



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Monday, February 09, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Chair John Penacho, John McDevitt, Vaughan Morgan, Mo Sodini

Members Absent: Kevin Forrest

Staff: Karen Anderson – Town Administrator

I. 6:30 p.m. – NON-PUBLIC

1. Personnel Evaluations [RSA 91-A:3, II(c)]: Building Inspector

MOTION: J. McDevitt moved to enter into non-public session at 6:30 p.m. Second – V. Morgan; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to seal the minutes. Second – J. McDevitt; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION: J. McDevitt moved to enter into public session at 6:55 p.m. Second – V. Morgan; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

Chair Penacho opened the Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:00 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; he announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

II. 7:00 p.m. – PUBLIC HEARING

1. Petition: Adoption of Official Ballot Voting [RSA 40:14, IV]

Chair Penacho announced that this was the required public hearing regarding the adoption of SB2 for the Town, which is a petitioned warrant article. He opened the meeting to public comments.

Alison Baryames, 27 Grove Street: Voiced her support for SB2. Two years ago, the school was voted SB; attempts to rescind it failed last year. As one community, there should be one method of voting. She cited access to voting and privacy when voting as important factors that should be available at the Town level.

Nicole Connelly, 22 Charles Drive: After voting at the polls on March 10, townspeople may forget that there is a Town Meeting to vote on other things the following Saturday. One process would help tremendously.

Kristen Syphers, 13 Park Avenue: With an SB2, absentee ballots would be beneficial for people travelling.

Chief Laurent added that she loved the small-town feel of Town Meeting, but understood that not everyone can make the meeting and vote. There is something to be said about Town Meeting, but the Deliberative Session can serve the same purpose.

Chair Penacho commented that no matter how voting was done, whether SB2 or Town Meeting, people had to be informed. The positive side of the SB2 is that the parents have been much more involved. From the Town aspect, he wasn't sure there was a benefit to an SB2 and was more concerned with the vote. Warrant articles are vetted very thoroughly at Town Meeting; he was concerned about the resident who didn't understand the warrant articles and may vote them down on a ballot. There are more warrant articles at the Town level that may be impacted as the result of the way people vote.

It was stated by A. Baryames that it wasn't someone's right to be an informed voter, but their right to vote. SB2 resulted in increased access for residents to vote, but not for the Town. There should be the same the same access and benefits to voting.

J. McDevitt stated that there is a great deal of time spent on Town warrant articles. Interested residents attend Town Meeting and warrant articles are explained. In an SB2, there's a Deliberative Session and people vote that may be uninformed. He continued that he'd like residents to be at Town Meeting and get the discussion going.

For A. Baryames it was about access to voting. She didn't feel it was right that 600 people vote on school-related issues. Explanations are needed for that as well; an effort needs to be made to educate people. She continued that it's okay for 100 people to vote on Town issues and it restricts the pool of people. J. McDevitt countered that the pool wasn't restricted: it was their choice not to attend Town Meeting. He wanted residents to attend and debate the issues rather than stay at home and cast a ballot.

Chair Penacho stated that he has found, after going to school meetings, parents and other residents were intimidated when teachers were present and they wouldn't voice their opinions. SB2 has given them the ability to vote through a "secret" ballot. Town Meeting isn't as intimidating and allows residents the opportunity to voice their opinions.

There being no further comments, Chair Penacho closed the public hearing at 7:18 p.m. He thanked those that attended the public hearing and participated.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER ITEMS

1. Remembrance Park Update: Wally Berg

W. Berg was not present. The Town Administrator told the Board that on Sunday, February 08, two firemen tried to respond by snowmobile to an accident on I-95 and cut through the park. One of the granite posts was clipped and snapped in half. Chair Penacho asked that Chief Cresta and Chief Laurent investigate the incident.

2. 911 Process Review: Chief Laurent, Chief Cresta, EMD Collins

Chief Laurent explained that they wanted to finalize the 911 process. The initial letter will be sent with the question and answer sheet to residents; another letter will follow once the changes are voted on (each envelope will be marked "IMPORTANT ADDRESS CHANGE INFORMATION") and will include how to number your house and mailbox as well as where to locate your mailbox. In addition, the DMV form for license changes and commonly used phone numbers are included.

