

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, February 23, 2015

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM. Present were Selectmen Richard Morgan, Robert Freeman, and Franklin Riley, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes.

Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on 2/9/2015. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Workshop held on 2/9/2015. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Accounts Payable Voucher was submitted for the week ending 2/14/2015 in the amount of \$276,890.41. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the voucher. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Payroll Voucher was submitted for the week ending 2/21/2015 in the amount of \$42,705.76. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the voucher. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Highway Department Work Logs were received for the weeks ending 2/14/2015 and 2/21/2015.

A Timber Tax Warrant in the amount of \$0.00 was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the Warrant. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Contract for Use of Facilities was received from Rhonda Cameron requesting use of the gym on 3/15/2015 for a baby shower. The schedule was verified by Peter Waugh, Recreation Director, and the applicable deposit has been received. Morgan made a motion to approve the contract. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Morgan announced that "Meet the Candidates Night" will take place at the Town Hall on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 6:30 PM.

A Supplemental Property Tax Warrant in the amount of \$338.00 was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the Warrant. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for an Abatement was received from Deborah Fales for the property located on Map 135, Lot 11. The reason for the abatement is that the property was sold in December but not conveyed to the new owner. The request results in a refund of \$338.00. Morgan made a motion to approve the request. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An Appeal Settlement Request was received from Lytron Incorporated for the property located on Map 250, Lot 6. The Assessor recommends a reduction in value from \$2,056,700 to \$1,500,000 resulting in a refund of \$10,744.31 for 2013 and \$11,156.26 for 2014 to settle the BTLA Appeal. Morgan made a motion to approve the request. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for an Abatement was received from the Town of Ossipee for the property located on Map 87, Lot 37. The reason for the request is that the Town took the property by Tax Collector's Deed and it should have been changed to Municipal-Exempt. Morgan made a motion to approve the request. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for an Abatement was received from Marc & Ruth Swenson for the property located on Map 247, Lot 7. The Assessor recommends a reduction in a value of \$24,400 resulting in a refund of \$488.97. Morgan made a motion to approve the request. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An Appeal Settlement Request was received from the Ialeggio Revocable Trust for the property located on Map 44, Lot 61. The Assessor recommends a reduction in value from \$296,400 to \$217,000 resulting in a refund of \$1,318.70 for 2013 and \$1,068.53 for 2014 to settle the BTLA Appeal. Morgan made a motion to approve the request. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An Application for Elderly Exemption was received. The Assessor recommends denying the application as the applicant's income exceeds the allowed amount. Morgan made a motion to deny the application. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An Application for Veteran's Credit was received for the property located on Map 272, Lot 9. All requirements having been met, Morgan made a motion to approve the application. Riley seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An Application for Veteran's Credit and Elderly Exemption was received. The Assessor recommends denying the Veteran's Credit because the applicant did not qualify and approving the Elderly Exemption. Morgan made a motion to approve the Elderly Exemption. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Purchase Order payable to Jane Sanders Searches in the amount of \$4,137.25 for lien and deed searches was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to sign the purchase order. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Purchase Order payable to Central Tire in the amount of \$8,000.00 for 2015 tire purchases was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to sign the purchase order. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Purchase Order payable to Pitney Bowes Purchase Power in the amount of \$7,224.00 for postage was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to sign the purchase order. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Purchase Order payable to Ossipee Aggregates Corp. in the amount of \$35,000.00 for 2015 winter sand was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to sign the purchase order. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A letter addressed to Lewis "Bub" Avery acknowledging his promotion to the full-time Laborer position was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to sign the letter. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A letter addressed to Elaine Sherman acknowledging her new position of Finance and Benefits Administrator was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to sign the letter. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Morgan read a letter received from the NH DES acknowledging the Town's eligibility to receive up to a 25% cost match for 2015 exotic aquatic plant control efforts. The herbicide grant award is in the amount of \$3,650 and the diver assisted suction harvesting grant award is in the amount of \$2,100. In addition to the letter, the grant agreement document was presented. Morgan made a motion to appoint Ellen White as the agent to sign the agreement. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received the equalization ratio study from the NH Department of Revenue Administration. Morgan announced the median ratio to be 107.2% for Tax Year 2014.

The Board received a letter from the NH DOT with a list of multiple street lights along Routes 16 and 28 that will be shut off. Morgan suggested that Brad Harriman, Public Works Director, review the list and report back to the Board with his comments.

A letter of resignation was received from Trustee of Trust Funds Harry Merrow who will be resigning from the Trustee position effective 3/1/2015.

