

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING**  
**Minutes of 12-06-10**  
**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 5:35 p.m. He introduced the Board and Town Manager, and made announcements pertaining to fire exits, listening assisted devices, the use of microphones, and cell phones.

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

**10 -56 Minutes of the November 15, 2010 Workshop and Regular Board Meeting**

*Selectman Brothers motioned to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2010 Workshop and Regular Board meeting. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- A letter was received from Sanbornton resident Brendon Morrison regarding the condition of roads identified as Drake Rd. and Huber Dr., which are located between the Towns of Meredith and Sanbornton. The Town Manager visited the roads in question, and noted that while they may need some attention, the fact that they are very lightly traveled should be considered. Mr. Morrison has been notified in writing that Public Works Director Mike Faller will confer with his counterpart in Sanbornton on the matter. The Sanbornton Board of Selectmen will be notified of the matter.

- The Town Manager received a letter from DES soliciting the Town's formal opinion on Lake Waukewan. Specifically, DES is interested in information relative to how impoundment levels may affect issues or conditions affecting the Town, so that they may be considered prior to issuing a final determination on how the dam at the outlet of the Lake will be managed in the future. The Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee received a similar letter. The Committee was instructed not to respond to the request until the Board of Selectmen are consulted. It is the Town Manager's position that as long as the level of the Lake is not dropped below 23', it will not affect the intake for the dam, and the Town has no formal position. He is concerned with the request because it was previously made clear by DES that it is responsible for decisions regarding the level of Lake Waukewan.

Selectman Brothers is confused about the intent of the letter. A number of hearings were hosted by DES to receive input from respective groups with an interest in the Lake level, and soliciting the Town's opinion at this time is contradictory to the spirit of those hearings. He hopes that a

resolution is made fairly and expeditiously, that the opinions expressed at the hearings are considered, and that the decision is not made based on a specified timeframe.

The Town Manager believes the action should have been taken in the summer when the majority of landowners that are directly affected by the matter are present.

There was a general agreement that it is the Board's position that all testimony received from landowners should be considered in the process, and the decision should be based on such testimony and consideration of impacts, as opposed to meeting a timeframe or benchmark. The Town's position is that the matter is related to the quality of the drinking water supply; however, it was made very clear by DES that it is making the decisions.

Selectman Lovett takes no offense to the fact that the state claimed jurisdiction over the matter. The matter impacts the Town, and he suggested earlier in the process that the Town should take a position on the matter. He believes that the lake level has been consistently higher than it was this summer in the past, and that there were no major problems prior to the occurrence of a hundred year flood. Selectman Lovett testified that the data used by DES to arrive at a solution this past summer pointed to a solution different than the one that was implemented. If the Town Manager, Board, and Town considered the facts and entered into the discussion of the lake level previous to this time, they would be in a more favorable position than they now finds themselves. He sees no reason not to render an opinion now that it is being solicited.

Selectman Torr believes that it is too late for the Town's opinion to be thoughtfully considered by the state. The data they requested has been supplied, and it is now up to them to arrive at a conclusion.

Selectman Worsman's understanding is that DES is responsible for making decisions on the matter, and to begin the process all over again so the Town can weigh in at a meaningful level is counterproductive to the project.

Chair Palm agrees that lake levels relative to water quality are a high concern for the Town, and should be expressed in the response. In addition, he suggested that DES should be soliciting input from abutting towns on Lake Waukegan and Winona Lake, as well as the Monkey Pond area. The message from DES has been that setting the lake level is no longer the town's responsibility, and that the Town managed the matter improperly in the past.

The Town Manager will forward a draft response letter to the Board this week that will include a statement that DES should consider heavily the testaments and comments made by all landowners, and that the quality of drinking water is a high concern for the Town. The Board will have an opportunity to review and critique the letter before it is put in final form.

- The Village Pathways Safe Routes for School Committee will meet on Thursday, December 9, at 2 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex. There will be staff representation at the meeting.

- Architect Christopher P. Williams has donated \$2,342.50 worth of architectural services for his work on the Child's Park building plan. The donation is made clear in the cover letter that accompanied his invoice for services. The Board directed the Town Manager to send a letter to Mr. Williams expressing appreciation for his generous donation of services.

- The Town Manager and managers from surrounding communities participating in the Winnepesaukee River Basin Program are meeting with DES Commissioners and Executive

Councilor Ray Burton regarding the governance piece of the Winnepesaukee River Basin Program. The goal is to develop a strategy to give the WRBP Advisory Board some level of authority, and to make them a partner and participant in the capital improvement and budget setting processes.

- The WRBP Advisory Board had a follow up meeting regarding the implementation of the ultra violet disinfection system. It was determined that the cost savings for a chlorine disinfection system weren't significant based on the fact that the UV system is at 95% design. In addition, it is believed that the operations and maintenance costs of electricity vs. chemicals is close. A significant amount of money would have to be refunded to the vendor because the purchase order has been submitted, and there are stranded costs from the design of the UV system. Under the strenuous objection of Water System Superintendent Dan Leonard, the Advisory Board voted to proceed with the UV project as it is set forth. It is the opinion of Mr. Leonard that the planning and development of this project has been poor, and that steps should have been taken to investigate alternate forms of disinfection before the design plans commenced. Mr. Leonard will be closely involved with future capital improvement projects. There are no other capital projects at the design stage at this time.

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

None

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

*Selectman Worsman was excused from the remainder of the meeting in order to attend a Belknap County Commission Meeting.*

Selectman Brothers reported on the Local Energy Committee. An Energy Day will be held at the community center sometime around mid-January. It will include displays by various local vendors in the energy conservation field; as well as representatives from the Public Utilities Commission, New Hampshire Electric Coop, and local lenders. There will be key note speakers and energy related door prizes will be awarded. The goal is to encourage people to create a slightly smaller carbon footprint and realize a savings in their overall utility costs. Additional details will be known at the Board meeting two weeks from this date.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **10-57 Village Pathway Committee Volunteer Application**

Resident Christine Schwidder has submitted a volunteer application to serve on the Village Pathways Committee. The Chair of the Committee recommends that she be appointed as a member. Ms. Schwidder is knowledgeable about the community and surrounding area and will continue to provide a wide range of expertise to the Committee as it continues to focus on future connections and pathways in Meredith. The Town Manager recommends that Ms. Schwidder be appointed to the Meredith Village Pathways Committee.

*Selectman Torr motioned to appoint Christine Shwitter to the Meredith Village Pathways Committee.*

Dialogue ensued regarding the composition of the committee and the excellent work it has accomplished. Selectman Lovett suggested having Select Board representation on the committee.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**ADJOURNAMENT:**

*Selectman Brothers moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Torr. 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