

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, October 17, 2016**

These minutes were recorded by Ellen White, Town Administrator.

Call to Order:

Chairman Riley called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

Riley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance by Roll Call:

Present were Selectmen Franklin Riley, Robert Freeman and Richard Morgan.

Meeting Minutes:

Riley made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on 10/3/2016. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Riley made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Finance Meeting held on 10/3/2016. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Riley made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on 10/11/2016. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifests:

The Payroll Voucher was submitted for the week ending 10/15/2016 in the amount of \$36,697.99. The Accounts Payable Voucher total for the week ending 10/8/2016 was in the amount of \$116,800.92, including Accounts Payable of \$8,053.67 and payments made to the Fire Precincts totaling \$108,747.25. Riley made a motion to approve and sign the check voucher. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Morgan commented that the Selectmen review each invoice prior to approving the batch total in the weekly manifest.

Review of Red Folder:

The Board received a memo from Brad Harriman, Public Works Director, reviewing quotes he has received to construct a roof over the handicap ramp at the Freight House. The quotes received are as follows:

Sean McManus	\$5,431.86
Scott Milligan	\$7,275.00
Ridgeline Builders	\$8,200.00

Riley made a motion to approve the quote received from Sean McManus. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Highway Department Work Log was received for the week ending 10/8/2016 and 10/15/2016.

A Contract for Use of Facilities was received from Madeline & Jackson Varney requesting use of the Gazebo on 5/27/2017 from 5:00-5:30 PM for a wedding ceremony. The applicable deposit has been received and the schedule has been verified by Ellen White, Town Administrator. Riley made a motion to approve the request. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a copy of a check received from Northeast Resource Recovery Association in the amount of \$1,137.71 for fibers, glass and scrap metal recycling.

The Board received a copy of the 2016 edition of New Hampshire Community Profiles from New Hampshire Employment Security.

The Board received a copy of a Notice of Decision from the Zoning Board of Adjustment acknowledging a variance that was granted on the property located on Map 75, Lot 49 owned by Cathy Cardinal and Steve Creamer.

The Board received a letter from Tina Rollins of 19 Hodsdon Shore Road requesting a refund of \$41.00 for a penalty assessed for the first half tax bill that was sent to a prior address and not forwarded or returned as undeliverable. Rollins explained that she just purchased the property this spring and called to question when the tax bills are issued and discovered that she had a bill outstanding. She then paid the bill in full but requests the refund due to it being an error out of her control. Riley made a motion to consider the letter. Freeman seconded. Morgan discussed the error and stated that he felt it was a genuine error. Riley stated that he was concerned with setting a precedent. Morgan then made a motion to refund the \$41.00. Freeman seconded. Riley abstained from voting. Majority vote carried.

Old Business:

Whittier Covered Bridge – Harriman reported that invoices are being received for the completion of the initial design phase meaning that the project will advance to its next stage. Riley stated that the project has been contingent on Federal funding which has caused several delays in getting the bridge placed back over the river, but they are doing everything in their control to get the final phase moving along. Morgan requested that Harriman verify with Hoyle, Tanner & Associates that they will be prepared to go out to bid in March as planned. Harriman confirmed he would.

Highway Garage Addition – Discussion took place on hosting an open house at the Highway Garage. The date of Monday, 11/7/2016 was set. Further announcement on the details will be distributed.

New Business:

Knox Mountain Association Roads – Several residents were present from Knox Mountain Association to discuss the potential of the Town accepting the maintenance of the Association's roads. Morgan questioned if there is 100% agreement from all property owners. Sonny Bernardo stated that he believes there is but will verify that information. Ed Comeau requested a point of order requesting a background on the Association's request. Morgan explained that a Petition Warrant Article was presented at the 2014 Town Meeting requesting the Town take over the Association's roads but it was voted down. Morgan then explained that not much further research was completed to determine what would be needed for improvements to the roads due to the fact that if not every resident in the Association was in favor, it would be impossible to make it work as each property owner owns a percentage of the Association roads. Morgan discussed the history of several other similar proposals that have come in from private associations that have been turned down at Town Meeting. He then discussed the option of a betterment assessment to cover the costs associated with bringing the roads up to Town standards in order to maintain them. Discussion ensued on how the betterment assessment would be applied and for what term. Knox Mountain Association was asked to retrieve proof of 100% commitment from all property owners, then discussion would continue on investigating the costs of repairs needed. Discussion took place on submitting a new Petition Warrant Article and the voting authority at Town Meeting.