J. McDevitt suggested adding signature blocks from the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director on the initial notification. Chief Laurent suggested that the letter could also be personalized. The public notice will be posted in the paper, on the website, in the Town Hall and in the Post Office. J. McDevitt also suggested changing "feedback" to "concerns". He will also make sure the Planning Board revises their regulations to reflect the 911 policy. Chief Laurent added that 911 can do the numbering.

Chair Penacho commented the process has come a long way, and the Board will be better prepared for the next phase. The next phase will happen after Town Meeting.

3. Trail Update: Chip Hussey

Continued to a future meeting.

4. Easter Egg Event

This is an annual event held on the Green. This year's date is Saturday, March 28, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve the Easter Egg Event by the Community Congregational Church, to be held on the Green on Saturday, March 28, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. Second – J. McDevitt; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

5. Easter Sunrise Service

The service this year will be held on Sunday, April 05, 2015, at the Band Stand at 6:00 a.m.

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve the Easter Sunrise Service by the Community Congregational Church, to be held at the Band Stand on Sunday, April 05, 2015, at 6:00 a.m. Second – J. McDevitt; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

6. Veteran's Credit

The resident at 48 Hillside Drive qualifies, and has a National Defense Service Medal.

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve the Veteran's Credit for the resident at 48 Hillside Drive. Second – J. McDevitt; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

7. Abatement Settlement Request

The Town Administrator explained that there is an abatement going to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals. A settlement meeting is required to be held by the end of February. The meeting was held with the property owner on Thursday, January 29, 2015. The property owner has requested a revised

assessment from \$566,400 to \$447,000 (abating \$119,400). The assessor is making no recommendation and feels it has been assessed accurately. The taxpayer has refused multiple requests for an interior inspection, and claims the abatement is for the land only.

MOTION: M. Sodini moved to deny the abatement request and let it go to the BTLA. Second – V. Morgan

DISCUSSION: Chair Penacho and M. Sodini agreed the Town has a good case; the taxpayer has not been forthcoming to allow the assessment of his property. The Town Administrator added that by going to the BTLA, an appraisal would have to be provided to the Town prior to that hearing. The taxpayer has only provided a market analysis by a realtor.

MOTION: M. Sodini moved to deny the abatement request and let it go to the BTLA. Second – V. Morgan; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

8. Town Shed Heaters

The Town Administrator explained that the overhead heaters in the highway shed, used by the snow plow company, failed last week. Some repair work has been done to get them operational. Hart Plumbing and Heating did the repair work, and recommended the two heaters be replaced; their quote was \$3,850. The heaters are working at this time. M. Sodini suggested trying to get through the season with the current heaters. The consensus of the Board was to get one more quote. J. McDevitt has requested a minimum of three quotes be received in the future.

M. Sodini mentioned that there is a sidewalk plow no longer being used on one side of the old salt shed. The Board has requested that Jones move his sidewalk plow so the Fire Department trailer can be moved into that bay.

9. Approval of Minutes: Monday, January 26, 2015

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve the minutes of Monday, January 26, 2015. Second – J. McDevitt; three in favor, one abstain (M. Sodini). **MOTION CARRIED**

10. Other Business

- Warrant articles were reviewed with the Moderator. The Budget Committee has recommended all warrant articles.

IV. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015

1. Payroll Manifest 03

MOTION: J. McDevitt moved to approve Payroll Manifest 03 in the amount of \$42,366.02. Second – V. Morgan; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

2. General Fund Manifest 03

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve General Fund Manifest 03 in the amount of \$339,758.75 (School - \$130,000). Second – J. McDevitt; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

3. Medical Deductible Expendable Trust Manifest 03

MOTION: V. Morgan moved to approve Medical Deductible Expendable Trust Manifest 03 in the amount of \$132.56. Second – J. McDevitt; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

V. NON-PUBLIC

1. RSA 91-A:3, II (c)

The Board entered into non-public session at 8:00 p.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned following the non-public session.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, February 23, 2015 – Town Hall Conference Room, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted – Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: Monday, February 23, 2015