

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, April 27, 2015

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

Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Workshop held on 4/20/2015. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on 4/20/2015. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Payroll Voucher was submitted for the week ending 4/25/2015 in the amount of \$38,370.75. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the voucher. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Accounts Payable Voucher was submitted for the week ending 4/18/2015 in the amount of \$817,913.89. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the voucher. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Morgan stated that the Selectmen reviewed each invoice prior to approving the batch totals.

The Board received a memo from Susan Simpson, Timber Clerk, informing them of the status of the 2014-2015 Intents to Cut Timber. Simpson summarized that a total of 36 Intents were filed of which 13 reported no timber cut and 6 filed for extensions. Courtesy letters were mailed out to remind the owners and loggers of the upcoming deadline to file their Reports of Cut and all have filed their paperwork, with the exception of the 6 extensions.

A Timber Tax Warrant in the amount of \$2,596.54 was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to sign the Warrant. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Highway Department Work Log was received for the week ending 4/25/2015.

The Board received a copy of the updated community profile provided by NH Employment Security.

The Board received a memo from Jessi O'Blenes, Assessing Clerk, requesting signatures on several applications for Veteran's Credits that were approved by previous Boards of Selectmen but the applications were unsigned. O'Blenes stated that these were found during a review of all exemptions and credits as part of the revaluation in progress. Morgan made a motion to sign the applications. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Incident Reports were received from the Dog Officer for the period of 3/20/2015-4/12/2015.

The Board received a copy of an email received from the Lakes Region Planning Commission requesting nominations for the Kim Ayers Award which would recognize someone who has made an extraordinary voluntary effort to maintain and improve the environmental quality of the region. The application deadline is April 30, 2015.

A letter addressed to Georgie Duquet acknowledging her appointment to serve as an Alternate Library Trustee was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to sign the letter. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a letter from the State of NH Highway Safety Agency acknowledging the approval of federal funds for the Highway Safety Project #308-15B-073 entitled "Ossipee Sobriety Checkpoint (1)", and also for the Highway Safety Project #315-15B-163 entitled "Ossipee Route 16 Corridor Enhancement Patrols".

The Board received a copy of a letter to the editor written by resident Dave Smith praising Officer Justin Swift for his professionalism and compassion when he responded to an automobile accident Smith was involved in on 3/31/2015. Morgan requested a thank you letter be sent to Officer Swift from the Board of Selectmen.

The Board received a copy of an article acknowledging Jen Berkowitz from the School's Out! Program as this year's recipient of the Thad Mandsager Award for her leadership in the program. Morgan requested that a letter congratulating Berkowitz on her award be sent from the Board of Selectmen.

A Timber Tax Warrant in the amount of \$412.64 was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to sign the Warrant. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Old Business:

Whittier Covered Bridge – Brad Harriman, Public Works Director, reported that he attended the construction meeting last Tuesday and work continues to progress on the Bridge. Morgan questioned the completion date for this phase. Harriman answered that it was originally six months but that has been extended by the change orders approved by the NH DOT. Morgan questioned the timeframe for the next phase. Harriman responded that he has already received approval from the NH DOT to move forward with Hoyle, Tanner & Associates and they will be working on submitting the IGE for approval this summer. Morgan asked if the Bridge will be put back across the river this year. Harriman answered that it will likely be next spring because the abutments will need to be built. Conduct Billings stated that the Warrant Article approved last year was time specific for completion. This will be reviewed.

Library Roof – Harriman reported the bids are due this Friday. He stated that he has met with several contractors who are interested in the bidding on the projects.

Tree at Depot Square – Harriman stated that he and Selectman Riley visited the tree last week and determined that the tree is a nuisance and removing it would open the roadway to sunlight that would be helpful in the winter months. Harriman will obtain a quote from Dan Libby to have it removed. Morgan asked if there is any other tree work that is needed. Harriman confirmed and stated that he will have Libby incorporate all into the quote he requests.

Valley Road Bridge Quote #2 – Harriman reported that he has had difficulty getting bids from other companies to complete the Valley Road Bridge Repair. He was able to contact another company and provide them with the specifications but does not anticipate receipt of their bid for another month. Morgan questioned whether Harriman has been satisfied with Mitchie Corp's pricing and work completed in the past. Harriman confirmed. Morgan made a motion to proceed with Mitchie Corp so the project is not delayed further. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

New Business:

Harriman reported the statistics from Earth Day at the Transfer Station this past Saturday. Harriman stated this was the busiest attendance since he has been employed by the Town. 576 cars were received, recycling 207 electronics, 248 loads of demo material, 450 tires, 33 refrigeration units, 15 car batteries and 27 propane tanks. Morgan commented that the program encourages proper disposal of trash collected around town and stated that another will be hosted in the fall. Freeman commended the workers for a great job dealing with the steady flow of traffic received throughout the day.

Harriman informed the Board that the road bans have been lifted. Riley questioned if there was any road damage reported. Harriman answered that there were only instances of soft shoulders.

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

Public Input:

Ed Comeau questioned if the Board of Selectmen voted to accept the grant funds for the sobriety checkpoint and questioned if it is the same checkpoint that will be done in the Town of Wakefield. Morgan answered that he does not believe the Town has ever conducted a sobriety checkpoint but will look into it for next week's meeting. Comeau stated that the Wakefield Board of Selectmen voted to not accept the grant funds. Comeau stated that there is a fourth amendment issue while conducting a sobriety checkpoint and also stated that there is an approximate cost of \$30,000 to conduct the 6-hour checkpoint. Last year's checkpoint held in Wakefield resulted in six offenders out of a total of 300 cars that were checked. He questioned what the community can do to find a better way to promote awareness and stop drunk driving throughout the year rather than utilizing federal grant funds for a once per year checkpoint.

Comeau suggested a community yard sale that could work in conjunction with Earth Day as a way to promote clean up.

Comeau suggested that a request be made to Planet Aid for them to install a disclaimer on their clothing donation bins stating that items deposited do not help local residents and the money is to be used internationally for sustainable development programs. Morgan stated that he does not see there to be confusion on this matter adding that most of the residents contribute to the local thrift stores.

Morgan reported that the First Congregational Church will be hosting a new thrift store in conjunction with the White Horse Addiction Recovery Facility recently approved for operation on Route 16B.

Comeau stated that two bills will be acted on by Congress on Wednesday including SB116, the Constitutional Carry Bill, and the Casino Bill and questioned the Board's stance on each bill. The Board members spoke in favor of SB116 but expressed some concern with gambling addiction and increased crime activity for the potential community where a casino may be located.

Morgan expressed his thanks to Carroll County Independent Reporter Carol Holyoake for attending the Selectmen's Meetings and providing coverage on Town affairs in the local paper.

Morgan polled the Board for a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) at 4:45 PM. 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 4:52 PM. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Public session reconvened at 4:52 PM.

Gwendolyn Guild asked for status update on the tree at Depot Square. Morgan informed her that they have advised Harriman to pursue the removal of the tree which will take place along with other tree work in town.

Guild informed the Board that during a visit to the Transfer Station two Saturdays ago, she found the facility to be short-handed, lacking a gate attendant, and the trays to be covered with trash. She said the facility is normally very clean but it was not in this instance. Freeman stated that they were short a staff member that day. Guild commented that Bonnie Ames does a remarkable job when she's working.

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

Adjourned at 4:56 PM.

Richard H. Morgan, Chairman

Franklin R. Riley

Robert C. Freeman

To be approved 5/4/2015