



**Selectmen's Meeting  
Town Office  
Wednesday, July 25, 2012**

Present: Jed Brummer, Chair; Roberta Oeser, Selectmen; Sam Seppala, Selectman; Carlotta Pini, Town Administrator; Linda Stonehill, Administrative Asst.

**APPROVED MINUTES**

6:00pm Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Jacinta Saginario wants to rent the Wellington Rec. Center for her brother's wedding and would like to serve wine. The Selectmen were concerned about waiving the Town building no-alcohol policy for this event because there's no licensed caterer naming the Town as an additional insured and the Town would be liable for alcohol-related incidents.

MOTION: Roberta motioned to grant the waiver if Jacinta acquires a licensed purveyor of alcoholic spirits whose license assumes liability, Jed seconded, and Sam voted nay.

John Kauer asked about the status of the FastRoads project, and Carlotta said it's moving forward with completion planned for early next year. WaveGuide is already engineering our connections, and PSNH and Fairpoint have been contacted for pole licenses. FastRoads will be using some of the grant-funded I-Beam project fiber which has connected Peterborough to Fitzwilliam and up Route 12. In September, an open house will detail the services available.

Kauer asked about the auditors in the Town Office, and Carlotta explained that they were reviewing the financial statements for the general fund as well as the library and trust funds, and preparing the MS-5 which goes to the Dept. of Revenue before the tax rate's set. Ellen's work as Accountant has enabled the auditors to do their work in less time. We're in good shape for the accounting of different departments.

Carlotta said the Town received a credit of about \$13,000 towards its 2013 workers' comp bill as part of a settlement agreement with the State. This money could go towards our legal budget which is overspent.

Mike Cloutier received an email from the DOT saying they would try to address Cathedral Road in 2013 under their "Betterment Program." We need to find out what that is. Meanwhile, Mike is gathering quotes on the exhaust system.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Approval of: Manifests: Accounts Payable & Payroll

MOTION: Roberta motioned to approve the accounts payable and payroll manifests, Jed seconded, and all were in favor.

MOTION: Sam motioned to approve the transfer of \$7,789.83 from the general fund to the special revenue transfer fund, Roberta seconded, and all were in favor.

Jed: Camp Quest is a collaboration between Jaffrey-Rindge Middle School, the Rotary, and Franklin Pierce University. This month-long summer camp for middle school children, held three to four days a week on the Franklin Pierce campus, offers morning classes in math, English, and technology followed by fun afternoon activities including sailing, fishing, drama, archery, and movies. The kids seem to enjoy this growing program. Another resource is Camp Wildwood, in Annett State Forest, which is run by Mass Audubon. About 100 campers are guided by camp leaders from all over the world who are trained in team building. Director Bob Spears wants to reach out to organizations who might like to use Camp Wildwood's facilities. Richard Mellor added that Camp Wildwood made four tent platforms and a fire pit for us and we'd like to recognize them in some way.

Continued Public Hearing re: Acceptance of Monadnock View Road as a Town road

Monadnock View Road is part of the Taggart Meadow subdivision that was created in the 1980s and includes two roads already accepted by the Town: Meadow View Road and Taggart Circle. Monadnock View Road initially did not meet standards due to construction and drainage issues so the Town asked the developer, Mr. Bob Van Dyke, to fix it, after which he asked that it be accepted as a Town road. The Roadway Committee, citizens, and members of the Planning Board supported that but Mike Cloutier, Public Works Director, cautioned about the financial impact of taking on more roads, noting that it costs the taxpayers about \$742.90 to plow half a mile, and then there are the added costs of maintaining the road, unplugging culverts, etc. Roberta said the Selectmen's former policy was to accept new roads only through warrant articles. The consensus was that Rindge needs to upgrade its roads and we should increase the Highway budget instead of depleting and level-funding it.

MOTION: Sam motioned to accept Monadnock View Road as a Town road, Roberta seconded, and all were in favor.

