

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Minutes of June 7, 2010
5:30 p.m.

Selectmen:

Charles G. Palm, Chairman
Colette Worsman, Vice Chairman
Peter F. Brothers
Miller C. Lovett
Nathan J. Torr

Town Manager:

Phillip L. Warren

Recording Clerk:

Karin Landry

Call to Order: Chairman Chuck Palm called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 -23 Minutes of the May 17, 2010 Workshop and Board Meeting.

Selectman Torr motioned to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2010 Workshop and Board Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Brothers. 4-0-1 (Selectman Worsman Absent with Notice). Motion passed.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

-Concerns have been expressed that there are vehicles utilizing the solid waste facility that don't have the required sticker displayed. As a result, those utilizing the facility last Saturday were checked for proper documentation. On that day, 443 vehicles entered the facility, and 433 had permits. Permits were purchased for 9 of the 10 vehicles without stickers. One temporary permit was issued to a person whose stickered vehicle is being repaired. Some of the reasons it appears that unauthorized persons are using the facility are that it is difficult to see stickers through tinted windows, there is no sticker issued for those paying a daily fee of \$2 for rental properties, and a coupon is used for single day use permits. The facility will continue to be monitored by staff on a daily basis, with monitoring at the gate on a sporadic basis. There was a consensus among the Board that the process will encourage compliance with permit requirements.

-The Town has the opportunity to renew their solid waste contract with the Androscoggin Valley facility in Berlin at \$50 a ton from 2012 - 2018, with no impact for change in law issues. An agreement with a solid waste facility generally includes a provision that additional burdens or constraints on the facility as a result of changes in law are passed on to the customer. The Town Manager researched the spot market and found the terms of the contract to be very favorable to the Town. He will execute the document. Disposal of certain items such as asbestos will incur an additional charge, and prohibited items will not be allowed.

-A meeting was held last week with DES representatives to discuss the impacts of the change in the level of Lake Waukegan. It was made clear that the decision to reduce the lake level is an interim decision, and it will be revisited once additional information is gathered. DES is aware of

the concerns expressed regarding the lake level, and will host public hearings as the summer goes on. The Town has made it clear that the preference is to hold the hearings before Labor Day so that summer residents can attend. The Attorney General's office has determined that an appeal filed by landowners around the lake to have the matter heard before the DES Water Board will not interfere with talks with DES. State representatives Miller and Wendelboe are coordinating meetings with the communities affected by the decision, and the findings will be reported to the state agency. All complaints, comments, and correspondence regarding this matter are being forwarded to DES. DES is monitoring lake levels, and the data is being recorded in graphical format and posted on the website. In addition, the Town Manager is regularly checking the level of the lake on an informal basis. There is a general consensus among the Board that it is important that the public has the opportunity to participate in the fact-gathering process, and that the meeting should be held before Labor Day. The state approached the superintendent of schools to arrange for a meeting venue that will accommodate the public hearing. The state will notify the Boards of other towns on the Lake of the meeting. DES representatives have been assessing the affects of the change in lake level to the shoreline.

Selectman Lovett thanked the Town Manager for keeping the Board well informed. After rereading the report issued by the state, he does not understand how they made their conclusion, and believes that a mistake was made. He would like to see the lake levels where they have been for the last 10-20 years, and hopes some consideration can be made in the next few days to modify the standard they are following.

Selectman Worsman asked the Town Manager to investigate how many people attended the original hearing on the lake level. She is concerned that the lower lake level will encourage the growth of bacteria, and pointed out that fundraising activities such as the Greater Meredith Program's rubber ducky race will be impacted. The Town Manager is exploring alternatives for the rubber ducky race, and will contact DES regarding the concerns over increased bacterial growth.

-The Town Manager assured residents that there is no reason to be at a heightened state of fear as a result of the tragic events that took place on Lake Street this over the weekend. The Attorney General's report made it clear that the event was not random. The Town Manager thanked the Meredith Police Department, New Hampshire State Police, Attorney General's Office, and the Belknap County Sheriff's Department for their assistance in the matter.

