

SPECIAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of 03-26-10
3:30 p.m.

Selectmen:

Peter F. Brothers, Chairman
Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman
Nathan Torr
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 3:30 p.m. He introduced the Board and Town Manager.

ACCEPTANCE AND/OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES: None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: None

VISITORS AND RESIDENTS COMMENTS:

Resident Paula Trombi expressed concerns with the motion made at Town Meeting initiating a study relative to withdrawal of the Town of Meredith from the School District. She recited RSA 195:25, which sets forth the procedure for withdrawal from a cooperative school district. Her interpretation of the RSA is that a warrant was necessary at Town Meeting in order to initiate the study. The Town Manager explained that although a warrant article is required at Town Meeting to compel the School District to initiate such a study, it was very clear that the motion made at the Meredith Town Meeting was an advisory motion to the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Trombi is concerned that those who voted at Town Meeting did not have a full understanding of the motion.

The Chair explained that the Board is in the process of exploring options other than a study wherein the Town will potentially withdraw from the School District before taking any specific action. It is important that the Board gathers information and opens up dialogue with the School Board to consider what course of action should be taken. The School Board has asked the Superintendent to explore the matter, and more information will be available once he has done so. The matter will be posted in accordance with statutory requirements when it is listed for discussion as an agenda item. There was a general agreement among the Board that it is reasonable to explore the options with the School Board in an open and constructive manner before concentrating on specifics such as what the motion will or will not allow them to do.

School Board member Jack Carty informed the Board that a representative from the New Hampshire School Board Association will make a presentation at the School Board meeting scheduled for April 13, and invited all interested parties to attend.

A resident in attendance at the meeting, is encouraged by the approach that is being taken by the Board of Selectmen. She encouraged residents to attend the meetings as opposed to relying on the media for information. It is important for residents to see that the Board is taking the time to consider the process.

The matter will be scheduled as an agenda item at a future Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

10-11 Board Reorganization and Committee Appointments

The Chair thanked all Board members for their service in the last year and acknowledged the progress that has been made as a team for the benefit of the Town.

Town Clerk Kerri Parker swore in re-elected Selectman Miller Lovett and newly elected Selectman Nate Torr.

There were no nominations from the floor for Chairman of the Board. Selectman Worsman acknowledged that while it was a difficult decision, and that Chair Brothers did a spectacular job for the past few years, she believes it would do the Board well to have the fresh perspective of a new Chair.

Selectman Worsman nominated Chuck Palm as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for 2010. Seconded by Chair Brothers.

Selectman Lovett acknowledged that Selectman Palm is qualified for the position, and will have his full support if elected, but questioned why the past practice of moving the Vice Chairman to the position of Chair is being changed. Although the Board has the right to change the basis by which it chooses the Chairman, he inquired what brought about the change.

Although Selectman Brothers respects the past practice of nominating the senior member of the Board as Chairman, he has given the matter much thought and consideration, and supports the nomination of Chuck Palm. In making his decision, he considered the strengths and weaknesses of the potential nominee, what best benefits the Town, and who can best utilize the individual talents of the Board.

Selectman Worsman believes that Selectman Lovett is equally as skilled and capable of moving the Board forward, but feels the nomination of Chuck Palm is the best move for the Board for this year.

Selectman Palm appreciates the nomination and comments, and if elected, will serve to the best of his ability.

Selectman Lovett served as Vice-Chairman for two years, with the implicit implication that he would serve as Chairman. He does not think the change of dynamics is beneficial, and believes he can provide the leadership to move the Board forward. In addition, he believes that he has more to offer the Board than he has had the opportunity to express in the past, and can provide the leadership that would utilize Board members, particularly the Vice Chairman, in a more effective way. He proposed the possibility that he be nominated as Chairman, and Chuck Palm be nominated as Vice Chairman.

Selectman Lovett nominated himself as Chairman of the Board. Selectman Worsman seconded the nomination. Motion failed 2-3.

(Original Motion) 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Brothers nominated Selectman Worsman as Vice Chair. Seconded by Selectman Palm. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

In his capacity as Chair, Selectman Palm solicited Board representatives for various committees. Dialogue ensued regarding committee appointments.

Selectman Brothers motioned to make the following committee appointments:

<i>Planning Board:</i>	<i>Peter Brothers; Alternate: Nate Torr</i>
<i>CIP Committee:</i>	<i>Miller Lovett; Alternate: Peter Brothers</i>
<i>Water System Adv. Comm.:</i>	<i>Chuck Palm; Alternates: Miller Lovett and Nate Torr</i>
<i>Waukegan Watershed Adv. Comm.:</i>	<i>Nate Torr</i>
<i>Belknap Co. Ec. Dev. Comm.:</i>	<i>Colette Worsman</i>
<i>3/25 Project Adv. Comm.:</i>	<i>Chuck Palm</i>
<i>Local Energy Comm.:</i>	<i>Peter Brothers; Alternate: Miller Lovett</i>
<i>Trustee of the Trust Fund Liaison:</i>	<i>Colette Worsman</i>

Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

The Town Manager will notify the Belknap County Economic Development Committee of the change in Board representative. School Board member Jack Carty pointed out that the Board may wish to consider an appointment to the study committee, if a committee is established. He verified that the next School Board meeting is April 13th, at 7 p.m.

Chair Palm thanked the Board for their support and asked them to share their thoughts as the year progresses.

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman Worsman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 4-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip L. Warren, Town Manager

Charles G. Palm , Chairman

Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

Colette Worsman, Vice Chairman

Peter F. Brothers

Miller C. Lovett

Nathan Torr