Milfoil management in Lake Contoocook

Ted Covert, President of the 175-home Contoocook Lake Association, along with Vice President Jim Greer, described the threats posed by milfoil and other invasive weeds. Volunteers and paid divers (financed 40-50% by the DES), have been pulling up milfoil by the roots (100 gallons of it just this morning) and will need to do so indefinitely. Without this program, people could probably walk across Contoocook Lake by now. Chemical poisoning is less desirable (since it can harm wildlife and there are only 274 pairs of nesting loons in NH) and the poison actually only kills the top of the plant which disintegrates on the lake bottom and just grows back later. Jed said that some ponds have been taken over 70-80% by milfoil. Ted also suggested that everyone to use detergent without phosphorus to suppress weed growth.

Capital Improvements Program Committee

Ted Covert, Chair of the CIP, asked whether the Town really wants a Capital Improvement Plan because each year the Dept. Heads submit a list of what the Town needs, but for the past five years, no money has been set aside. He advised that \$40-50,000 be saved each year for a new fire engine, and that the Town, like a homeowner, save for cyclical repairs. Carlotta: The Capital Improvements Program, designed to reduce fluctuations in the Town's expenditures, was formerly a Planning Board function and our Planning Director thinks there could be value in that. But because the CIP committee was formed by town meeting vote, it would require another town meeting vote to delegate it back to the Planning Board.

So, this year the CIP will meet with the Dept. Heads and incorporate their capital improvements requests into a plan; they'll then bring their recommendations to the Selectmen who will decide the warrant articles to bring forward. Roberta noted that the voters will need to decide whether they want any surplus transferred into a CIP. Jed said that we've been very lucky so far and it might only take one crisis to wipe out the surplus. Sam said that, whether or not we can fund our needs, it's good to at least know what they are. Jed expressed appreciation for the CIP Committee's work and hopes the new plan will bear fruit.

Richard Mellor, Southwest Regional Planning Commission: update

Richard: The Commission received a grant for \$3M to be distributed across nine planning divisions in the state. That's about \$300,000 to each--\$100,000 a year for three years for one full-time employee. The project is to look at all the charrettes in the region, develop a regional plan, and, at the end of the three years, package the regional plans for the entire state. So, first, they'll reach out to each town in the region. Rindge is no longer a member, so

although they'll still hear our input, it might be a good time to re-engage. It's good to know what's going on in the region and be part of the big picture, know what bills are before the legislature, etc.

Abatement requests:

**a) Marge Stratton: 16 Monadnock View Road**

Roberta and Dave DuVernay visited the house and saw that the materials used—granite counters in the bathroom, hardwood floors, a curved staircase, and expensive deck work—were certainly above average regardless of how they were installed. They felt the assessment was fair and the consensus was not to adjust it.

**b) Bill and Maryann Harper: 154 Sunridge Road**

Maryann: Todd told me all our lots weren't affected by formula changes in the 2010 revaluation and were manually adjusted. He said our neighborhood was rated a 9 then dropped to 7, but Little Meadowbrook remained a 6. Dave said Todd didn't realize that Little Meadowbrook with one house on it was part of the Sunridge development. Dave: We're trying to give you enough time to appeal to the BTLA by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. No response by July 1<sup>st</sup> could mean a denial. Maryann: Someone manually decreased our lot value between now and when I applied for an abatement in February. And Todd said I have a wood deck but it's a rubber roof. Dave: Lot 11-11 includes a condition factor of 80% which probably reflects that the land has a big stream. MaryAnn: I want you to go with the numbers I've provided because I feel I can back them up. Carlotta: Are your appraisals based on the 106.1% equalization ratio? MaryAnn: No. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Roberta motioned that lots 1-11, 12, 14, 15 be abated to the Harpers' requested amounts but the Lot 1, 11-10 be reduced to the town's suggested value of \$383,300. Sam seconded and all were in favor.

**c) Bob VanDyke: Map 50, Lots 44-47**

Bob had already left the meeting, so Dave will have to ask him to return in two weeks for the next meeting.

