

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Minutes of May 17, 2010
5:30 p.m.

<i>Selectmen:</i>	<i>(Absent with Notice)</i>	<i>Charles G. Palm, Chairman</i> <i>Colette Worsman, Vice Chairman</i> <i>Peter F. Brothers</i> <i>Miller C. Lovett</i> <i>Nathan J. Torr</i>
<i>Town Manager:</i>		<i>Phillip L. Warren</i>
<i>Recording Clerk:</i>		<i>Karin Landry</i>

Call to Order: Chairman Chuck Palm called the meeting to order at 5:40 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 -18 Minutes of the May 5, 2010 Workshop and Regular Board Meeting.

Selectman Torr motioned to accept the minutes of the May 5, 2010 Workshop and Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Lovett.

A few minor adjustments will be included in the signature copy of the minutes. The Chair explained that questions posed by the Board that cannot be answered at that time, particularly relating to budget matters, will be answered and documented in the minutes of a subsequent meeting.

3-0-1. (Selectman Brothers abstained - not present). Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

10-20 Public Hearing - Acceptance and Appropriations of unanticipated funds per RSA 31:95-b.

Selectman Brothers motioned to open a public hearing of the Meredith Board of Selectmen for acceptance and appropriation of unanticipated funds per RSA 31:95-b at 5:46 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 4-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, II, the Meredith Board of Selectmen will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of accepting and appropriating unanticipated monies in the following amounts:

NH OEP Energy Grants - three grants totaling	\$ 55,848.00
NH DES Grant - milfoil control	3,742.50
NH Electric Coop - Rebate program	5,622.75
NH Lakes Association Grant - Lake Host	1,000.00

Director of Administrative Services Brenda Vittner explained that a public hearing is required for any gift, grant, or donation in the amount of \$5,000 or more. She briefly summarized the efforts that were made in applying for the grants that were awarded, and how the funds will be utilized. The sums must be accepted, and then appropriated in the same amount.

Selectman Brothers motioned to close the meeting at 5:52 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Torr. 4-0. All in favor. motion passed unanimously.

Town Manager Philip Warren recommended that the Board vote to accept and appropriate the unanticipated monies as described in the public hearing.

Selectman Lovett moved to accept the monies and related appropriations as previously described. Seconded by Selectman Torr. 4-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

10-21 Consider Abatements

The Board had the opportunity to review the abatements presented in detail at the May 3 Workshop. The abatements are based on the recommendations of Assessor Jim Commerford.

Selectman Torr motioned to accept 14 abatements aggregating \$9,225.68, not including interest. There was no alteration in valuation to assessments on 4 pieces of property. Seconded by Selectman Brothers. 4-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

-The Town Manager reviewed the Memorial Day schedule for American Legion Post 33.

-The New Hampshire DES volunteer weed watcher program will hold an informational meeting on Thursday, May 27, at 7 p.m. at the community center. Those with an interest are encouraged to attend.

-The Town received the Tree City USA Recognition Growth Award for 2009. It has received the award for 18 years. A plaque, flag, and banner will be presented to the Town in recognition of its efforts. The Town Manager acknowledged the efforts of staff, and all others involved in the tree planting program, especially the Greater Meredith Program.

-A card was received from Linda French and her family in appreciation of the Town's efforts in connection with the planting of a memorial tree and placement of a plaque in memory of her husband Phil by the Arborist Society.

-Tax liens were signed this week. Last year at this time there was \$514,501 in tax liens. This year there is \$567,405 in tax liens. The increase is believed to be a function of the economic climate.

-The Town Manager updated the Board on legislative matters. HB 1593 (the "LGC Amendment") appears to be going to study. The bill reducing the rooms and meals taxes to municipalities was passed, resulting in a decrease of approximately \$30,000 in revenues from the state.

Selectman Brothers commented on the Town's proactive responses to senators and legislators. Efforts to influence revenue streams were not made as extensively in the past. He commended the Town Manager for keeping an active eye on legislation and advising the Board accordingly.

-Paul Lessard will step down as Meredith's representative for Bike Week effective July 1. The Town Manager has been attending meetings, and will take his place. A permit has been issued for a free concert at Laconia Harley Davidson on the first Saturday of the event, from 4-8 p.m. Appropriate arrangements have been made with law enforcement to ensure all contingencies are met with a minimal disruption to those in the area. There is nothing out of the ordinary to report at this time.

-The operation of the dam and level of Lake Waukegan fall under the auspices of New Hampshire DES. The Town of Meredith does not have the authority in the matter that it had in the past. The DES sets the lake level, and Hampshire Hospitality Holdings operates the dam at the direction of the DES. The interim operating level is maintained at 539 1/2' above sea level. The level is checked on a daily basis. The DES interim operating level decision is posted on the website. The Town Manager's office has been in close contact with DES, and has relayed concerns regarding the interim operating level. Additional concerns should be directed to the state. The Town Manager will contact the communities of Center Harbor and New Hampton to let them know how the Town of Meredith is handling complaints. Selectman Lovett spoke in favor of the Town exercising its influence on the matter.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS: (Reports on Committees 2nd meeting each month)

None

OLD BUSINESS:

10-22 Withdrawal from School District

The Town Manager and four members of the Board attended a meeting of the School District last week. Considering what was learned at the meeting, it is timely for the Board to discuss how it wishes to proceed in the matter.

The Town Manager explained the intricacies of withdrawal from the school district involving capital, the physical plant, and the funding of the physical plant that were discussed at length at the meeting. An attorney with the New Hampshire School Board Association highlighted the RSA's and case studies he has seen, and answered questions from a neutral position. The process of withdrawal is difficult, and there are only a couple cases of it being done in the recent past. It is clear that the process is extremely complicated, and will most likely result in some form of litigation. The value of the land and buildings, and the contributions to those facilities by other towns has to be established. Meredith will gain nothing financially by breaking the contract, and will have a large payout if it withdraws.

Selectman Brothers summarized what was trying to be accomplished by the non-binding motion made at Town Meeting. Withdrawal from the school district would be extremely complicated. He is open to suggestions from citizens and dialogue with other Towns and School Boards in order to identify an easier way to handle the matter than withdrawal from the school district. He encourages citizens to exercise the statutory obligation to vote, thereby controlling events through

the process. He would like get input from the citizens and residents of the two other communities participating in the School District.

Select Torr was not able to attend the meeting for medical reasons, but pointed out that the trends are toward cooperative school districts as opposed to dissolving school districts, and that the process will be very difficult.

Selectman Lovett opposes any request for action by the Select Board of the School Board. He has no objection to any amount of study, but objects to initiating a process that results in withdrawal from the school district.

The Chair summarized by saying that it appears that the Board does not wish to proceed with any formal request at this time. Doing so would not accomplish the right things, or anything that is positive for the School District. He agrees that it is very important for voters to come to district meetings and express views. He suggested that representatives from the Board of Selectmen of the three towns participating in the district meet with the chairman of the School Board to explore options in an open meeting format. The Town Manager will coordinate the meetings.

ADJOURNAMENT:

Selectman Brothers motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 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

Peter F. Brothers

Miller C. Lovett

Nathan J. Torr