

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, January 6, 2014

Selectman Merrow called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM. Present were Selectmen Harry C. Merrow, Robert C. Freeman, and Richard H. Morgan, and Ellen White who recorded the minutes.

Selectman Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/30/2013 Selectmen's Meeting. Selectman Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Selectman Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting with Effingham Selectmen regarding the ambulance contract which also took place on 12/30/2013. Selectman Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The accounts payable voucher for week ending 1/4/2014 was presented in the amount of \$127,437.60. Selectman Merrow made a motion to approve these vouchers. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The payroll voucher for week ending 1/4/2014 was presented in the amount of \$116,085.85. Selectman Merrow made a motion to approve these vouchers. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Contract for Use of Facilities was received from Ossipee Main Street to use the gym for their Penny Sale on 1/11/2014, with a storm date of 1/12/2014. Selectman Merrow made a motion to approve the request. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Contract for Use of Facilities was received from the Rodney A. White Sr. VFW Ladies' Auxiliary to use the gym for their Penny Sale on 5/17/2014. Selectman Merrow made a motion to approve the request. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Selectman Merrow presented a letter addressed to the new businesses welcoming them to Town. Selectman Morgan stated that he would like the letter to be more personalized and not contain information about the Economic Revitalization Zone meeting. Merrow requested White revise the letter.

An Intent to Cut was received for the property located on Map 25, Lot 30, Jake's Seafood, to cut 12 acres from an 18-acre parcel. The logger listed is Stephen Bodkin. The property taxes are paid and there is no cemetery. Selectman Merrow made a motion to sign the intent. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for Abatement was received for the property located on Map 126, Lot 24, 12 Old Route 28. The property was transferred to the State of New Hampshire which is exempt from taxation. The request is to credit the pro-rated tax due after the transfer. Selectman Merrow made a motion to grant the abatement. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received programming updates from Time Warner Cable.

The Board received an email from Pat and David Farley of the Tamworth Economic Development Commission inviting them to their informational session being held at the Cook Library on 1/14/2014. Selectman Merrow stated that Ossipee is holding a meeting on the Economic Revitalization Zone on 1/27/2014. Selectman Merrow requested White contact Tamworth to let them know they would not be in attendance.

The Board received the Recycling Center Daily Cash Log for the month of December in the amount of \$1,758.65. Selectman Morgan asked how much it cost to collect the money. Selectman Merrow stated that he did not know.

The Board received a letter and report from ISO who conducted a survey on the Town building codes adopted and enforcement efforts put forth. The Town received an Effectiveness Grading Classification of 5 in 1-2 family residential property category and a 5 in the commercial/industrial category. Selectman Merrow stated that Ossipee received the highest rating in Carroll County. Merrow requested White send a copy of the letter to the Planning and Zoning Boards.

An Application for Veteran's Credit was received. All requirements having been met, Selectman Merrow made a motion to approve the application. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An Outdoor Event Application was received from Mother Earth's Creations for their PowWow event to take place July 5-6, August 9-10, and September 13-14. The application will be submitted to respective departments for approval prior to the Board's approval.

A Raffle Permit Application was received from Mother Earth's Creations for a raffle during their PowWow events in July, August and September. Selectman Morgan made a motion to approve the application. Selectman Merrow seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Brad Harriman, Public Works Director, submitted a letter he received from NH DOT stating the environmental process for the Whittier Covered Bridge project has been reviewed and approved. The project will proceed to final design.

The Board received two copies of the Categorical Exclusion for the Whittier Covered Bridge project from Hoyle, Tanner & Associates. Selectman Merrow stated they will be available to view in the Selectmen's Office.

The Board received the Highway Department work logs for weeks ending 12/21/2013, 12/28/2013 and 1/4/2014.

The Board received an Appeal Settlement Request from Todd Haywood, Assessor, for the property located on Map 20, Lot 11, 28 Danville Road. Haywood recommends reducing the value to \$265,000 for the 2012-2013 tax years to settle the BTLA Appeal. Selectman Merrow made a motion to approve the request. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received an email from the Mt. Washington Valley Economic Chamber of Commerce informing them of upcoming events in the area. Selectman Merrow stated this will be posted outside the Selectmen's Office.

The Board received an Application for Employment. Selectman Merrow stated it would be kept on file until a position opens.

Old Business:

Selectman Freeman asked Brad Harriman the status of the sign for the fees to be posted at the Recycling Center. Harriman stated it would be posted this year. Selectman Merrow asked Harriman about the parking signs at the 1 Moultonville Road property. Harriman stated these are on order and would be installed in the spring.

New Business:

Selectman Morgan asked Harriman if he had met with Kellie Skehan about the office renovations. Harriman stated that he had not yet.

Selectman Merrow asked Harriman what steps were being taken to prevent the pipes from refreezing in the Town Hall. Harriman stated he would like to properly insulate while the renovations are being done.

This concluded the business portion of the meeting and Selectman Merrow opened the meeting to public input.

Chester "Ski" Kwiatkowski asked if the Board had requested or received response from a letter received from NH DOT about the work to be conducted on Route 16 between Routes 28 and 25 East. Harriman responded that the letter was informational and no response or further information was warranted from the Town.

Kwiatkowski asked the status of the sidewalks. Harriman stated the right-of-way design phase was complete and had been submitted to DOT for approval. The next meeting will be with the abutters.

