



Selectmen's Meeting
Town Office
Wednesday, May 29, 2013
6:00 P.M.

Present: Selectmen Sam Seppala, Roberta Oeser, Dan Aho, Town Administrator Carlotta Lilback Pini, and Executive Secretary Nicole Sesia

Approved Minutes

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Jordan Grason RE: April 2013 tax bill. The evaluation of my land has changed from \$400 to \$40,700, where my house lot has not changed. Dave DuVernay had said that I am eligible for tax abatement. There is no way to build on this lot it is too small. Carlotta explained that when Todd Heywood from Granite Appraisal did an assessment of Rindge; he found there were a number of parcels without a site index and instructed Dave to fix this. Doing this has increased lots that are unbuildable to "buildable lots". These values are not consistent with market values. She suggested that the Grason's pursue merging the lots. Mr Grason's taxes went from \$10 to \$1,002. Roberta stated if it's not a buildable lot it is assessed way lower. Mr. Grason stated he would like to keep it at two separate lots. Dan- the \$7,000 sounds more reasonable than the 40,000 for an unbuildable lot. Jordan agrees with the \$7,000 but not the \$40,000. Dan suggested having Dave DuVernay look into it and find a reasonable rate for the taxes. Dave DuVernay agreed to look into the tax rating and keep in touch with Mr. Grason to find a reasonable value.

Roberta stated Memorial Day was a beautiful day and a very nice event.

Carlotta added that she would like to thank all the veterans and all the people involved in putting the Memorial Day parade together.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Pat Martin from the Energy committee presents a request for a proposal for the police station lighting. She said the police station seems very over lit. She understands it must meet all standards required but noted they are not light specialist and we feel there are too many lights that are on all the time. The energy committee likes the idea of having infrared detectors that detect movement that detect occupancy and emptiness, to try and make it more energy efficient. Lighting is about 60% of the electric bill. We would like to hire an illumination engineer and look at the bulbs and see if we could downsize the cost anywhere. We decided not to go with PSNH even though they offer the service because they only come to replace bulbs with lower energy use bulbs. It would only be a couple hundred dollars to hire a lighting specialist which will be paid for through the warrant article. Pat said they could save at least a third hopefully more like a half of the electric bill. Police Chief Morrill said he supports any efforts to try and save money and likes the idea of motion sensor lights. Pat added they are going to look into the hot water heater and seeing about upgrading it, along with trying to upgrade appliances (refrigerators, etc.).

Roberta moved to approve the Energy Committee to send out for an illumination expert Dan seconded and, all voted in favor of the motion.

Roberta Motions to approve the accounts payable and the payroll for weeks 5/22 and 5/29 Dan seconded and, all voted in favor of the motion.

Roberta makes a motion to approve the minutes from the 5/7 and 5/18 Board of Selectmen meeting as amended Dan seconded and, all voted in favor of the motion.

Beautification committee, Barbara Wells said they plant and maintain the recycling center, the town office, pavilion, rec center, library, and police station gardens. They go to the local supermarkets to get donations for the distressed flowers. They have asked organizations in the prior years to give them some supplies (Flowers, mulch, and money). They have about \$240 in their account. The hanging baskets will cost about \$120 and then flowers. Wal-Mart usually gives them a 25 dollar gift card. Craig commented on how the committee always comes back and waters throughout the summer. Carlotta reminded all that anytime money is accepted into the town it is to be accepted by the Board of Selectmen.

Mid-Grant Public Hearing

NH FastRoads Community Development Block Grant

Selectman Sam Seppala moves to open the public hearing.

Lola Grab, Grant Administrator with Keene Housing Authority explains that a Mid-Grant hearing is a requirement for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). NH Community Development Finance Authority administers CDBG funds. The Public Hearing is to inform the Town of the progress and take public comment.

The Town of Rindge applied for funds on behalf of NH FastRoads, LLC for business expansion and \$100,000 was awarded. Of these funds, Rindge sub-granted \$85,000 to Monadnock Economic Development Corp. (MEDC), the balance is allocated to administration costs. MEDC loaned the funds to NH FastRoads as working capital to support the expansion of open access broadband in the southwest and west central regions of the State. A total of seven jobs will be created directly by NH FastRoads. Match funds for the project consist of \$190,000 from the NH CDFA tax credit program.

At this time, the project is behind schedule. The grant period ends June 30, 2013; an extension of the grant period has been requested. The request will go before Governor & Council for approval later in June. If the grant extension is not approved, the funds that NH FastRoads has received must be paid back.

