

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, April 3, 2017**

These minutes were recorded by Ellen White, Town Administrator.

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 "Sam" Martin.

Public Input:

Ron Adams, Conservation Commission Chairman, approached the Board stating his disappointment with the way the Selectmen questioned expenditures made by the Conservation Commission without allowing the Commission the opportunity to be present to respond to their inquiries. He stated that a recent article in the Carroll County Independent was based on the recording of the Selectmen's Meeting and did not portray the information correctly. Lengthy discussion took place on the expenditures noted as donations approved by the Conservation Commission to the Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust (DHPWT), NH Fish and Game Endangered Species Fund, and Society for the Protection of NH Forests. Adams discussed the purpose of each donation made clarifying they were not donations but membership fees paid to the various organizations. Morgan reviewed the process by which outside agencies seek appropriations from the Town at Town Meeting and suggested the same process for these donations paid directly from Conservation Commission funds. It was noted that Adams abstained from voting on the donation paid to DHPWT as he is on the board for the organization. Morgan stated that all but two members of the Conservation Commission are also active members of the DHPWT and that it has an appearance of a conflict of interest. Martin questioned what prompted the \$500 donation paid to the DHPWT. Adams responded that it was based on the monitoring DHPWT provided on the Ciccotelli property. Adams was referred to listen to the audio recording of the 11/6/2016 Conservation Commission meeting as that was not the reason portrayed in the meeting but rather a membership because a donation would not be allowable. It was suggested that a policy should be implemented to deal with expenditures for memberships to only organizations providing tangible benefit to the Town.

Meeting Minutes:

Morgan made a motion to accept the minutes from the 3/27/2017 Selectmen's Meeting. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Morgan made a motion to accept the minutes from the 3/27/2017 Selectmen's Work Session. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifests:

The Payroll Voucher was submitted for the week ending 4/1/2017 totaling \$150,588.49 including payroll in the amount of \$37,925.12, payroll taxes of \$12,312.42 and benefits of \$100,350.95. The Accounts Payable Voucher total for the week ending 3/25/2017 was in the amount of \$42,265.14. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the check voucher. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Morgan stated that the Board reviews each invoice prior to approving the batch totals in the weekly manifest.

Review of Red Folder:

An Intent to Cut Timber was received from James & Brenda Linehan for the properties located on Map 260, Lot 17 and Map 265, Lots 20, 21, and 22. The intent is to cut 100 acres from the total 130 acres and the

logger listed is Western Maine Timberlands Inc. 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.

The Board received a copy of the Invitation to Bid for the replacement of a leach field in the municipal septic system. Bids are due at 4:00 PM on 5/12/2017 and are scheduled to be opened during the 5/15/2017 Selectmen's Meeting.

An Intent to Excavate was received from Coleman Concrete, Inc. for the property located on Map 124, Lot 23. The intent is to excavate 1,000 cubic yards of sand and the taxes are paid. Morgan made a motion to approve the intent. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for an Abatement was received from the Marusak Family Trust for the property located on Map 61, Lot 37. The Assessor recommends a reduction in value of \$27,700 resulting in a refund of \$580.60 to settle the appeal filed with the Board of Tax and Land Appeals. Morgan made a motion to grant the abatement. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Form A-5: Land Use Change Tax for the property owned by Jane Wright located on Map 104, Lot 14 was presented for signatures. A total of 1 acre will be removed from Current Use Assessment. Morgan made a motion to sign the form. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Land Use Change Tax Warrant in the amount of \$4,060.00 for the change mentioned above was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An Excavation Tax Warrant in the amount of \$50.96 was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received an updated copy of the Long-Term Variable Milfoil Management Plan from the NH Department of Environmental Services. Ellen White was noted to be the point of contact for the invasive species control for the Town.

The 2016 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate from the NH Department of Revenue was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to sign the form. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An Intent to Cut Timber was received from DNK Properties for the property located on Map 264, Lot 21. The intent is to cut 16 acres and the logger listed is Western Maine Timberlands Inc. 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.

The Board received a letter from Assessor Todd Haywood reviewing the exemption status of the property owned by the Ossipee Valley Masonic Temple, Inc. located on Map 47, Lot 1. Haywood states that the entity does not qualify for exempt status according to NH RSA 72:23, VI and suggests an annual abatement of tax or compromise similar to a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT). Morgan made a motion to maintain the observance of the property as tax-exempt. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Selectmen's Deed for a property taken for taxes but repurchased by the former owner was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to sign the deed. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Water & Sewer Warrant in the amount of \$82,580.40 for the collection of water & sewer charges was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

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.

The 2017 Form MS-232: Report of Appropriations Actually Voted was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the form. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Highway Department Work Log was received for the week ending 4/1/2017.

