

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING**  
**Minutes of 11-15-10**  
**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 -55 Minutes of the November 1, 2010 Workshop, Board Meeting, and Non-Public Meeting.**

*Selectman Brothers motioned to accept the minutes of the November 1, 2010 Workshop, Board Meeting, and Non-Public Meeting as presented. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- The Town Manager updated the Board on the Winnepesaukee River Basin Program. There is a concern shared among administrators and managers of the municipalities that participate in the Program that it is unsustainable as it is written today. Steps are being taken at this time to grant member cities and towns authority to perform access or gate-keeping functions as an Advisory Board. Water and Sewer Superintendant Dan Leonard met with the consulting engineer for the Program, who has identified a more cost effective and industry-accepted disinfection process than the UV system proposed at this time. The design of the UV system has progressed to 95% completion. In the last month, representatives of the Program have been asked not to proceed with capital improvements at this time; however, a purchase order has been submitted to the company providing the proprietary equipment for the UV disinfection system, and the work is at 9% complete. The Town Manager and Mr. Leonard are concerned that \$10 million in proposed improvements could be implemented for significantly less, with lower operating and maintenance costs, by expanding the chemical/chlorine alternative that is currently in place. The managers and administrators of communities participating in the Program are in the process of putting together a proposal to be submitted to the next legislative session that would give the Advisory Board more authority. Under the proposal, budgetary and capital improvement items would have to be reviewed by a representative appointed by each community. The Town Manager is disappointed that the matter has progressed to the point it has, and is cautiously optimistic that some change can be effected and alternatives will be considered. The feasibility of the alternate method of disinfection is being reviewed by Dr. McKee of the Program, and it is hoped that he will make a thoughtful presentation as to why or why not it will work. Managers

and administrators plan to meet to decide how to proceed to protect their respective communities from potential increases from the Program, and how to keep costs down within their own communities.

Selectman Brothers suggested the Board express its concerns to Executive Council members in writing, with the intent of allowing them the opportunity to slow things down. In addition, he suggested that the Boards of participating communities do the same. The Town Manager hopes to present additional information at the next Board meeting.

- The Town Manager renegotiated the health insurance contract with Harvard Pilgrim. Based on market factors, as of July 1, the Town was faced with a not-to-exceed rate of 18%. Harvard Pilgrim has agreed to renew the contract at 5.1% for a twelve month period beginning January 1. The Town and the employees will benefit from the renegotiated contract when the entire 12-month period is taken into consideration. In addition, the new policy will coincide with the budget cycle and subsequent increases will be based on a lower rate. In making its decision, Harvard Pilgrim took into consideration the fact that the Town has had very good past experience.

- Workers compensation, unemployment, and property and liability insurance are procured through the Local Government Center (LGC), and are being reviewed at this time. The Town Manager will update the Board on those policies in the near future.

- As a direct result of actions taken by the Board, the amount to be raised locally for town taxation will remain stable for 2011. In addition, the state education and county portions of the tax bill will be dropping, but the school portion will increase. The tax bills will probably be due at the end of December. The numbers will be posted on the website once they are confirmed by the Department of Revenue Administration.

- The Town Manager will attend the LGC conference this week with a number of employees and department heads.

- A school roundtable discussion regarding the apportionment of charges from the District was held on November 10. There was an agreement among those in attendance that a meeting should be scheduled with local representatives and senators so that they are able to share information on bills that will be presented during the 2011 legislative session. In addition, the meeting will give the communities participating in the Interlakes School District the opportunity to express that they don't wish to see any more push downs from the state level.

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

Resident John Foster is concerned with the posting of real estate signs at the intersection of Barnard Ridge Road and Pleasant St. In the past, he has removed signs because they obstructed his view. Mr. Foster is concerned that the intersections in Meredith will one day be littered with real estate signs, and passed around photographs of a community in Texas where that is the case.

The Town Manager told Mr. Foster that there are no regulations for the posting of real estate signs on public property. Regulations exist for the posting of signs on town or state owned property, making that practice easy to address. He will pass the information on to Director of Community Development John Edgar so the Planning Board can decide if it wishes to address the matter of advertising on private property.

Selectman Worsman spoke in favor of the necessity of advertising particularly in these economic times in order to promote business and job growth. Her point of view is the less regulation, the better, and does not support the Planning Board regulating signs at this time.

Mr. Foster pointed out that there are less intrusive ways to advertise.

Selectman Palm had to submit an application in order to display a sign for the campground he owns and operates. The Town Manager explained that a real estate sign does not require the type of Zoning Board review that was necessary for his sign. Mr. Palm believes the matter needs further study, and that there are some instances where small signs might be appropriate.

Resident Garrett Highstrom has safety concerns because often times the signs are placed in such a way that they obstruct views.

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

Selectman Brothers reported that the Local Energy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening. He will update the Board at their next meeting.

Selectman Torr reported that the Waukewan Watershed Committee is scheduled to meet at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**10-54 Transfer Station Discussion (continued)**

The Town Manager researched alternatives presented at the last transfer station discussion, and determined that the easiest, most effective way to solve the problem is to follow the model employed in Brewster, MA. In Brewster, local recycling or picking, has successfully been allowed. At the facility, people are allowed to pick from the metal pile if an item is within reach while they are standing on the ground. Climbing on the pile is not allowed. Items are left in the pile for a minimum of 24 hours. There is no commercial activity allowed, including scraping or taking to a secondary source to sell. The practice is designed for a person that wishes to take an individual item, such as a bicycle. The process would be fairly easy for the Town to police. There will be no additional staff time involved. In an attempt to absolve the town of as much liability as possible, it is proposed that a disclaimer be signed when stickers are issued next year. The Town Manager recommends that picking be reinstated immediately following the installation of signage setting forth the rules for picking at the facility. In addition, a surveillance camera will be installed. To the extent possible, employees at the facility will be removed from an enforcement role. Employees will be instructed to contact a member of the management team if unauthorized activity takes place. The Town Manager has requested an opinion from legal counsel at LGC regarding liability issues. A response has not been received at this time.

Selectman Brothers has some concerns with liability, but thinks this is a better solution than what was in place. From his perspective, a disclaimer acknowledging that an individual is picking at their own risk is an important piece. He suggested that those who pick are asked to sign a disclaimer immediately. The Town Manager explained that while there might be an issue with

handing out disclaimers at this time, even though there are a relatively small number of people who pick, the surveillance camera will capture all actions on film. Beginning next year, a sticker will not be issued unless a release is signed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Selectman Torr moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Brothers. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Phillip L. Warren, Town Manager

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Charles G. Palm, Chairman

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Colette Worsman, Vice Chairman

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Peter F. Brothers

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Miller C. Lovett

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Nathan J. Torr