Carole Monroe, Executive Director, NH FastRoads explained that NH FastRoads is part of a much larger project in the state, Network New Hampshire Now- New Hampshire Optical Systems middle-mile network from Orford to Rindge, NH. NH FastRoads is unable to create the jobs required as a condition of the CDBG funding until the network is in place and functional.

The University of NH Grants office has requested an extension of the construction project due to circumstances involving pole attachment processes. Delays in construction of the middle mile and in Enfield have delayed New Hampshire FastRoads ability to light the network. NH FastRoads has all the fiber terminated and ready to go. We are looking to have friendly users on by June and should be up and running by July.

We are hearing from people in the east Rindge who have limited access and not so much from people, who have the high-speed broadband. This gives us an idea on which parts of town are lacking technology.

Selectman Roberta Oeser makes a motion to close the Public Hearing, Selectman Dan Aho seconded and, all voted in favor of the motion.

Camper permits

Carlotta reported that the Board has received two applications for camper permits.

Roberta Oeser said she has thought about this a lot and believes that people should be able to have whoever they want on their property as long as it doesn't infringe on other people's property. It limits their rights to have to have someone deciding what is on their property. We can send a letter to the abutters saying we are intending to grant the permit. Carlotta said she believes that the abutter will show up at the meeting in 2 weeks and share his concerns so the Board can hear them and make good decisions. June is fairly close; Roberta added that they would need to make a decision tonight. Carol has a special circumstances, her son comes on weekends and then leaves.

Dan Aho motioned to conditionally approve the applications until the June 12th meeting, Roberta Oeser seconded and, all voted in favor of the motion.

Kim McCumings from the Planning Board- the reasons the setbacks were taken out of the old policy was due to there being no way to enforce them throughout town fairly.

Don Jacobs re: Performance Management Program

Mr. Jacobs said he was asking the Board to approve the components of the program. The next step would then be the department heads to present their plans for this fiscal year.

Carlotta explained that since the Town started working with Don, the department heads' homework was to write job duties and objectives. They have been fine-tuned and the Selectmen have them tonight in the Draft Management Plan. The department heads are learning how to spell out what they think they will be evaluated on. The first is a practice cycle, they have done with step one and coming to the Board to approve step two, after the budget is approved we will meet again to make sure we can still accomplish those objectives. In the fall, the department heads will be thinking about their objectives for 2014 and submit them with the budget. Everyone will know what has been done and what will be done. Roberta asked how do the department heads get reviewed by the employees, she only sees this as a top down type of process. Started with filling out or correcting current job descriptions and have corrected them. Sam said typically people see it as a financial, how does the employee win financially and the town win financially. Don said it's a process to get to the financial success.

Carlotta reported that Mike had prepared a memo to obtain bids on the paving project. He advertised in the Monadnock Ledger Transcript and got 5 bids; he met with three and spoke with one on the phone. PJ Keating was the lowest at \$68.84 per ton. The total cost is \$206,520.

Roberta moved to award the bid to PJ Keating Dan seconded and, all in voted in favor of the motion.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Carlotta reported that Ellen has been working hard, getting ready for the 2012 audit. She has spent a lot of time scanning the documents which the auditors usually do, to cut down their time. Dan asked if we are locked into any contract for the auditors. Carlotta explained that we have talked to the auditors every year and we have worked with them to keep the prices low. The auditors will be here the 2nd week in June (the 10th), and they camp out all week.

Carlotta said the next couple of Saturdays after the June 3rd court date are available for the school, so that we could get Deliberative Session as soon as possible. Ellen added that we have to get absentee ballots sent out we will need a good month before we could have the voting session. Dan is gone the June 8th-15th.

The Meeting House Committee will be coming to the board with the window project to award the bid soon we are finished with the estimates.

Senior housing- There was about \$500 left over, which will be used to purchase a sundial to honor tge people who were involved in the project.

The Hunt case has been remanded to the ZBA. There is a 30 day appeal period so they won't be hearing it until July.

The Farmers market is now open every Thursday.

The Economic Develop Task Force has taken the summer off.

Town Gown Committee has a meeting Wednesday.

Rick Donovan, the Emergency Management Director is reconvening the emergency operations planning committee.

The Safety Committee has been reviewing building inspection reports to prioritize what to address first.

The Roadway Committee is meeting next Thursday

The Cemetery Trustees meeting is this Thursday.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS / COMMUNICATION

Board of Selectmen's policies and ordinances books were passed out. There are some policies that are old and need to be revised.

Adjournment 8:30