Police Chief Position: Hiring Process: Discussion followed about how residents could share what they see as the challenges facing Rindge and what they want from a new Police Chief, while an outside firm could help develop the job description, review resumes, and conduct interviews. The process would be completed within the six months the board has appointed Frank as Interim Chief. The board has heard from folks who support hiring Frank immediately as well as others who would like to see due process taken. The Selectmen believe that, as a governing body elected by residents, they can't just hand the Chief position over according to how much they like Frank individually but need to undergo a legitimate process that will validate the choice of the new Chief. Roberta said that, considering the different viewpoints in town, Frank might want that validation if he's chosen; it will be to his advantage to have it. Jed said that the public's input will help the new Chief start with full support.

The NH Chiefs' Association suggested a firm that does police personality testing and profiles, and consultant Mike Pardue suggested the public participate via focus groups, forums, and review of the final candidates. His estimate was \$2,000-\$2,500 to review resumes, conduct interviews, etc. Kauer said the citizen committee didn't work out before when they hired Chief Sielicki, and Roberta said that citizens' committee operated alone without any outside professional assistance.

Officer David Blake said he thinks the process might cause a morale issue in the Police Department. Officer Rachel Derosier said Frank's worked here for eight years and knows Rindge issues. She asked whether anyone's considered asking the police officers what they want, and added that other people don't know the inner workings of the Police Department but Frank knows the officers and they back him. She said the obvious choice is to give him the chance and asked why there's a hiring process if he's doing a great job. Roberta said she's received a lot of "you need to do the process" from people who are not against Frank but think the process should be done as they are in other Police Departments even when officers get promotions.

Frank: There are two agencies in Peterborough and Jaffrey and their Chiefs weren't selected as part of a process; they were selected from within and were a good fit. Jed: I don't disagree with that. Frank: Sometimes it requires

the professionalism of a Board to recognize the qualities. Sam: Professional input won't hurt. Carlotta: I would ask the Board to finalize this decision because it's been lingering out there for four weeks. Frank: You'll get bitten from either side from the public—people could say you wasted money and time by looking outside. Jed: I think it's unfair to Frank and his people to delay this any further. Carlotta: The new procurement policy requires three written proposals for this level of service. Time is of the essence, so I'll work on that tomorrow and ask for proposals.

MOTION: Jed motioned to hire some outside expertise to help us with the hiring process with the goal is to have this finalized by the end of October, Roberta seconded, and all were in favor.

Appointment of ADA Compliance Coordinator and adoption of 504 Grievance Procedure: Carlotta: We've received several community development block grants and need to provide the proper paperwork by July 31st. Fire Chief Rick Donovan has volunteered to be the required ADA (American Disabilities Act) Compliance Coordinator, and we'll add "504 Grievance Procedure" to the heading in the appropriate section of our personnel manual. Kim McCummings: The staff should be trained on what the grievance procedure is and Rick will need training on the ADA Compliance codes. The employees already have had training on the safety policy.

MOTION: Jed motioned that we appoint our Fire Chief, Rick Donovan, as ADA Compliance Coordinator with the proviso that he seek out training opportunities on all the necessary procedures and adopt the 504 Grievance Procedure in our handbook. Sam seconded, and all were in favor.

Decision re: modular offered by JRCSD After some discussion, it was decided to pass up the School District's offer of a mobile home for Town use (please see prior minutes for more on this topic). Carlotta: We've received memos from the Fire Chief and Road Agent, as well as input from The Planning Board, recommending that we not pursue this acquisition. Our own laws also prohibit mobile homes in the village.

MOTION: Roberta motioned that we not accept the generous offer from the school district for the modular, Sam seconded, and all were in favor.

MOTION: Roberta motioned to go from public to non-public for reputation, Sam seconded, and all were in favor. MOTION: Roberta motioned to leave Nonpublic session, seal the minutes, and re-enter public session, Sam seconded, and all were in favor.

#### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/COMMUNICATION

Ongoing business was discussed followed by mention of the Lake Water Quality presentation on Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Rec Center. At this presentation, three experts will talk about the serious matter of blue-green algae and other things. Also mentioned were the August 1<sup>st</sup> NHDOT meeting regarding the Forristall/Rte. 202 intersection and the DOT's plan to discontinue streetlights at the Rte. 119/202 intersection.

At 9:17pm, the Selectmen unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Stonehill, Administrative Assistant*