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

The Chair announced that answers to budget questions posed in previous meetings will be discussed at an upcoming workshop for inclusion in the record.

NEW BUSINESS:

10-24 Consideration of Abatement Requests

Assessor Jim Commerford presented an amended warrant for signature by the selectman that was adjusted for certain properties that were removed pending additional information. Mr. Commerford requested a motion to approve nine abatements in the total amount of \$5,665.57, and the denial of one abatement.

Selectman Worsman motioned to accept the recommendation of Town Assessor Jim Commerford to abate taxes aggregating \$5,665.57, not including interest, on nine properties, and accept his recommendation not to abate taxes on one other property. Seconded by Selectman Lovett.

Mr. Commerford reviewed the reduction in assessed value for the Rice property for Selectman Worsman, who was absent with notice from the meeting where the abatements were addressed.

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

10-25 Execution of Certificate of Authority - Energy Block Grant

In order to avoid a lengthy appeal and explanation process, the Town Manager asked the Board to take a vote to exercise a resolution reaffirming that the Town Manager is the chief procurement officer and has the ability to sign contracts.

Selectman Brothers motioned that the Board approve the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program Certificate of Authority and designate the Town Manager as the duly authorized signature on that document. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

10-26 Proposed Round Table Meeting Regarding School District - Establish Agenda

As instructed by the Board, the Town Manager invited participating towns and school boards to participate in a round table discussion regarding the school district. The Town of Center Harbor is interested in participating, and offered to host the meeting. He has not heard from the Town of Sandwich. He made a recommendation to accept the offer of Center Harbor to host the meeting, and assemble a framework in loose format for the meeting. Selectman Brothers volunteered to work with the Town Manager to develop a loose agenda for the meeting, and forward a copy to the Board. The Chair would like to accept Center Harbor's offer to host the meeting, and express the Board's appreciation, as soon as possible. There is a general agreement among the Board that it is important to have input from all three communities involved in the cooperative school district. The Town Manager will follow through with the Town of Sandwich and a date for the meeting will be set.

10-27 Form of Government Study Progress

The Town Manager provided the Board with information prepared by Lou Kahn regarding various forms of government, and suggested scheduling a workshop to allow Mr. Kahn to brief the Board on the information he has garnered. Mr. Kahn is well informed on the matter, and the perfect source to begin the discussion. The Town Manager does not see a need to schedule a representative from LGC on the matter. Selectman Brothers reiterated the importance of holding the discussions in a public forum, and encouraging the public to attend so their input can be considered. There was a general agreement among the Board that the matter should be addressed at a regular Board meeting, in order to allow for a more widely publicized forum. The Town Manager will adjust the meeting schedule and forward it to the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The Chair reviewed the vetting process. The Town Manager made a recommendation that the Board continue to use the format developed over time. All who wish to participate in the vetting process must complete an application to be submitted no later than August 31. Agencies will be broken down into two to three categories, and there will be an opportunity to review the information before the October budget deliberations begin. Work has commenced on the process internally.

VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Resident Jim Hughes requested that the application process for extending the Lake Waukewan boat launch and moving rocks that are obstructing the path to the Lake be expedited. In addition, he suggested that an L pin be used on the boat ramp instead of a bolt to making loading and unloading more user friendly. The Town Manager explained that the application for the permit has been submitted, and the work will be completed once the permit is granted.

Laconia Daily Sun reporter Michael Kitch inquired about the kinds of complaints that are being made surrounding the lake level. Most of the complaints surround the inability to access docks, which is resulting in concerns regarding diminished property values. There have been a number of complaints regarding ecological concerns.

Selectman Worsman requested that the Board move into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(c), reputation, following the adjournment of the meeting.

ADJOURNAMENT:

Selectman Worsman moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 5-0. 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 J. Torr

