

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, December 18, 2017

These minutes were recorded by Ellen White, Town Administrator. The meeting was held in the Bub Avery Memorial Gymnasium at Town Hall.

Call to Order:

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

Morgan opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance by Roll Call:

Present were Selectmen Richard Morgan, Robert Freeman, and Sandra Martin.

Public Input:

None presented.

Meeting Minutes:

Morgan made a motion to accept the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on 12/11/2017. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Morgan made a motion to accept the minutes from the Selectmen's Finance Meeting & Work Session held on 12/11/2017. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifests:

The Payroll Voucher was submitted for the week ending 12/16/2017 in the amount of \$43,681.04. The Accounts Payable Voucher was submitted for the week ending 12/9/2017 in the amount of \$460,153.94 including a payment to Governor Wentworth Regional School District for \$434,058.00. The Water & Sewer Accounts Payable Voucher submitted for the week ending 12/9/2017 was in the amount of \$5,575.56. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the check vouchers. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Morgan stated that the Board reviews each invoice before it is approved in the weekly manifest totals.

Review of Red Folder:

A letter written in support of Carroll County Sheriff's Office application for funds from the NH Homeland Security Grant was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to sign the letter. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An Intent to Cut Timber was received from Gregory Chabot for the property located on Map 236, Lot 5. The intent is to cut 48 acres from the 56 acre parcel and the logger listed is Richard Buswell. The taxes are paid and there is no cemetery noted. Morgan made a motion to approve the intent. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for a Clerical Abatement was received for the property located on Map 104, Lot 14004, Sub Lot AA. The request is to abate the tax due in the amount of \$86.00 because the camper was sold. A supplemental warrant will be issued to the new owner of record. Morgan made a motion to grant the abatement. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Supplemental Warrant in the amount of \$86.00 was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for a Clerical Abatement was received for the property located on Map 130, Lot 12, Sub Lot 57. The request is to abate the tax due in the amount of \$139.00 because the camper was sold and taken off site prior to 4/1/2017. Morgan made a motion to grant the abatement. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for a Clerical Abatement was received for the property located on Map 86, Lot 4. The request is to abate the tax due in the amount of \$171.00 because the property was sold but not conveyed to the new owner. A supplemental warrant will be issued to the new owner. Morgan made a motion to grant the abatement. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Supplemental Warrant in the amount of \$171.00 was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for a Clerical Abatement was received for the property located on Map 86, Lot 3. The request is to abate the tax due in the amount of \$579.00 because the property was incorrectly conveyed to a new owner. A supplemental warrant will be issued to the correct owner. Morgan made a motion to grant the abatement. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Supplemental Warrant in the amount of \$579.00 was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for a Clerical Abatement was received for the property located on Map 17, Lot 14, Sub Lot W01. The request is to abate the tax due in the amount of \$49.00 because the camper was registered and should not have accrued a tax bill. Morgan made a motion to grant the abatement. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for a Clerical Abatement was received for the property located on Map 17, Lot 14, Sub Lot W02. The request is to abate the tax due in the amount of \$60.00 because the camper was registered and should not have accrued a tax bill. Morgan made a motion to grant the abatement. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for a Clerical Abatement was received for the property located on Map 29, Lot 1, Sub Lot A26. The request is to abate the tax due in the amount of \$154.80 because the camper was registered and should not have accrued a tax bill. There are taxable features that remain taxable. Morgan made a motion to grant the abatement. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Deputy Forest Fire Warden Appointment Forms were presented for new Deputy Forest Fire Wardens: Joseph Burkett, Cameron Quigley, and Duncan Wentworth. With the prior recommendations from the Forest Fire Warden, Morgan made a motion to approve the recommendations. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The 2018 Reappointment Form for the Town Forest Fire Warden, Deputy Wardens and Issuing Agents was presented for approval. Morgan made a motion to approve the reappointments as presented. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The reconciliation form due to the State of NH for the Warden Permits issued in 2017 was presented for signatures. Morgan noted the totals as follows: Ossipee Corner Light & Power Precinct – 263, Center Ossipee

Fire Precinct – 311, and West Ossipee Fire Precinct – 118. Morgan made a motion to sign the form. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Highway Department Work Logs were received for the weeks ending 12/2/2017, 12/9/2017, and 12/16/2017.

Reports from the Dog Officer were received for the month of November.

The Board received a thank you note from Mr. and Mrs. Walker for their efforts in trying to obtain a Town Beach on Ossipee Lake.

