

Selectmen's Meeting, Monday, February 29, 1988

Present: John J. Jones, Chairman, Rachel C. Reinstein, Edwin Rowehl, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Chamberlain, Harry Page, two member of the press and secretary.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30. Selectmen signed checks and one intent to cut.

Mr. Wallace and Mr. Chamberlain went over the proposed budget with the Selectmen voicing their concern over increases. Mr. Wallace would like to see the budget cut 3% across the board. Payroll, legal expenses and school payments were his major concern.

Selectmen explained the increases as best they could. Legal expenses must be expected if Selectmen hope to enforce the zoning regulations. School payments are not part of the budget and the Selectmen have no control over the need for taxes to cover the cost. School meetings are the place to object to the School budget. Payrolls are increased to keep up with cost of living as well as increases throughout the State.

Harry Page pointed out he is suing the Town, adding to legal expenses for the Town.

Mr. Page had applied for a permit to construct condos on property he had purchased on Water St. at that time offering to donate a portion of property across from the Reel shop to be used as a park. Selectmen could not permit this with the existing zoning regulations. Mr. Page requested a variance from the BOA and was denied. He has placed his problem in the hands of a lawyer.

Since he was denied the condos, he has applied for two building permits which were granted for the same property. Mr. Page pointed out the possible increase of school age children going up as many as 20 with the approved permits where he guessed the increase at about 7 with the condos.

Mr. Page asked why the Town has not answered the suits. Selectmen are not in control of this as it deals with the BOA and the BOA is in contact with their lawyer. Selectmen can not discuss this with Mr. Page at this time.

Mr. Page informed Selectmen he is going to start building the proposed apartments with 20 bedrooms which will produce more children since he has not heard any more on his variance.

Mr. Wallace objected to the way boards are formed and sees legal expenses increasing in the future if something is not done.

Mr. Chamberlain, being a member of the BOA, has not heard of the pending suits.

Mr. Wallace also objects to having to make an appointment to see the Selectmen and the need to voice what the appointment will be about. It was explained that when someone comes to see the Selectmen many times there is a need for research in order for the Selectmen to give an answer. Knowing the topic for the appointment enables the Selectmen to do any research required and be better informed when meeting with the taxpayer.

Mary Hyer's resignation was accepted.

Minutes of last weeks meeting accepted with change to Beaver Dam Rd. and not Beaver Pond Rd.

Meeting adjourned 9:50

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