

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING**  
**Minutes of 09-20-10**  
**5:30 p.m.**

<i>Selectmen:</i>	<i>(Absent with Notice)</i>	<i>Charles G. Palm, Chairman</i> <i>Colette Worsman, Acting 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: Acting Chair Colette Worsman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. She 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.

Acting Chair Worsman took a moment to recognize Senator Carl Johnson, who passed away last Saturday, for his dedication to public service and the Town of Meredith. She expressed condolences to the family of Senator Johnson on behalf of the Board.

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

**10 -41 Minutes of the August 16 Workshop, Board Meeting, and Non-Public Session and the August 18 Round Table Meeting.**

Selectman Brothers motioned to accept the minutes of the August 16 Workshop, Board Meeting, and Non-Public Session and the August 18 Round Table Meeting with the Towns of Center Harbor, Meredith, and Sanbornton, and the Interlakes School District. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 4-0. Motion passed unanimously.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- The Belknap County Commissioners will host a forum on September 30, 2010, at 6:30 in the multi-purpose room of the Belknap County Complex. The forum is a follow up to the County Conversations hosted earlier this year.
- The next roundtable meeting with the Interlakes School District is scheduled for November 10.
- The Water System Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, September 23.
- A meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 22, at 7:15 p.m. in the Carey Mead Room in Center Harbor to address state wide school funding formulas.
- The Town of Meredith was found eligible for the high risk roads program funded by state. Under the program, rural roads are analyzed for adequate signage and delineation. Signage identified under the program is covered 100% by the state. The Town is responsible for the maintenance and replacement of the signs and posts, as well as tree trimming. The Town

Manager recommends the Board enter into the Agreement with the state. A program is currently in place in the Town of Meredith for repairing signs and replacing signs that are lost or stolen.

-The Roundtable Meeting with the Interlakes School District and the Towns of Center Harbor, Meredith, and Sandwich identified different interests among the three communities. The concerns expressed by the Town of Meredith regarding fiscal actions and the growth of the District were not as strongly expressed by Center Harbor and Sandwich. Dialogue took place regarding the School District meeting and the actions that resulted as a result of the advisory article proposed at Town Meeting. The next Roundtable Meeting is scheduled for November 10, at 5 p.m. at the Meredith Community Center. The Town Manager urges residents to become involved by attending the School District meetings so their concerns can be heard.

-The Town Manager briefly report on the actions taken at the New Hampshire Municipal Association legislative policy conference. A summary of the proposals made at the conference are available on the Association's website.

#### **VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

Resident Frank Marino aired grievances with the operations, policies, and several employees of the Town dump. He informed the Board about problems residents are facing at the dump, and called for decisive disciplinary action against several employees. He explained that there has been an attitude of contempt displayed toward him by all but one dump employee, and gave examples of the use of improper language and physical contact by said employees. He is concerned that employees are setting aside items accepted at the dump and taking them home for personal benefit or the benefit of friends. He claims he was assaulted while attempting to photograph evidence of the employee's disobedient and unlawful behavior. He proposed disciplinary action for any employee found to be hoarding items at the dump including verbal and written warnings and ultimately, dismissal. In addition, he is concerned with the cost of labor versus the monetary benefit of recycling. He believes that the total ban on picking at the dump for liability reasons is overly preemptive and a phony excuse. He exhibited items that he has salvaged from the dump, and believes there are better ways to address the matter than a total ban on picking.

Resident Holly Tetreault shared her personal experience of poor treatment by dump employees, as well as those of other residents. She told the Board that Mr. Marino is not the first person to be physically touched by employees at the dump. The salaries of the employees are being paid by taxpayers, and residents deserve to be treated with respect. In addition, she is concerned that items that have been dropped off at the dump with the intention of benefitting residents in need are being set aside by employees for personal use. She feels there is a more substantial liability issue with youth swimming at an unguarded beach than adults picking at the dump. She urged those with complaints regarding the dump to express them in writing to the Town Manager.

Resident Steven Hoedecker believes the actions of the dump employees is an example of gross mismanagement. He called for an effort to organize the dump store so items can be more effectively merchandized to residents in need. He believes that the attitude of employees is directly related to those that supervise them. He shared examples of personally being threatened by dump employees no less than three times. He supports recycling, and believes the effort begins at home, and should be supported at the community level. The policies at the dump should facilitate the reuse and recycling of items in a dignified manner.