Budget Review:

Conservation Agent – Riley stated this budget covers the wages for the Town's Timber Monitor. The budget requested is \$4,306.00, up from \$3,230 in 2016. Morgan stated that the increase is reflective of the time being spent to complete the monitoring and reporting as requested by the Board of Selectmen. Riley made a motion to approve the Conservation Agent budget in the amount of \$4,306.00. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Board of Selectmen – Riley stated that the request is for a level funded budget in the amount of \$16,364.00. Riley then made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen budget in the amount of \$16,364.00. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Legal – Riley stated that the request is for a level funded budget in the amount of \$35,000.00. He noted that expenditures year-to-date total just shy of \$14,000.00, but added that there are several legal issues still outstanding

with and additional invoices incoming. Riley made a motion to approve the Legal budget in the amount of \$35,000.00. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Dam Authority – Riley commented that the budget is for the Ossipee Lake Dam operation and the cost is determined by the State and then split between the towns of Freedom and Ossipee, determined by the equalized assessment value. The 2017 request is for \$8,126.38, down from \$8,170.00 requested in 2016. Morgan stated that the amount should be rounded. Riley made a motion to approve the Dam Authority budget in the amount of \$8,126.00. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Patriotic Purposes – Riley stated that the request is for a level funded budget in the amount of \$2,000.00 which is used for the purchase of flags and grave markers. Flags are placed each year on every veteran's grave throughout the 138 cemeteries in Town. This task was done previously by Roy Eldridge and has recently been completed by Mark Washburn, both of whom have done an outstanding job. Riley made a motion to approve the Patriotic Purposes budget in the amount of \$2,000.00. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Treasurer – Riley stated that Harry Merrow, Treasurer, was unable to be present. The budget request is in the amount of \$11,030.00 down from the 2016 request of \$11,330.00. Riley made a motion to approve the Treasurer's budget in the amount of \$11,030.00. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

General Assistance – Sam Martin presented the level funded budget in the amount of \$55,269.00 stating that it was a mild winter and a lot of expenditures were recovered including rents, and motel bills. She also stated that she utilizes funds from outside agencies whenever she is able but is unable to forecast what needs will be upcoming. Riley thanked Martin for her efforts as Welfare Director. Riley made a motion to approve the General Assistance budget in the amount of \$55,269.00. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Trustees of Trust Funds – Condict Billings presented a level funded budget in the amount of \$6,289.00. Riley made a motion to approve the Trustees of Trust Funds budget in the amount of \$6,289.00. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Cemetery Trustees – Rick St. Jean and Cole Perry, Cemetery Trustees, presented the Cemetery budget. Morgan complimented the Trustees on the condition of all cemeteries and passed along a comment received on the condition of the Chickville Cemetery being in the best condition this year. St. Jean presented a quote in the amount of \$18,000.00 for granite posts to extend the fencing at the Chickville cemetery. St. Jean stated that Swenson Granite is the only quarry remaining in NH and the cost does not include installation or chain. The Board suggested retrieving a total price for what is needed and suggested it be placed on a Warrant Article. Billings suggested Windy Ridge as an alternate source for the granite posts. White questioned if the Trustees had a figure for their operating budget. St. Jean responded that he would like to increase the hourly wage by \$1.00 for each laborer and discussed additional tree work to be completed. The Board requested that St. Jean meet with White to review and determine the operating budget amount to be requested.

