

**Selectmen's Meeting**  
**Monday, March 18, 2013**

Selectman Harry 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, Assessing Clerk, who recorded the minutes.

Selectman Freeman made a motion to elect Selectman Merrow as Chairman of the Board. Selectman Morgan seconded. Selectman Merrow abstained. Majority vote carried.

Selectman Freeman made a motion to approve the minutes of the 3/11/2013 Selectmen's Meeting. Selectman Merrow seconded. Majority vote carried.

A letter was received from the State with information on the 9-1-1 system. Selectman Merrow stated that David Senecal and Ellen White are appointed as representatives for the Town to maintain accurate data. The letter is available to review in the Selectmen's Office.

The check voucher for week ending 3/16/2013 was presented in the amount of \$135,835.21. Selectman Merrow made a motion to approve these vouchers. Selectman Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Selectman Merrow made a motion to approve the minutes from the workshop held on 3/8/2013 discussing the Town Report and Freight House project. Selectman Freeman seconded. Majority vote carried.

An application for sign permit was submitted from Lindsey Lu, Inc. to erect a sign for Indian Mound Shopping Center on their property located at 16 Hillside Drive (with visibility from Route 16). Selectman Morgan questioned whether the State had any impact. Selectman Merrow stated that it did not as it sets back from the highway. Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the application. Selectman Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An excavation warrant approved at the 3/11/2013 Selectmen's Meeting was resubmitted as the due date was incorrect. Ellen White, Assessing Clerk, presented a corrected warrant for signature. Previously approved, Selectmen Merrow and Freeman signed the corrected warrant.

A timber tax warrant in the amount of \$3,848.49 was presented. Selectman Merrow motioned to sign the warrant. Selectman Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Jo Anne Gayer, Dog Officer, presented a draft of a dog summons to be printed for approval. The cost will be \$95 for a quantity of 250. Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the summons. Selectman Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Todd Haywood, Assessor, submitted settlement authorization requests for two BTLA appeals coming up on Thursday. Selectman Merrow motioned to sign the authorizations. Selectman Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Selectman Morgan questioned the range of settlement requested. Selectman Merrow suggested a non-public session following the close of public input to discuss the range figures.

An abatement request was submitted for the property located at 2 Courthouse Square. The Assessor indicated some building changes that needed to be made after he inspected it. These changes decrease the value to \$235,100 which is in line with other law offices in the area. Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the abatement request. Seconded by Selectman Freeman. A unanimous vote was taken.

An intent to excavate was received from John Jeddrey for excavation of 20,000 cubic yards on Pollys Crossing Rd; map 244, lot 2. The taxes are paid and the \$100.00 fee has been paid. Selectman Merrow made a motion to sign the intent. Selectman Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An intent to excavate was received from David Fuller, dba Eastside Properties for excavation of 11,400 cubic yards on Browns Ridge Rd.; map 77, lot 4. The taxes are paid and the \$100.00 fee has been paid. Selectman Merrow made a motion to sign the intent. Selectman Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A letter addressed to Chief Grow was received from the State Highway Safety Agency stating the contract for federal funds for Highway Safety Project "Ossipee DWI/DUI Patrols" has been approved.

#### Old Business:

Freight House: Brad Harriman stated there has been forward progress on the Freight House. The sheetrock is now about 90-95% up. The meeting room is receiving a third coat of mud today and will be primed this week. The offices are being insulated for sound barrier then sheet rocked and mudded over the next three days. He stated the completion date to be around the first or second week of April.

Sidewalks: Brad Harriman commented on the sidewalk status which is still in process with the State. Selectman Merrow questioned whether the project would have to go out to bid and time frame for completion. Harriman responded that it would go out to bid as soon as the permits were in place and it would be a quick project; taking only about a month to a month and a half to complete.

Whittier Covered Bridge: Brad Harriman reported that he received a call from DOT stating that now the contract is signed, some billable work needs to be completed to keep the funding. He will be pushing for engineering work to be done soon.

Surplus Vehicles & Equipment: Selectman Merrow requested a list of vehicles and equipment from Brad Harriman that will be disposed of. These and two police cruisers will go out for bid soon.

Selectman Freeman asked if a truck would be given to the Water & Sewer Department. Brad Harriman reported that a request had been made for the Ford F-550 by Water & Sewer but no decision had been made. He mentioned that discussion had been made about utilizing it at the transfer station.

### New Business:

Selectman Merrow announced the upcoming renewal of the ambulance contract and union contract. He asked the other Selectmen to review the contracts over the next week. Selectman Morgan mentioned that he had been approached by the three Fire Chiefs prior to the election with concerns about the current ambulance contract. He suggested that all three of the Fire Chiefs meet with the Selectmen to provide input and review current issues with the contract. He further suggested this meeting take place soon. The Board agreed on Monday, March 25 at 10:00 AM. Selectman Merrow asked Ellen White to set it up with the three departments.

