening assisted devices, the use of microphones, and cell phones.

**ACCEPTANCE AND/OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES:**

**10-01 Minutes of the February 16, 2010 Workshop and Regular Meeting.**

*Selectman Worsman motioned to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2010 Workshop and Regular Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Palm.*

The final version of the minutes will include the comments submitted by Board members via email.

*5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- Based on weather conditions, load limit postings for Town roads will be put into effect beginning tomorrow. The Town Manager read the load limit posting, which can be accessed on the website, and will be displayed at various locations around town. A signed permit must be in hand for vehicles traveling on posted roads that exceed the load limit.
- In accordance with Article 4 of the municipal code, bob houses must be removed from Town Owned Property by April 4. The Town shall remove, at the owner's expense, any bob houses not removed at that time. The Town Manager strongly recommended using caution when removing bob houses due to rapidly deteriorating ice conditions.
- The Town Manager read the resignation of Conservation Commission member Robert LeCount. Mr. LeCount served on the Commission for 10 years, acting as Secretary for 9 of those years. He is interested in keeping in touch with the activities of the Commission,

and expressed an interest in serving as an alternate member. The Town Manager will post the open position on the website and schedule the matter for the upcoming workshop. The Chair expressed appreciation for Bob's dedicated service, and is encouraged that he wishes to act as an alternate. The Board will forward a letter of thanks for his service to the Town.

- The Belknap County delegation will hold a public hearing on March 15, 2010 at 6 p.m. at the county complex multi-purpose room, 34 County Dr., Laconia. The purpose of the hearing is to receive input on the county's 2010 budget. The county's goal is not to exceed the total amount they raised by taxation in 2009.
- The Town Manager extended his thanks to the members of the Meredith Fire Department for a job well done at a house fire on Sunday night. The conditions were difficult, and the department did what they could.

### **SELECTMEN COMMENTS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **10-06 Pathways Committee Volunteer**

Resident Tammy Levesque, a former member of the Meredith Village Pathways Committee, has expressed a renewed interest in serving on the Committee. The Town Manager provided the Board with a copy of her volunteer application. Her appointment is recommended by Committee Chair Liz Lapham. Selectman Flanders has known Tammy for quite a few years and supports her appointment.

*Selectman Flanders motioned to appoint Tammy Levesque to the Meredith Village Pathways Committee. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **10-07 Abatements**

Assessor Jim Commerford made a recommendation for two abatements for 2008, both of which were reviewed by the Board at a recent workshop:

Great House at Meredith Bay - Unit 14-2-55: A reduced value of \$170,000, for an abatement of \$819.39.

21 Leopard's Leap: A reduced value of \$190,600, for an abatement of \$99.70.

The Chair recused himself from engaging in dialogue or voting on the abatements because his employer has a relationship with The Great House LLC.

*Selectman Flanders moved to approve the abatements as presented by Assessor Commerford. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 4-0-1. Motion passed.*

### **10-08 Energy Committee Appointments**

The Energy Committee Charge sets forth the appointment of three Meredith residents, but there was general agreement among the Board that there are benefits to appointing additional members. Accordingly, the Board considered applications from four residents: Mark Billings, Ken Colburn, Dave Quagliaroli, and Reid Liberman. The Town Manager recommends the appointment of all four applicants. In addition, Bill Bayard has volunteered to be the Planning Board member and Phil McCormack has stepped forward on behalf of the School District. The Town Manager recommends the appointment of Wendy Bagley on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, and recommends the appointment of an additional representative from the Chamber, Lia Clock, if she still wishes to serve.

*Selectman Lovett motioned to appoint residents Mark Billings, Ken Colburn, Dave Quagliaroli, and Reid Liberman to the Energy Committee, and the appointment of Wendy Bagley as the Chamber of Commerce representative. Seconded by Selectman Palm. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

### **VISITOR AND RESIDENT COMMENTS**

Resident Karen Sticht asked the Board to include the two school board candidates, Jack Carty and Chris Megan, in the upcoming Candidate's Night. The Chair will follow through on the matter with moderator Steve Nedeau. Candidate's Night is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, at 7 p.m. at the community center. The public is welcome to attend and encouraged to participate with questions or comments.

### **STRAY ANIMAL SERVICES - NEW HAMPSHIRE HUMANE SOCIETY**

The Chair summarized the dialogue that took place at the workshop preceding the meeting. There was general agreement among the Board that the humane treatment of animals is an important component of the services provided by NHHS. In addition, the Board generally agrees that the organization really should be considered an outside agency because of the overall services it provides to the Town.

Mary DiMaria, Interim Executive Director of the NHHS, thanked the Board for the opportunity to respond to the question and concerns identified at the workshop. She invited the Board and Town Manager to visit the NHHS facility in order to get a true feeling for the scope of the services they provide. She clarified that animals are never sold, they are adopted out to forever homes. She reviewed the services that are provided to the Town and residents including a full medical exam, shots, rabies, and behavioral testing for all animals, and explained that when animals are taken in, there is no required fee, but rather a suggested donation. If an individual does not wish to pay or cannot pay, it is not required. The Society does not euthanize animals after the seven day period they are required to be kept by law, with the exception of animals that

are suffering from an extreme medical condition or are a biting liability. The facility is run 365 days a year, and the animals must be fed, walked, given play and social time, and their cages must be cleaned every day. The Society offers low cost spaying and neutering services and a pet food pantry. She reviewed the adoption fees for dogs and cats, and explained that Meredith residents are charged the exact same fees as those from other communities, whether or not the Society provides the community with kennel services. The contracts the Society enters into for kennel services accounts for a very small portion of what it costs to care for the animals that come into the facility. The remainder of the costs are covered by donations. The Society does not receive federal or state funding.

As an example of the costs associated with the services they provide, Development and Volunteer Director MaryLee Gorham-Waterman told the Board about an extreme case of animal and child endangerment in Center Harbor where the Society stepped in to provide services. The Society retrieved over a hundred cats and dogs from the residence, all of which were provided with appropriate medical and spaying/neutering services and offered for adoption, at a cost of over \$4,000. Ms. DiMaria told the Board of a hoarder that passed away in her home in Meredith. It took two days to locate 13 cats and 2 dogs in the home. The animals were provided with medical services and offered for adoption. The Society's mission is to give every animal the opportunity for a happy life.

The Chair explained that the Board is responsible for being good stewards of taxpayer money, and that it is the intent of the Board to gather as much knowledge as possible in order to make a good decision that is in the best interest of the taxpayers.

Selectman Worsman pointed out that the Board thinks NHHS is an awesome organization, and that they appreciate the benefit they provide to Meredith and the Lakes Region community. The Board is charged with being good stewards of the funds raised through taxation and she takes that very seriously.

The Town will contact the Humane Society in order to finalize the matter.

## **ELECTION DAY ASSIGNMENTS**

The Town Manager will arrange for coverage by Board members at the polls on election day via email. Selectman Flanders will be scheduled for the first time slot.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

*Selectman Lovett motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Flanders. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Phillip L. Warren, Town Manager

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Peter F. Brothers, Chairman

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Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

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Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman

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Robert C. Flanders

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Charles G. Palm

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Colette Worsman