Center Harbor resident Everett Duren lived in Meredith at the inception of the recycling center and recalls that employees were forbidden from taking anything out of the recycling center during work hours at that time. He is concerned that items intended for the dump store are being damaged or discarded, but does not wish to see the dump store closed. Mr. Duren provided the Board with a couple of recent photographs of items set aside by dump employees, and called for respect from the employees for those that pay their salaries.

Resident Irene Selton pointed out that those whose wages are paid for by taxes are public servants, and would like to feel comfortable in knowing she will be treated with a certain level of respect when frequenting the dump.

Resident William Repasse was told that items set aside were for "customers" and not for him. He hopes that the dump will once again be a pleasant place for residents.

Acting Chair Worsman assured residents that their concerns will be investigated and addressed. The Town Manager verified that there is a record of all prior complaints that were received in writing. Additional concerns should be put in writing and forwarded to the Town Manager. Mr. Marino expressed a desire to be involved in the dialogue regarding any action that will be taken regarding policies and procedures at the dump. The matter will be addressed at the Board meeting scheduled for November 2 at 5:30 p.m. during the time allotted for resident's comments. Steps will be taken immediately to make the dump store more useful and enforce policies regarding employees taking items from the dump during work hours. The practice of setting aside items for a specific resident in need will no longer be allowed.

Resident Charles Harinden suggested that residents who wish to pick at the dump be asked to sign a waiver releasing the Town from liability when they pay for their dump permit.

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

Selectman Lovett reported that the Capital Improvement Committee will meet on September 29, at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex. All residents are encouraged to attend the open meetings.

Selectman Torr reported that the Waukevan Watershed Committee meeting has been rescheduled from September 15 to September 23 at 8 a.m. He congratulated the Town, and particularly the Watershed, on the acquisition of the Snake River parcel. He acknowledged the efforts of all individuals that were involved in acquiring the parcel, which is important from a conservation and water quality standpoint. The parcel is owned by the Town of New Hampton and the Town of Meredith holds the conservation easement.

Selectman Brothers reported on the Local Energy Committee. The consultant hired by the Committee attended the first meeting, which was held about a week ago. The priorities and elements of an energy plan are being identified in anticipation of making a presentation to the Board of Selectmen shortly after year end.

Acting Chair Worsman reported that a candidate's night will be held at the community center on Friday, September 24, at 7 p.m. She requested that a notification of the School District meeting be included on the tax bills when they are mailed. The Town Manager will do so if the meeting date has been set at the time the tax bills are issued.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**10-42 Delegation of Health Officer**

The State of New Hampshire requires the formal designation of a member of the community as Health Officer. The Town's designation expires on October 2. Code Enforcement Officer Bill Edney is currently acting as Health Officer. The Town Manager recommends that the Board nominate Bill Edney as the Local Health Officer for the ensuing term.

*Selectman Brothers motioned to appoint William Edney as Health Officer for the ensuing term pursuant to the requirements of the Department of Health and Human Services. Seconded by Selectman Torr.*

Mr. Edney is qualified to act as Health Officer. In the event he is not available, the Town will rely on a Health Officer from another community. There is no need to appoint a Deputy Health Officer at this time.

*4-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

**10-43 Change of Street Name**

Satchel Realty Trust has requested the Board approve the name "Solace Pointe Road" for a newly constructed road in an 11-lot subdivision approved by the Planning Board on May 12, 2009. The name "Split Rock Lane" was previously proposed by the applicant, but found to conflict with the name of an existing road in the area serviced by Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid. The name Solace Pointe Road does not present a conflict for 911 purposes.

*Selectman Lovett moved to approve the name Solace Pointe Road. Seconded by Selectman Brothers.*

Selectman Brothers proposed that the motion be amended to identify the road name as pertaining to the request made by Satchel's Realty Trust. Selectman Lovett agreed to the amendment.

