

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of 03-16-09
5:35 p.m.

Selectmen:

Peter F. Brothers, Chairman
Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman
Robert C. Flanders
Charles G. Palm
Colette Worsman

Co-Interim Town Managers:

John C. Edgar
Brenda L. Vittner

Recording Clerk:

Karin Landry

Call to Order: Chairman Peter Brothers called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. He introduced the Board, Co-Interim Town Managers, 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:

09-14 Minutes of the February 9 Non-Public Meeting, the February 17 Workshop, and the February 23 Workshop and Regular Meeting.

Selectman Flanders motioned to accept the minutes of the February 9 Non-Public Meeting, the February 17 Workshop, and the February 23 Workshop and Regular Meeting as presented. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

INTERIM TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

The Town Managers had nothing to report.

VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

None

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

Selectman Flanders expressed concerns with the accessibility of voting booths for those with walking disabilities. For the most part, there is adequate handicapped parking at the community center; however, the distance from the designated handicapped spaces to the voting booths could be improved. He suggested having assistance available for those with disabilities, and more than one wheelchair on site. The Chair agreed that the Board should consider opportunities to better accommodate those with walking disabilities. He noted that in general, the recent election went reasonably well.

Selectman Worsman gave notice that she will arrive late to the March 23 Workshop.

NEW BUSINESS:

09-15 Post Town Meeting Organization/Discussion

Chair Peter Brothers opened the discussion by thanking the Board members for their effort, patience, and individual opinions during the past year. The group functioned well and responsibly. He appreciates the time and effort put in by the Co-Interim Town Managers, and asked them to pass thanks on to the employees and department heads for a good, strong year. Co-Chair Miller Lovett agrees that this has been a great year, and expressed the Board's appreciation for the leadership the Chair has brought to the table. Although the Board may not always agree with one another, their conversations often times stimulate other ideas. Selectman Flanders agrees that the Board has been able to move forward productively under the leadership of Chair Brothers.

Co-Interim Town Manager Brenda Vittner conducted the reorganization of the Board.

Chairman:

Selectman Flanders nominated Peter Brothers as Chairman of the Board. The nomination was seconded by Selectman Palm.

Selectman Worsman pointed out that serving as Chair is a stressful and time-consuming commitment, and suggested that the Board employ the past practice of filling the position on a rotating basis. Doing so will spread the additional responsibilities involved in serving as Chair, and gives everybody on the Board the opportunity to serve. She suggested the nomination of Miller Lovett as Chair. Selectman Flanders does not believe that using a rotation of the Board works with a five-person Board. He is in favor of Selectman Brothers continuing in the capacity of Chair for another year, and believes it is in the best interest of the Board and the Town. Although Selectman Lovett is interested in serving as Chair, he appreciates Selectman Brothers efforts and thinks there is merit to serving for more than one term. Selectman Brothers expressed his desire to serve for another year. Although the Board is diverse, they have worked well together, and there are significant issues that lie ahead for the Town of Meredith. Selectman Palm commented on the leadership brought to the table by the Chair, and supports the nomination. Although Selectman Worsman is concerned with the additional burden of acting as Chair, she is very much in support of the nomination.

5-0. All in favor on the nomination of Peter Brothers as Chairman.

Vice-Chairman:

Selectman Palm nominated Bob Flanders as Vice Chairman. The nomination was not seconded.

Chair Brothers nominated Miller Lovett as Vice Chairman. Seconded by Selectman Worsman.

Although Selectman Worsman appreciates the nomination of Bob Flanders as Vice Chairman, she thinks that Selectman Lovett did a good job over the past year. She encouraged the Chair to utilize the Vice-Chairman whenever possible to alleviate his work load. Selectman Lovett accepted the nomination.

Selectman Flanders nominated Chuck Palm as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Chair Brothers. Selectman Palm prefers to utilize his expertise in the area of finance to address the budget, and is not interested in serving as Vice-Chair for the upcoming year.

5-0. All in favor of the nomination of Miller Lovett as Vice-Chairman.

Planning Board Representative:

Selectman Worsman nominated Bob Flanders as the Planning Board representative. Seconded by Selectman Palm.

The Board expressed their appreciation for Selectman Flanders years of service as the Planning Board representative. The position is demanding and very important. The Board agreed that it is important to have continuity in appointing the Planning Board representative. Selectman Flanders has a professional background that supports his serving on the Board. Selectman Flanders accepted the nomination.

5.0. All in favor of the nomination of Bob Flanders as Planning Board representative.

Alternate Planning Board Representative:

Selectman Lovett nominated Chuck Palm as the alternate Planning Board Representative. Seconded by Selectman Worsman.

The alternate member may not be called upon to attend the meetings, but must stay well informed of all matters before the Planning Board. The alternate representative commits to the same level of time and energy as the regular representative, but does not participate in decision making. Selectman Palm accepted the nomination.

5-0. All in favor of the nomination of Chuck Palm as alternate Planning Board representative.

