

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, August 26, 2013

Selectman 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 Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes of the 8/12/2013 Selectmen's Meeting. Selectman Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The check vouchers for week ending 8/24/2013 were presented in the amount of \$1,074,880.28. Selectman Merrow made a motion to approve these vouchers. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Brad Harriman presented a list of proposed changes to the fees at the Transfer Station. The fees will be reviewed by the Selectmen and discussed at the next meeting.

Brad Harriman presented two proposals received for the installation of granite curbing for the garden islands. The recommended proposal exceeds the appropriated amount by \$500.00 which Harriman stated in the memo could come from the Highway budget. Selectman Morgan motioned to approve the proposal recommended by Harriman. Selectman Merrow seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a letter from Taffy Notarcola, a resident of Wildwood Estates in Tuftonboro, requesting a seasonal pass for the residents of Wildwood Estates to use the Transfer Station. Present at the meeting, she spoke her request to the Board. Selectman Morgan stated that there are several other similar circumstances throughout Town and it is not legal to allow other towns to use of our facilities. He further suggested she contact Mark Wright to see if they could work something out with him for the disposal during the summer months.

The Board received programming updates from Time Warner Cable.

The Board received an invitation from Donna Sargent requesting their attendance at OCC's Annual Cookout September 5 from 4-6 pm at White Lake to honor volunteers.

The MS-1 Extension Request Form was submitted for signatures requesting DRA to extend the deadline from September 1 to September 30 allowing more time to process the abatements. Selectman Merrow motioned to sign the extension. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The check vouchers for week ending 8/17/2013 were presented in the amount of \$388,062.01. Selectman Merrow made a motion to approve these vouchers. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Highway Department work logs were submitted for weeks ending 8/3/2013, 8/10/2013 and 8/17/2013.

Selectman Merrow asked the status of the Thurley Road Bridge. Brad Harriman stated they were pouring the second footing today. Patches in the abutments would be made on Tuesday and he is estimating completion for the end of September.

An Outdoor Event Application was received from Kim Blackman/Ted Foley for the tent sale held in West Ossipee. Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the application, Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. A letter requesting a Hawkers & Peddlers license in the future will be written to the applicants.

A request for Subordination Agreement was received from New Hampshire Community Loan Fund regarding Sandy Ridge Estates. Sandy Ridge Estates is refinancing their first mortgage to demolish and rebuild their community center. The Town of Ossipee will remain in second position as mortgage holder.

Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the agreement. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Lakeview Rehabilitation is seeking community members to act as representatives to attend one meeting per quarter. Selectman Morgan stated he sat on the advisory council in the past. Jean Hansen will be looking into this further.

A warrant for unlicensed dogs was presented. Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the warrant. Selectman Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Contract for Use of Facilities was received from Kellie Skehan to use the Freight House 8/28/2013 for a meeting. Selectman Morgan motioned to approve the request, waiving the deposit fee. Selectman Merrow seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A check was received from Northeast Resource Recovery Association in the amount of \$1,385.44 for recycling.

The Board received a memo from Huggins Hospital and Central NH VNA & Hospice regarding a survey to be taken online about their services. Selectman Morgan stated he received the request by email and expressed the importance of filling out the survey by 8/31/2013.

The Board received a letter from Aquatic Control Technology notifying them of temporary water use restrictions to be imposed on or about 9/4/2013 during the milfoil treatment. This information will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Selectmen's Office.

The Board received a copy of a letter addressed to James Eldridge, Police Chief, from Gary Wallace Auctioneers who commended Officer Ian MacMillan for his assistance with recovering stolen valuables. Selectman Merrow motioned a letter be sent to MacMillan congratulating him. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A memo to the Trustee of the Trust Funds was presented for signature for the withdrawal of \$75,000 for the reimbursement of the purchase deposit for two trucks described in 2013 Warrant Articles 7 and 8. Selectman Merrow motioned to sign the request. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received two letters from New England Water Works Association; the first acknowledging the Town of Ossipee Water and Sewer as recipient for the Utility of the Year Award. The second acknowledging Doug Sargent as recipient of this year's Award of Merit for outstanding contribution to water works practice. An awards ceremony will take place 9/17/2013 at the Equinox Resort in Vermont. Selectman Merrow motioned to send congratulatory letters to the recipients. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An application for veteran's credit was received. The applicant served the required time with honorable discharge but not during a qualifying war or conflict as required per RSA 72:28-V. Selectman Merrow motioned to sign the denial. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An appeal settlement request was submitted for the property located at 10 Forest Lane for the 2010 tax year reducing the value from \$197,100 to \$142,900 as per the BTLA decision. Selectman Merrow made a motion to approve. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A request for abatement was received for the property located at 76 Ridge Road. After reviewing the information provided, the Assessor recommended approval of the value change from \$509,400 to \$504,800. Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the request. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A request for abatement was received for the property located at 78 Ridge Road. After reviewing the information provided, the Assessor recommended approval of the value change from \$705,800 to \$658,900. Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the request. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A request for abatement was received from Agape Ministries for the properties located on map 18, lot 9, map 38, lots 4 & 5. The Assessor determined the properties are not being used for their intended purpose to qualify for the exemption under 501-C and recommended denial. Selectman Merrow motioned to deny the request. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A request for abatement was received for the property located at 82 Ridge Road. After reviewing the information provided, the Assessor recommended approval of the value change from \$409,100 to \$379,700. Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the request. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A request for abatement was received for the property located at 32 Leavitt Road. After reviewing the information provided, the Assessor recommended approval of the value change from \$306,300 to \$293,600. Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the request. Selectman Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A request for abatement was received for the property located at 65 Leavitt Road. After reviewing the information provided, the Assessor recommended approval of the value change from \$406,000 to \$389,400. Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the request. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A request for abatement was received for the property located at 104 Leavitt Road. After reviewing the information provided, the Assessor submitted a request of value change from \$452,000 to \$480,300, thus denying the abatement request. Selectman Merrow motioned to deny the request. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A request for abatement was received for the property located at 75 Broad Bay Road. After reviewing the information provided, the Assessor recommended approval of the value change from \$556,300 to \$376,400. Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the request. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A request for abatement was received for the property located at 73 Broad Bay Road. After reviewing the information provided, the Assessor recommended approval of the value change from \$539,800 to \$330,300. Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the request. Selectman Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An appeal settlement request was submitted for the property located at 71 Granite Road. After reviewing the information provided, the Assessor recommended approval of the value change from \$161,500 to \$130,000. Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the request. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A request for abatement was received for the property located at 28 Channel Road. After reviewing the information provided, the Assessor recommended approval of the value change from \$477,600 to \$412,200. Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the request. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A request for abatement was received for the property located at 31 Navajo Trail. After reviewing the information provided, the Assessor recommended approval of the value change from \$95,400 to \$87,100. Selectman Merrow motioned to approve the request. Selectman Morgan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Fourteen applicants for abatement failed to respond to the request for abatement inspection. Selectman Merrow motioned to deny their abatements in one vote. Selectman Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Pat Jones presented information on creating an Economic Revitalization Zone in Ossipee which would enable new and existing businesses to receive tax breaks on the business enterprise tax and business profit tax. There would be no cost associated with this affiliation. The Town would have to submit an application and also designate the area of Town to be zoned during a Selectmen's meeting. Selectman Merrow and Selectman Morgan stated they would like to review the information and discuss at their next meeting.