Kwiatkowski asked if Joe Deighan's sign request had been finalized. Selectman Morgan stated the Board had approved the permit and had asked David Senecal to sign off on it.

Kwiatkowski asked if there was a permit issued for the additional sign added beneath the larger sign at Big Moose RV. Selectman Merrow stated he was not sure. Selectman Morgan asked White to check with David Senecal.

Condict Billings asked why the Board hadn't approached the Planning Board with their plans to promote economic development. He stated that the current zoning does not support development. Billings stated the original Master Plan states agriculture to be the primary source of income. Selectman Merrow stated he plans to meet with Jim Fitzpatrick to see what needs to be done, then they would meet with the Planning Board. Billings suggested that Merrow attend the public hearing on Tuesday to provide input on the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance and to inform them of his intent to form an economic committee. Further discussion ensued on issues with the current land zones.

Being no further input, Selectman Merrow made a motion to recess at 4:43 PM until their 5:00 PM meeting with NH DOT. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Selectman Merrow made a motion to come out of recess at 5:00 PM. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Selectman Merrow introduced himself, Selectmen Freeman and Morgan, and Ellen White to those present.

Michelle Marshall introduced herself, Nancy Spaulding and William Lambert, all from NH DOT, and also stated that Susan Sansoucy and Mike Izard would be in attendance. Marshall began her presentation by explaining the new RSA (Road Safety Audit) process developed to deal with issues brought to their attention. She stated the RSA for the intersections of Routes 28 and 171 was conducted in June and was presented to the DOT front office in November 2013. The audit is currently in the approval process and she anticipates forward progress with written support from the Town.

Marshall then presented the long term solutions. To be eligible for the HSIP program, she stated the benefit cost ratio must be greater than 1. The first solution is to install a roundabout which was not recommended due to the cost and volume of traffic. The second solution is to evaluate the profile of Route 28 and re-grade, if necessary but they found no problem with the profile. The third solution is to install right-turn lanes at an estimate of \$450,000. Lambert stated the two issues they found are the lack of cancelled turn signals from traffic turning onto Route 28 from Route 16 southbound and traffic not stopping at the stop sign coming from Courthouse Square.

Selectman Morgan stated that there was an error in their presentation where it stated the Town Officials did not support the idea of a traffic light proposed by the former Police Chief. Morgan stated he was the former Police Chief and had never proposed said light to be denied. Marshall responded that it was found in the report.

Selectman Morgan asked how long before the process would take after receiving the Town's support. Marshall responded that as long as there is no right of way impact so that it would not have to go through public hearing, the construction plans could be drawn and hypothetically, progress could begin in two years. With need for a public hearing, it could extend to as far as four years.

Selectman Morgan asked if a traffic light was ever looked at as an option. Lambert stated that he was not aware that it was looked at.

Kwiatkowski asked what the distance length of the right-turn lane would be. Marshall responded with 350 feet and that the length is based on the speed of the roadway.

Adam Riley asked when the short and medium term solutions would be acted upon. Marshall stated that she had submitted a work order for the evaluation of the beacon light and stop signs.

Selectman Morgan questioned why DOT would not implement the check turn signal sign option. Lambert responded that there are several scenarios where a sign of the sort would have to be installed throughout the state and it is not an approved sign or feasible. Marshall stated that part of the 10-year project consists of tightening the turn ramp onto Route 28, which would cancel the turn signal and eliminate the issue.

Riley stated that they should take a look at the intersection in its current state. Where the audit was completed in June, now the intersection has additional visibility obstacles from the snow including banks and narrowed lanes.

Harriman questioned whether the funding through HSIP would require any hardship from the Town or if it is federally funded. Marshall responded that it is 100% federally funded.

Selectman Morgan made a motion to endorse the long-term solution of right-turn lanes. Selectman Merrow seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Frank Riley asked if the motion being made is that the Town is in support of the right turn lanes. Selectman Morgan confirmed. Riley further stated his concern that the right turn lane would not do anything to reduce the number of fatalities. Morgan stated that it will not stop but should reduce the occurrence of accidents along with the additional signage installed. Riley further stated that he hopes they will look into installing a traffic light. Morgan agreed that a traffic light would be the best solution. Selectman Merrow suggested adding the request for a traffic light in addition to the right turn lanes be included in the letter of support.

Mike Izard from Lakes Region Planning Commission stated they would offer a letter of support if needed. He also stated that they would be actively working toward medium term solution #5 for curb cuts required for future development of abutting parcels.

Kwiatkowski questioned whether a tractor-trailer at headway speed would have ample time to stop at a traffic light. Morgan stated that the speed limit entering Route 28 from the Route 16 end would most likely be reduced and warning signs/beacons would be implemented to warn of the traffic light.

Adam Riley asked if the suggestion to upgrade the beacon light meant adding a traffic light. Lambert responded that it would be upgraded from the current 8" to a 12" beacon.

Selectman Morgan asked if a cost analysis for a turn signal would be completed in their research. Marshall confirmed. Lambert stated that they could possibly put conduits in place during the road widening to accommodate the right-turn lanes which would prevent digging up the road if a turn signal is warranted in the future.

Being no further input, Selectman Merrow made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Harry C. Merrow

Robert C. Freeman

Richard H. Morgan

To be approved 1/13/2014