Capital Improvement Committee Representative:

Selectman Worsman nominated Miller Lovett as the Capital Improvement Committee representative. Seconded by Selectman Palm.

Serving as the Capital Improvement Committee representative is an important piece of the budget process. The Chair spoke in favor of the nomination. Selectman Lovett accepted the nomination.

5-0. All in favor of the nomination of Miller Lovett as Capital Improvement Committee representative.

Alternate Capital Improvement Committee Representative:

Selectman Lovett nominated Peter Brothers as alternate Capital Improvement Committee representative.

Chair Brothers accepted the nomination.

5-0. All in favor of the nomination of Peter Brothers as alternate Capital Improvement Committee representative.

Water System Committee Representative:

Selectman Palm nominated Miller Lovett as the Water System Committee representative. Seconded by Selectman Worsman.

Selectman Lovett expressed a willingness to serve on Committee. Dialogue ensued regarding various options in appointing the Committee representative. Selectman Palm served as the Alternate Committee representative in the past. His background in the fire service is beneficial to the committee. The appointment of Selectman Palm as the Committee representative will aid in disbursing the work load among the Selectmen.

Selectman Palm withdrew the nomination of Miller Lovett as the Water System Committee representative.

Selectman Lovett nominated Chuck Palm as the Water System Committee Representative. Seconded by Selectman Worsman.

Selectman Palm accepted the nomination.

5-0. All in favor of the nomination of Chuck Palm as the Water System Committee representative.

Alternate Water System Committee Representative:

Selectman Lovett nominated Colette Worsman and himself as alternate Water System Committee representatives. Seconded by Selectman Palm.

Selectmen Lovett and Worsman have had prior experience on the Committee and are willing to accept the nomination.

5-0. All in favor of the nomination of Miller Lovett and Colette Worsman as alternate Water System Committee representatives.

Selectman Worsman will attend the Water System Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 19, at the Town Hall Annex.

Belknap Economic Development Council:

Miller Lovett was nominated as the Council representative at a recent Board meeting. He will serve until such time as a new Town Manager is situated, or another Board member is appointed.

Route 3/25 Advisory Committee Representative:

Chair Brothers nominated Collette Worsman as the primary representative on the Advisory Committee. Seconded by Selectman Palm.

The Committee has not been active over the past year, but it is anticipated that it will become active in the spring. Serving on the Committee allows the Board an opportunity to interact with department heads and staff, and offers an overview of what has been proposed in the past. Selectman Worsman accepted the nomination.

5-0. All in favor of the nomination of Collette Worsman to the Route 3/25 Advisory Committee.

Alternate Route 3/25 Advisory Committee Representative:

Selectman Lovett nominated Chuck Palm as the alternate Route 3/25 Advisory Committee Representative. Seconded by Selectman Flanders.

In view of the anticipated increased activity of the Committee, the Board agreed that it is wise to appoint an alternate representative. Selectman Palm accepted the nomination.

5-0. All in favor of the nomination of Chuck Palm as the alternate Advisory Committee representative.

Waukegan Watershed Committee Representative:

Selectman Lovett nominated Bob Flanders as the Committee representative. Seconded by Chair Brothers.

It is not necessary for the Committee liaison to attend all meetings, however, they need to review the minutes and stay informed of the work of the Committee. Selectman Flanders has served as Committee representative in the past. He accepted the nomination.

The Chair expressed his appreciation for the willingness of the Board to serve as representatives on the various committees.

NEW BUSINESS/MISCELLANEOUS:**Town Meeting**

Selectman Worsman pointed out that 55% of those who cast votes at the recent Town Meeting voted in favor of SB2, indicating that a majority of the community wants to see greater voter participation. A petition asking the Board to evaluate all options available to the Town for alternate forms of government was received at Town Meeting. The options would then be placed on next year's ballot. The Chair agreed that it is the responsibility of the Board to investigate the options for alternate forms of government. The Town is seeking advice from legal counsel regarding its obligations as a result of the petition. Several workshops will be scheduled in the near future to address the matter.

Selectman Palm suggested making the Talking Points available to residents earlier than they were this year. Selectman Worsman suggested posting them on-line. The Board's goal is to create greater awareness of the issues in an effort to encourage increased participation in Town affairs.

An extended discussion on Trust Funds took place at Town Meeting. Because the issues surrounding Trust Funds cannot be resolved at Town meeting, Selectman Lovett suggested the Board address them in an effort to establish a policy that would please people on both sides. He supports trust funds as a tool for projecting and planning for the future. The matter has been placed on the list of topics for future meetings. The Chair suggested a cash flow analysis for each of the trust funds.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman Flanders motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. and move into a Non-Public meeting pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(b) after a short break. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. Selectmen polled. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Edgar, Co-Interim Town Mgr.

Peter F. Brothers, Chairman

Brenda L. Vittner, Co-Interim Town Mgr.

Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman

Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

Robert C. Flanders

Charles G. Palm

Colette Worsman