In response to an email sent to Selectman Merrow from Mellisa Seamans summarizing a town comparison report conducted by MRI between the towns of Wakefield and Ossipee, Selectman Merrow asked Mellisa Seamans if she had any further information and asked if she could get ahold of the whole report for further review. Selectman Morgan stated that there are a lot of differences in the way each Town operates its budget in comparison.

Selectman Merrow announced that the positions for Police Chief and Part-Time Officer would be posted in-house as required by law. Selectman Morgan corrected Selectman Merrow in stating that it is not required to post the position of Police Chief. It is listed in the union contract to post positions in-house for a period of 5-days; however, it was never adopted into the personnel policy. He further stated that there is only one person qualified in-house to meet the 10-year supervisory experience requirement. Selectman Morgan suggested that James Eldridge meet with the Board prior to their next meeting, bringing a resume and application and discuss the formalities. Selectman Freeman also agreed that it was not necessary to post the Police Chief position. Selectman Merrow asked Ellen White to schedule the meeting with James Eldridge for 3 PM on March 25. The Part-Time Officer position will be posted in-house for 5-days.

Selectman Merrow announced that all elected officials will be sworn in at 5:30 PM following the Selectmen's meeting.

Being no further new business, Selectman Merrow opened the meeting up to public input.

### Public Input:

Brad Harriman stated he received a letter from the Town of Tuftonboro stating that the warrant article presented at Town Meeting to pave the section of Sawyer Road had been voted against. Selectman Merrow stated the road would not be paved as a result. Discussion was made about the agreements made with other Towns on maintaining commonly shared roads. Brad Harriman will be working on an updated list of the agreements.

Chester "Ski" Kwiatkowski requested the dimensions of the sign to be erected by Lindsey Lu, Inc. Selectman Morgan responded that it will be 12'x18'. "Ski" also asked if it was to be illuminated. This information was not provided on the sign application. "Ski" stated that they should follow the Sign Ordinance requiring down-cast lighting.

"Ski" also stated that he thought it was a good idea for the meeting with the three Fire Chiefs' not only to work out issues with the present contract, but have information for the future contract.

Kevin Houle asked if the surplus vehicles would go through the sealed bid process. Selectman Merrow confirmed they would. Mr. Houle suggested that the Town utilize auctioneers to assist in the sale. Discussion was made about the higher demand for police cruisers which have yielded greater bid results. It may be an option to auction equipment. This will be looked into further.

Mellisa Seamans questioned what the second contract was that was up for renewal. Selectman Freeman answered with the union contract. She stated some towns have been successful in working with other towns in negotiating the ambulance contract. Selectman Merrow expressed his opposition because each town has its own idiosyncrasy and is often difficult to make it work.

Seamans requested clarification on the part-time police officer position and requirements since it seemed to change at Town Meeting. Selectman Freeman stated that they had to change the warrant article to meet requirements set by DRA. The position is for a part-time police officer who will be specifically assigned to cover the school for 4-5 hours per day and cover vacations as needed.

Seamans stated that the Town has already invested time and money to prepare Sawyer Road for paving and asked if it would affect the quality of the rest of the paving project. Selectman Merrow stated that we cannot do anything on another Town's portion of the road. Selectman Morgan added that the Town also cannot legally spend the money to make improvements to another Town's property. She questioned mutual road support at Leavitt Road and Ryefield Road by the Town of Effingham.

Seamans informed the Board of the lack of capital improvement plans at the County and Town levels. She questioned the Planning Board's involvement with the Town's capital improvement plan. Selectman Merrow stated that Brad Harriman handles this for the Town. She noted its benefits in other Towns who have one in place for upcoming years. Selectman Morgan commended the Town for having no long term debt and a healthy surplus. He stated that with capital reserve funds this could easily be achieved.

Selectman Freeman asked Brad Harriman if the library roof repair would be going out to bid. Harriman replied that it would.

Peter Zavas congratulated Selectman Morgan on winning the election. He presented his contact information to Selectman Morgan as Selectmen's Representative for the Planning Board. Selectman Freeman made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Zavas as Representative. Seconded by Selectman Merrow. A unanimous vote was taken.

Zavas asked the Board if they had received the summary from the last Planning Board meeting. In review, the Planning Board will be revising the Master Plan so he will be in touch for the Selectmen's input. Selectman Merrow questioned if the Zoning would also be revised. Chester "Ski" Kwiatkowski confirmed and said that both would be reviewed section by section as well as the site plan reviews. They will be completing as much as possible at the April 30 workshop.

Selectman Merrow requested to be the Selectmen's Representative for the Budget Committee. Both Selectman Freeman and Morgan agreed.

Mellisa Seamans asked the status of the highway budget with the upcoming storm. Brad Harriman stated the salt shed is more than half full and should carry the rest of the year and the highway department was in good shape other than that.

Selectman Merrow motioned to recess at 5:05 PM to enter non-public session. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

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

Adjourned at 5:25 PM.

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Harry C. Merrow

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Robert C. Freeman

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Richard H. Morgan

To be approved 3/25/2013