Water & Sewer Red Folder:

A Request for the Reimbursement of Payroll Expenses for the Water & Sewer Department in the amount of \$3,386.85 for the week ending 12/16/2017 was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to sign the request. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Water & Sewer Warrant in the amount of \$40.00 for service charge fees was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Old Business:

Intersection of Routes 28 & 171 – Brad Harriman, Public Works Director, reported that the intersection improvements are on the scheduled for 2020 due to the right-of-way and easement purchasing that is required for the project.

Sidewalks – Harriman stated that he has been referred to Alan Hanscomb, District Engineer, for NH DOT District 3 and will be reporting back with further information.

Whittier Covered Bridge – Harriman stated that the Wetlands Permit Application has been approved and a meeting with the abutters has been scheduled to procure the required easements. Harriman confirmed that no mitigation is being required at this time.

Town Beach – Morgan announced a vote recount is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 12/13/2017 at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall.

New Business:

None presented.

This concluded the business portion of the meeting and Morgan re-opened the meeting to Public Input.

Public Input #2:

Kyle Copeland expressed concern with the Selectmen's move to file suit against Dianne Sheehan. He stated that he and his neighbors do not understand why money should be wasted in a lawsuit when the results of the recount that took place were the same. Morgan responded that there is a legal disagreement that can only be handled in Superior Court. Morgan further stated they have presented the information to the Town Attorney who is confident that they are taking the appropriate action.

Barbara Zolla asked for the reason behind the lawsuit and questioned if it is ultimately to be able to purchase the property even though the Town did not acquire the majority vote needed at the Special Town Meeting. Morgan responded that it is the Town's position that the campground owner engaged in conduct after the sales agreement was put in place that was not fair, ethical or legal. Morgan explained that if they are successful in the lawsuit, another vote will take place during the regular Town Meeting in March.

Martin added that it was stated that the vote was good but some voters were addressed that evening and advised to go home. She also stated that it was the largest turnout the Town has ever seen, citizens were not able to get into Town Hall to hear the Town Meeting or exercise their right to vote. Morgan stated this to be a separate issue from the lawsuit filed. The underlying question is whether the conduct of the seller affected 8 votes that could have changed the overall outcome.

Morgan stated that they are hopeful there will be another chance to vote. The Selectmen are charged with the responsibility of making decisions in the best interest of the Town. The amount of time, effort and money spent to get to this point should be taken into account.

Kim Lagios questioned who was turned away stating it is the voter's responsibility whether they stay to vote or not. Further discussion took place on those in attendance who were unable to hear the testimony of Town Meeting or wait outside.

Craig Rollins questioned if there is a limit on the amount that can be spent on legal representation. Morgan responded that there is a legal line budgeted for in the operating budget in the amount of \$35,000. In addition to that, Town Meeting voted to secure \$25,000 to be placed in a Capital Reserve account to pursue a Town Beach on Ossipee Lake that can be expended from.

Copeland questioned if anyone was approached regarding the signage that was placed on the campground or beach properties. He further discussed issues including a breakdown in communication resulting in unfair representations made. The Sheehan's are reported as being benefactors to the Town's fireworks display and often donate to the Ossipee Old Home Week Committee. He questioned why the Town would attempt damaging the character of those who have done so much for the Town. Morgan responded that it is not personal and reiterated that Mr. and Mrs. Sheehan are good people.

Copeland stated that the beach is a luxury item, not a life or death issue, and is not important to people. Especially the parents of the children the beach would benefit as they clearly did not show up at the Town Meeting,

Lagios questioned if the vote passed, would the lawsuit be pursued? Morgan stated that the meeting conduct is a separate issue which is being questioned by several voters.

Zolla questioned if the beach at Duncan Lake is going to be sold. Morgan responded that the Assessor has been asked to determine the value of the beach but the property would not be sold outside of a Town Meeting.

Lagios reviewed the property comprised of 53 acres and stated a lot of the property appears to be swamp, non-buildable and non-useable. She questioned whether it was worthwhile to purchase all of the property for just the beach. Morgan responded that the important factors were noted during the Public Information Night which is the direct access from Gretchen Road and the ability to maintain a parking area separate of the beach parcels. Morgan referred Lagios to review the Public Information Night on governmentoversite.com and also to White Mountain Survey who prepared the conceptual drawings presented that night.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 4:15 PM.

Adjournment:

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

Adjourned at 4:52 PM.

Richard H. Morgan, Chairman

Robert C. Freeman

Sandra P. Martin

To be approved 1/8/2018