The Board received a memo from Kellie Skehan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, informing them that she has notified the Board of Tax and Land Appeals of the date the final tax bills were mailed as required per RSA 76:13.

The Board received a copy of a check received from Northeast Resource Recovery Association in the amount of \$252.14 for scrap metal recycling.

The Board received a copy of correspondence received from Attorney Richard Sager regarding the Town of Freedom vs. Ossipee Planning Board Appeal on the expansion of Westward Shores Campground. The court determined that no further work can be completed on the site until the appeal is over.

The Board received an email requesting that they address obtaining a curb cut accessing the Hannaford shopping plaza from Route 28 to assist with traffic flow. Morgan stated that the State of NH will not allow this as it is too close to the intersection. Ron Adams stated that this was mentioned during the recent NH DOT presentations on intersection improvements and the response was that Hannaford would have to repurchase the right-of-way from the State and pay all expenses to construct an exit.

The Board received a letter from the State of NH Bureau of Rail and Transit regarding a request they received from an abutter seeking to purchase two parcels containing approximately 0.25 acre and 0.99 of railroad property. Morgan stated that the Town may have first refusal on any disposed State property but further research will be completed to find out the specifics. Morgan requested the topic be tabled for additional information. Tim Otterbach questioned if the request was for easements or parcels. Morgan responded that it is unclear.

Selectman Freeman exited the meeting at 5:05 PM to attend to an emergency call.

The Board received notification from CWS Fence & Guardrail that they will be replacing substandard cable and beam guardrail along Route 28 from the intersection of Route 109A to just south of Route 16 commencing on 4/5/2017 with an estimated completion in June 2017.

The Board received notification of a Traffic Impact Scoping Study Meeting that has been scheduled for 4/6/2017 at 10:00 AM in the NH DOT Bureau of Traffic Conference Room, Concord location regarding the development of a gas station/convenience store at the intersection of Routes 16 and 41.

The Board received a letter from Joe Deighan expressing his interest in serving as a member on the Conservation Commission.

The Board received a letter from Cindy Stevens in regard to the Union Contract negotiations. The letter states that she feels that the workers in Town do an outstanding job and deserve a decent wage increase to cover

inflation in addition to not taking away any holidays from the workers. Morgan stated that the wage increase covered in the one-year contract covers more than the Cost of Living Adjustment for the indexing area.

Review of Water & Sewer Folder:

A Water & Sewer Warrant in the amount of \$1,710.00 for the collection of septic disposal fees was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Payroll and Accounts Payable Manifest for the week ending 3/31/2017 in the amount of \$5,629.75 was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve the manifest. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Old Business:

Intersection of Routes 28 & 171 – Nothing new to report. Morgan requested that Brad Harriman, Public Works Director, obtain an update. Ron Adams reported that surveying was being completed at the intersection this afternoon.

Intersection of Routes 16, 25 & 28 – Nothing new to report.

Hazardous & Dilapidated Buildings – Morgan requested an update be obtained from Attorney Sager.

9 Dorrs Corner Road – Morgan reported that the dangerous mobile home that was on-site and not hooked up to utilities housing 11 tenants has now been removed and disposed of.

Recreation Committee – Nothing new to report.

Highway Department and Water & Sewer Department Training & Licensing – Harriman stated that this will be an ongoing process.

Whittier Covered Bridge – Harriman reported that the preliminary plans have been completed by Hoyle, Tanner & Associates and have further been submitted to NH DOT for review.

Morgan stated that the highway crew has been busy with storm cleanup and asked to pass along their thanks for their hard work. Morgan addressed a complaint made about remnant snow that piled up at the end of a driveway and stated that he appreciates the frustration this causes but until a solution is developed to stop this from happening during plowing, there is not much that can be done.

New Business:

Morgan welcomed Ellen White back from leave.

Public Input:

None presented.

Non-Public Session:

Morgan polled the Board for a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) for a tax matter at 5:17 PM. Roll call vote was taken. Martin answered yes and Morgan answered yes. Morgan made a motion to adjourn the non-public session at 5:29 PM. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Public session reconvened at 5:31 PM. Morgan stated that the minutes from the non-public session were sealed to protect the reputation of taxpayers.

Joe Deighan questioned when the Board will be appointing members to the Conservation Commission. Morgan responded that they have advertised requests of intent be submitted until 4/10/2017.

Tim Otterbach stated that the Conservation Commission is short three members and additional alternate members. Martin responded that the Selectmen may appoint a commission consisting of 3-7 members.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 10, 2017 at 4:15 PM.

Adjournment:

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

Adjourned at 5:33 PM.

Richard H. Morgan, Chairman

Robert C. Freeman

Sandra "Sam" Martin

To be approved 4/10/2017