An Incident Report from 1/27/2015 was received from the Dog Officer.

The Board received a copy of a check received from NRRA in the amount of \$1,163.49 for recycling fees.

The Board received a copy of the newsletter "The Watershed News" from the Green Mountain Conservation Group.

Old Business:

Whittier Covered Bridge – Harriman stated that there has been no construction over the past few weeks due to the weather. He stated that the 2/19/15 meeting was also cancelled as a result of the weather but the next meeting is scheduled for 3/19/2015. Riley confirmed that he will attend.

Sidewalks – Harriman reported that he has been corresponding with Jim Corrigan from Safe Routes to Schools and it appears that the Town has three options: 1) Drop the sidewalk project, 2) Choose another engineering firm and start over, or 3) Continue with White Mountain Survey but have the work completed by the Town crew. He added that the Town may have to pay back the \$20,000 in costs that have already been reimbursed if they opt out of the project or do it on their own. Morgan stated that he does not want to have to pay back any funds and requested figures of approximate cost. Additional discussion took place on the \$80,000 raised by Warrant Article for the sidewalk project. Harriman will research both and report back to the Board.

Morgan stated that he would like to host a quarterly meeting for State Representatives to attend the Selectmen's Meeting once per quarter beginning in April. He requested that White contact the various Representatives with the invitation to attend.

Morgan read a letter requesting the Town to remove a large pile of snow from in front of the Historical Society building. Kellie Skehan, Treasurer of the Historical Society, stated that the Historical Society was not aware of the letter and requested the Board disregard it since it was not sent from a member of the Historical Society Board.

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

Public Input:

Ed Comeau, State Representative, stated that he attends the Selectmen's Meetings in Ossipee, Brookfield and Wakefield but not yet Effingham, and is also available for the public to contact through his website, edcomeau.org or via email or Facebook. He further stated that he is on the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

Comeau announced that the Carroll County Delegation voted to allow the Commissioners to hire a County Administrator.

Comeau questioned the franchise fees that were received from Time Warner Cable that were announced at last week's Selectmen's Meeting. Morgan stated that it is an annual fee that comes in as revenue as a result of the Town's current franchise agreement with Time Warner Cable. Comeau suggested creating a station for Ossipee and perhaps utilizing the franchise fees to set it up.

Chester "Ski" Kwiatkowski informed the Board that an engineer who works for Hannaford's came in to the Planning Board meeting with the plan of a 16,000 square foot expansion of their Ossipee store. He added that they will be presenting plans to the Planning Board in April and the Planning Board is in favor of the expansion.

"Ski" stated that the magnet manufacturer who has been looking at the old drive-in theater property is still interested in pursuing that as a location. He also stated that the renovations at the Irving station in Ossipee will be taking place in the next year.

"Ski" requested that any complaints received at Town Hall regarding the Water and Sewer Department be directed to the Commissioners rather than referred to the Water and Sewer Department. Morgan stated that he does not want the Town Hall staff to be held responsible for determining the nature of the call and recommended that the Commissioners create a policy for how complaints should be handled at the Water and Sewer Department. Riley suggested the Water and Sewer Department maintain a log book that the Commissioners can review.

Gwen Guild provided some photos of a tree in the Town's right of way that she is concerned with, where it is losing limbs that fall in the roadway. She stated that she has requested the tree's removal for the past four years and it still has not been removed. Harriman stated that he did some research on it last fall and also had Dan Libby take a look at it. Libby determined the tree and leaders to be healthy and not requiring removal. Harriman apologized for not following up with Ms. Guild with the determination. Riley stated that a tree is not removed unless damaged or found to be a danger. Harriman stated that he can look into again when the snow is gone and perhaps prune the tree.

Comeau asked the status of the Virtual Town Hall. White answered that it is still in design phase but should be ready in a few more weeks.

"Ski" commended the Highway Department for their snow removal efforts this year. He added that he was initially against the paving of Sawyer Road but it has turned out great.

Morgan polled the Board for a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Morgan made the motion to enter a non-public session at 5:04 PM. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Roll call vote was taken. Morgan answered yes, Freeman answered yes, and Riley answered yes. Morgan made a motion to adjourn the non-public session at 5:11 PM. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Public session reconvened at 5:12 PM.

Morgan announced that the Board will be dedicating the Town Report at 12:00 PM on Friday, 2/27/2015 then the Town Reports will be ready to distribute.

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

Adjourned at 5:14 PM.

Richard H. Morgan, Chairman

Robert C. Freeman

Franklin R. Riley
To be approved 3/2/2015