Harriman reported that 400 cars came through during the free fall clean-up day held on 10/8/2016 at the Transfer Station. He noted a total of 97 electronics, 141 demolition, 157 tires, 17 AC/refrigeration units, 3 batteries, and 2 propane tanks were collected. Harriman noted it to be slower than last fall but it was still a great event. He also noted that both compacters went down the Thursday prior, but they were able to get them repaired and running by Friday.

Public Input:

Ron Adams, Conservation Commission Chairman, announced that the Conservation Commission Meeting was delayed until this Wednesday and that they will provide a full report on the Windows property for next week.

Adams questioned the telephone expense for the Conservation Commission. White stated that there should be no

increase. Adams then questioned the expense for the Secretary's wages. White responded that she met with Laura Nash last week, and a proposal will be made available for the Conservation Commission Meeting.

Adams asked if the Board will continue to fund the Lake Host Program. The Board agreed. Adams stated that a funding delay and lack of an intern this year, in addition to confusion on the boat ramp closure, caused the program to not be run this year.

Adams stated that the Windows on the Ossipee Mountains property is cleaned up in the spring and fall each year, but a third cleanup may be necessary during the summer months. Morgan stated that complaints have been received on use of the property as a restroom facility. Adams stated that the brush removal they are requesting bids for, may remediate the issue. Additional discussion took place on the lack of bids received for the work to be completed on the property. The Board suggested an advertisement be placed in the newspaper. White was asked to get together with the Commission Secretary to advertise the request for bids.

Cole Perry questioned if the Board will be pursuing the condemnation of the West Ossipee Meeting House. Riley responded that the ownership is still in question and legal research would need to be completed to proceed.

Riley announced the time at 5:30 PM and opened the meeting to the NH DOT for their update on the intersection improvements of Routes 171 and 28. Michael Dugas introduced himself as the Chief of Preliminary Design of NH DOT. Dugas reviewed that he was present in June to propose the 171/28 improvements which included widening the southbound turn lane. The Selectmen followed up with a request for a roundabout or traffic light solution as the proposed improvement was not believed to be an appropriate fix. Dugas displayed the option of a roundabout consisting of 135' in diameter with some property impact occurring and the cost being over \$1 million. Dugas explained that the site distance from the Route 16 end of the intersection is not adequate therefore deeming the option as not an effective solution. The second option would be to install a traffic signal which would have to be determined by meeting national standards of traffic flow and crash data, both of which are not sufficient in the 10-year history compiled. The Board discussed the number of accidents that have occurred in the intersection, including a total to 7 since this past May. Adam Riley, Ossipee Corner Fire Chief, stated that he questions why a few of the recent accidents have not involved more serious injuries or fatalities due to the severity of the accidents and only attributed it to the safety measures in newer vehicles. Additional discussion took place on reducing the rate of speed on the Route 16 side of the intersection, updating the traffic signage, speed enforcement, installing rumble strips, installing warning beacons and upgraded flashing lights, and installing conduit for the future installation of a traffic signal. Dugas questioned whether the Town is in favor of proceeding with improvements as they are scheduled to begin in 2017. Dugas did state that they are willing to entertain the idea of installing the conduit in preparation for a future traffic light should future data warrant its installation. The Board agreed that they do not disagree with the improvements although they do not feel it to be the ultimate fix for the intersection problems. Additional discussion ensued.

Dan Boucher, Representative for Huggins Hospital, discussed concern for a lack of distance on the roundabout. Dugas explained that it would have to be a slow speed turn.

Ed Comeau suggested amendments be made to the Sign Ordinance to not allow campaign signs that may obstruct views of motorists. Dugas stated that the NH DOT already removes signs from any intersections or islands.

Tim Otterbach questioned why a reduction of speed has not been considered before now. Dugas responded that a formal process must be requested through Bill Lambert at NH DOT and then the speed limit must be heavily enforced.

Adjournment:

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

Adjourned at 5:57 PM.

Franklin R. Riley, Chairman

Robert C. Freeman

Richard H. Morgan

To be approved 10/24/2016