*4-0. All in favor. Motion as amended unanimously passed*

**10-40 Water and Sewer Rate/Ordinance Amendment Proposal**

The Town Manager introduced the matter. The Board voted to accept the recommendations of the Water and Sewer Committee under the charge of David Thorpe, including an amendment of water and sewer rates. Because the rates have not been adjusted for some time, they are subject to significant amendments in the first year. The complex structure of the existing rates has been simplified to include an access and usage charge for all users of the water and sewer system. The rates are based on the American Water Association pipe size rates and the unit table from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. The fixed quarterly charge for fire suppression systems has been eliminated and the Town no longer has the responsibility of monitoring the systems. Irrigation service is considered a commercial use of water and will be charged at two times the typical rate. The hydrant rate will remain unchanged. The costs of implementing monthly billing to cover administrative costs outweigh the benefits at this time.

Chairman Thorpe summarized proposed Ordinance Changes and water and sewer rate changes extracted from the Seventh Water System Committee Report to the Board of Selectmen dated July 17, 2010. The changes make the Ordinance comply with decisions made by the Board on the rate structure for water and sewer.

Water Ordinance

- Sections 505 and 505A. Languages requiring that all fees collected are used for the operation of the water system. This amendment has already been made to the Ordinance.
- Remove charges for fire suppression systems. The Ordinance must prescribe that fire suppression systems are to be maintained by the owners, including snow removal around private hydrants.

Sewer Ordinance

- Section 704 - Reinserted after being inadvertently removed during the last revision.
- Section 901 - Clean up user charges language
- Section 903 - Define how user charges, connection fees, and access fees shall be used to reflect that funds must be kept in a distinct fund and can only be used in certain ways.
- Section 437 - The one-year grace period for projects permitted at the time the sewer access and connection fees were amended expires on October 19. Accordingly, the section should be removed.
- Section 438 - Insert new section related to non-metered service. All permits for new construction issued after January 20, 2011 require a meter for metering sewer, even if the property utilizes a private well.
- Section 439 - Eight commercial establishments that are not metered for sewer will be required to install a meter by January 20, 2011. The committee believes that there is ample time for the businesses to do so.

Mr. Thorpe provided an edited copy of the water rate table that includes a section on irrigation rates. Public meetings are scheduled for September 20, October 4, and October 18 to allow for input regarding the proposed changes.

Because there are substantial fees associated with updating the Ordinance, the rate table will not be codified in the Ordinance book. It will be made clear that the document is on file with the Town Clerk, and the historical record will show that the changes to the Ordinance and rates were derived from the seven reports made by the Water System Committee. Selectman Lovett favors a footnote being included in the Ordinance referring to where the rules the Ordinance is based on. The Town Manager explained that the Ordinance is intended to provide a directing perspective as opposed to a historical perspective.

Water and Sewer Superintendent Dan Leonard explained that a manual will be produced for water and sewer that sets forth the needs for different connections and the Ordinance will be amended to comply with the manual once it is completed. He overviewed capital expenses on the horizon for the water and sewer plant including implementing a full SCATA system to improve safety at the plant, and an upgrade of the backup power system. In addition, significant capital improvements are anticipated by the Winnepesaukee River Basin Project.

Director of Administrative Services Brenda Vittner presented an extensive analysis of how the proposed rates will affect a variety of establishments and residences. The projected rates are based on 2009 billing data and projected through 2013. She noted that although percentage increases may seem high, the increases in quarterly charges are reasonable. Because the new rates are directly related to usage, conservation measures will allow customers to have some control over the amount they are billed. The median cost for metered homes will be used as a

guide for unmetered sewer customers. All figures set forth in the analysis are estimates based on the proposed rate changes.

The Town Manager will post the amendments to the Ordinance and the final version of the analysis document based on 2009 usage on the website. There was an agreement among the Board that the analysis posted on the web site should emphasize the actual increase in cost versus the percentage increase. Steps will be included on the website to assist customers in calculating the impact of the new rates on their bill.

Acting Chair Worsman thanks all those involved for their hard work on the matter.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Selectman Torr motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Brothers. 4-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board moved into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 11(b) and (c) after a five minute break.

Respectfully submitted,

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Phillip L. Warren, Town Manager

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Colette Worsman, Acting Chairman

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Peter F. Brothers

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Miller C. Lovett

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Nathan J. Torr