

Selectmen's Meeting, April 26, 1990

Present: William Suydam, Chairman, Edwin Rowehl, Madeleine Henley, AA., Betty Shaw, secretary as well as several reporters, Mary Allen, Elizabeth Sharkey, Marsha Patten, Jeff Roper and Phil Dwight, treasurer.

Meeting called to order at 7:27

Randy Foose, and Marcy Tripp, Hawthorne College Trustees, Vincent Fulmer, President of Hawthorne College, and Howard Stone, representing the prospective buyer for Hawthorne College met to introduce Howard Stone and bring the Selectmen up to date on the plans for the College.

Howard Stone reported the prospective buyers intend to reopen the college and continue the flight training. The college will retain the name of Hawthorne College. This new endeavor will be in operation as a "for profit" organization and not as the former Hawthorne College "not for profit".

Vincent Fulmer thanked the town for all the support over the years and explained that the College is at the point of financial exhaustion now and looking for the finalization of the sale to the clients of Howard Stone.

The closing is expected to be in two to four weeks. At that time they will do an evaluation of the property and since they are here for the long term, they do not want to give an opening date as they are unsure what needs to be done before opening.

Mr. Foose said he sees the prospective buyers have shown careful consideration and every promise has been kept.

Mr. Stone mentioned the facility has been used as a college and asked what assurance the town can give that the same operation can continue as an educational and flight school. When asked if the community had considered other uses for the property, the selectmen assured Mr. Stone that Antrim residents are used to the College and do not anticipate any problems from the town people. The tax payers of Antrim will be glad to see the College up and running again.

Bill Suydam mentioned the State would have to be contacted and approval for a Secondary Education College would come from them. Bill mentioned the tax relief the college may be entitled to when it is in operation.

Madeleine Henley, asked what do the new owners expect at the College, ie. # of students, are they to be housed at the college etc.?

Mr. Stone looks at the next two years as being the time to fix the plant. School being seasonal, the timing has to be right. The Fall is when schools look to fill the quota for the school

year. They anticipate a four yr. college for the undergraduate, The Trustees will come with Liberal Arts, Flight training, Vocational, and Academic backgrounds. They look forward to giving airport management courses and other classes which are not easily found. Although they hope to surpass the number of students that Hawthorne had while being mindful of the facilities for housing presently at the college. They also hope to find some of the professors and other staff who worked at the college before and "give them a home".

Although it is difficult to give a starting date at this time, if they were not in business in four or five years, they would know they had a problem. They are looking at a May 90 closing, renovation 91, perhaps 92 as well. They hope to have facility in shape within two years, but will have to wait to set a start up date.

M.Allen asked if they will be operating under the original charter that Hawthorn worked at which was not for profit. Mr. Stone reported the investors are looking to make money as well as give a quality education. M. Allen also asked if there was any problem with the post secondary regarding the change in charter, Mr. Stone does not see that being a problem they will work at getting their accreditation.

Bill Suydam asked if they are operating in other States. They are operating in Japan. and in California. They cover the gamut of vocational, liberal arts etc. This facility is unique with a large corp.? The school will be operated as a corp. with shareholders with the intention of offering a sound education.

Eliz. Sharkey asked about the corporation. There is a corp. but it will be formally organized prior to the closing transaction and Mr. Stone is not at liberty to say who he represents.

M. Patten asked if they form separate entities to operate each college they run. (4 or 5 of the institutions owners will be used to form this entity). One owner will be for the flight school etc.

Jeff from the Union Leader, asked if the owners are all citizens of the U.S. The ultimate owners are people from other countries and some of the owners are Japanese.

M. Allen. Will most students be Japanese? They hope the student body will be international. There will be students from Japan.

The Selectmen will be kept posted as to the progress with the College.

Bill Suydam moved to pay the insurance bill for the old rescue vehicle (Nov. 2, 1989-90) out of the fire dept. account, second Ed Rowehl. So voted.

Certificates of CUT and a Warrant for the collection of yield taxes were signed.

Cover letter for the DOT regarding the request for dry hydrants by the fire dept. at Lovern Mill Bridge was signed.

Dot Penny and Steve Crowell agreed to serve on the Task Force.

Minutes of April 9 changed to reflect that those receiving assistance from the town may pay back aid received by working at the cemetery.

Ed moved to accept the minutes as corrected, second, Bill. So moved.

Pat Beers, Pat Webber and Bob Holmes from the park dept. and Chris Joseph, Police Chief, met to review the beach ordinance. Chris suggested some changes. He is concerned over the wording and asked that a change to reflect the new ordinance supersedes the beach ordinance of 1981 and place a sign at the beach regarding the open container ordinance since the wording does not clearly state that no open liquor containers are allowed anyplace in the Town. He believes this could be a problem in court if it is not stated. He does not like #10, overnight parking, since some property owners can only reach their property by boat and therefore park at the beach.

The Selectmen pointed out that there has been no change from the previous ordinance.

Ed Rowehl moved to change the wording of the ordinance stating the new ordinance supersedes the beach ordinance of 1981 as suggested by Chris. Second, Bill Suydam, so moved.

Paul Ruess, school board, discussed the soil at the school. Pat Webber voiced the wish of the park dept. to use the soil at the school but they have no way to move it. Ed Rowehl checked it out, it would cost a lot to screen, but it could be used for fill. There is a 25 acre site by the sewer plant which belongs to the town. although it does have power lines running over it, the soil could be placed there.

The district had hopes that the situation was taken care of. Pro Con had not decided how much of the soil they wanted to keep and by the time they made the decision the soil wasn't much good, the trucks were gone. Paul does not think the school will be using any more of the soil. Paul does not know if any of the soil was removed when they first started. Ed Rowehl thinks they moved some of the soil and spread it around, possibly some on the school property and someone had told Pat Webber some of the soil was trucked off.

Paul thinks it best to go back to Pro Con and have them move it, sell it off and split the proceeds. Pat Webber asked where the school board comes into it since a bid was put in by Pro Con to build a ball field and whatever is required is their responsibility.

The lease was discussed, reviewed and some changes suggested.

The Selectmen also voiced their concern over the school billing procedures. When it is known that Antrim and Bennington receive the bulk of any grant money, they should be scheduled for payments with this in mind.

Ed gave a report on the last Planning Board meeting.

Don Chambers has not been at a meeting in a couple of months.

This leaves a shortage of members on the board.

Bob Watterson is also away.

Bill Suydam asked if Bob Watterson could possibly be an alternate and Nancy Timko a full member of the Planning Board.

Bill Suydam, M. Henley, B. Shaw will be attending the Workers' comp. & Unemp. workshop in Portsmouth on the 10 and 11 of May.

Meeting adjourned 10:25

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