

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of 08-17-09
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:

09-43 Minutes of the July 20 Regular Meeting; July 20 and August 3 Workshops; and July 20 and August 3 Non-Public Meetings.

The Chair announced that the minutes of the August 3 Workshop will be held for corrections.

Selectman Flanders motioned to accept the minutes of the July 20 Regular Meeting, the July 20 Workshop, and the July 20 and August 3 Non-Public Meetings. Seconded by Selectman Palm. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

INTERIM TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- As part of the sewer system evaluation study, approximately 600' of sewer line will be replaced on Main Street between the former grange building and the Waukegan Street intersection. The construction will last approximately 2-3 weeks. Co-Interim Town Manager John Edgar updated the Board on the project. Traffic will be open to properties fronted on the construction zone, but closed to through traffic from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. during the construction period. Sidewalks will be accessible during all aspects of construction. No open trenching will be left in the evenings, and there will be no overnight parking on Main Street. Construction will begin on August 31. A two-week advance notification will be given to properties and businesses in the area. The Police Department will coordinate with the bus transportation service, the school and the Superintendent's office. The Town's electronic message board will be utilized to discourage cut through traffic from 104. There is likely to be some interruption in

services to local property owners. The notice to property owners will include contact information for them if they have further questions. Final coordination of the project will take place at a staff meeting with representatives from various departments tomorrow. Copies of the construction notice and detour map will be delivered to local property owners.

Mr. Edgar will investigate whether the new sewer line will be larger than the existing line, in order to provide additional capacity in the future.

- Co-Interim Town Manager Brenda Vittner reported on the court-authorized sobriety checkpoint conducted by the Police Department on Daniel Webster Highway on August 15 and 16 from 9:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. Of the 150 vehicles that were processed, there were 2 arrests (DWI and possession of controlled drugs), 3 motor vehicle summons were issued (possession of tobacco by a minor and operating without a valid license), and 42 warnings for miscellaneous violations. A survey was handed out to all vehicles that were processed to allow for feedback on the checkpoint and impact on the community. A saturation patrol was in place in the vicinity of the checkpoint that resulted in 2 arrests for DWI, 1 for driving after suspension and suspended registration, 4 sobriety checkups and 19 warnings for various violations. The number of arrests appeared proportionate with the number of vehicles on the roadways and shows the need for DWI awareness and apprehension in the community.

- Ms. Vittner reported on vandalism that took place last weekend at various locations throughout the Town including the Pleasant Street crosswalk, benches at Scenic Park, Town Docks, Town Hall, Community Park, and the Library. The Public Works and Buildings and Grounds departments are in the process of cleaning up and repairing the damage.

VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

None

SELECTMENS COMMENTS:

- Selectmen Worsman reported on the Belknap County Commissioners information invitational she attended with Selectman Lovett last week. Representatives from a majority of surrounding communities were in attendance. The County Commissioners welcomed input from communities on how County and Town governments can work together to create efficiencies. The Commissioners next step is to call representatives from each Town together for continued dialogue, but Selectman Lovett believes that change must come from the willingness of communities themselves. Regionalization of police, fire, and schools has the potential of hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings, but the biggest barrier is getting the towns to do something about it. He suggests setting up a joint meeting with surrounding towns that are located in Belknap County to continue dialogue on regionalization, and thereby encouraging other towns to do the same. The County can play a role in organizing communities to make regional purchases that would

create better buying power for supplies such as salt. There is a consensus among the Board that there is a need for better communication by the State and County government.

- Selectman Flanders reported on the new meeting schedule for the Planning Board. As a result of a decline in applications, beginning in September, the Board will meet once a month as opposed to twice a month. The meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month.
- Selectman Flanders inquired about a meeting of various individuals that was scheduled to take place last week regarding the purchase of a large piece of property on the Snake River for conservation purposes. The meeting did not take place because there is an entity that has made an offer on the property to facilitate its conservation.
- Selectman Lovett reported on a recent meeting that addressed milfoil issues. In response to the meeting, nine individuals are willing to take training to recognize milfoil and take steps to prevent its spread. He asked that any other individuals who are interested in the training speak up. Dialogue ensued regarding the spread of milfoil and the need for a master plan to eradicate it, as well as treatments that have been undertaken in the past, and various techniques for removing milfoil. Selectman Lovett suggested that associations along the shore can make a difference in their area through financial contributions and efforts to control milfoil. Mr. Edgar will follow up with Jody Connor of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to inquire about the success of treatments on Lake Winnisquam that the Town contributed to. There was a consensus among the Board that it would be beneficial to schedule a workshop to continue dialogue regarding the fight against milfoil.

Resident Jim Hughes suggested that there needs to be better follow up treatments 2-3 years after the initial treatment. In addition, he expressed concerns he has heard from many boaters and residents regarding the increased number of moorings on the Lake Waukegan.

NEW BUSINESS:

09-44 Board Appointments

The Board took action to appoint Mark B. Billings, who is currently serving as an alternate on the Conservation Commission, as a regular member. He will fill an unexpired term on the Commission. His application comes with an endorsement from the Conservation Commission and a recommendation from Mr. Edgar. Mr. Billings was active in the Page Pond fundraising efforts and has a passion for conservation.

Selectman Flanders motioned to appoint Mr. Mark Billings as a Regular Member of the Meredith Conservation Commission. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chair announced that there will be a non-public meeting regarding personnel per RSA 91-A:3 II (b), after a short recess.

Selectman Lovett motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Flanders. 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