Volunteer Awards: Selectman Morgan stated that it was advertised last week. Selectman Merrow stated that they have received one so far. Selectman Freeman stated he knew of several additional that would be coming in.

Freight House: Selectman Merrow stated it is coming along and will be ready very shortly.

Sidewalks: Brad Harriman stated White Mountain is still working on the right-of-way plan.

Covered Bridge: Harriman reported that it is still in engineering and paperwork processing status. Selectman Morgan stated he had been informed of a gated access to an abutting wood lot that was being blocked. He requested signage to be placed to not block the access. Further discussion was made about the overall cost and restoration project as a whole.

Routes 171 & 28: Harriman reported there is still no report. He anticipates something this fall.

Emergency Management Trailer: Selectman Freeman stated he reviewed the list of items that should be in the trailer. All but three items are already in there and those missing items have now been ordered.

Cemetery: Selectman Morgan made a motion to consider the Cemetery Trustee position vacant due to non-response. Selectman Merrow seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Selectman Morgan stated it would be advertised for the balance of the term.

Reverse 911: Selectman Freeman stated that Martha Eldridge, Town Administrator, scheduled an appointment that neither Emergency Management personnel could attend so it would have to be rescheduled. Selectman Morgan stated the importance of getting this wrapped up.

Vending Machine: Discussion was made about the vending machine that OCC would like placed at either the Town Hall or Freight House. The determination was made that neither building has room for it.

The Board received a letter from Byron Martin, 23 Duncan Lake Road, who is interested in purchasing the abutting 0.22 acre lot owned by the Town which abuts his property. The Town Attorney has advised the Board that they can sell once the Planning Board and Conservation Commission have reviewed and given their recommendation. The Board requested the Assessor's review of the value of the property and they would discuss at their next meeting.

Ron Adams from the Conservation Commission came in to discuss their intent to purchase one parcel from a six-parcel subdivision at the end of Duncan Lake Road. The Planning Board recommended a wildlife corridor be put in place at the time of subdivision approval. In addition, certain covenants were also put in place restricting the use of the land. The Conservation Commission is working toward the purchase of the land with the wildlife corridor, also known as tax map 122, lot 19, along with the removal of the deed restrictions to help with the sale-ability of the remaining parcels. There is a public hearing scheduled for 9/3/2013 with the Planning Board to discuss the amendment of the covenants and restrictions. Dan Hole Watershed Trust, the Conservation Easement holder, is contributing \$5,000

toward the purchase of the land, so the Conservation Commission is seeking a public hearing to purchase the land in the amount of \$17,500. The Board will be checking on the public hearing requirements.

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

Chester "Ski" Kwiatkowski asked what the contributing factors to the abatements were. Selectman Merrow answered it to be a result of a new Assessor. Selectman Morgan elaborated that as part of the equalization with the State, the lakefront properties were determined to be 10% higher than the Town as a whole so the land values have been adjusted accordingly. He further expressed his concern for how this change will affect the tax rate. Further discussion was made about the current market and upcoming revaluation.

Chester "Ski" Kwiatkowski questioned the amount of money saved by having the Freight House finished by the Highway Department. Selectman Morgan stated that it saved the Town from having to hire a new contractor to finish it which would have been a larger expense.

Connie Billings discussed the fees surrounding communities are charging for their cemetery lots.

Sandra "Sam" Martin stated the new Cemetery Trustee vacancy would open up two positions to be elected in March.

Selectman Morgan discussed the expansion of Grant Cemetery and suggested reviewing the cemetery property prior to their next meeting.

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

Adjourned at 5:50 PM

Harry C. Merrow

Robert C. Freeman

Richard H. Morgan

To be approved 9/9/2013