

**TOWN OF ANTRIM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 1998**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Chairman Carol Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Carol Smith, Selectmen Timothy Seeger and Denise Dargie and Town Administrator Kelley Collins

6:00 – 6:45 p.m. MEET WITH ROAD AGENT, ROBERT VARNUM

On-going verbal/written complaint reference drainage on Elm Avenue.

The Selectmen reviewed the letter sent by this resident regarding the drainage of road water onto her land. Some discussion took place regarding the number and age of swales on this property. The Road Agent emphasized again that no new swales were added. Some swales may have filled-in partially with age and he cleaned them out but, none were added. No further action will be taken unless this resident is still dissatisfied after shoulder work has been completed.

Written complaint from resident on Old Turnpike Road reference road salt/maple trees.

The Selectmen reviewed and discussed the complaint and request for action from Mr. Forster. Chairman Smith pointed out that the Selectmen were clear with this resident when they agreed to take down the dead trees in the Town's right-of-way, that was the extent of the responsibility they were willing to take. In addition, Chairman Smith recalls that the wood was left for Mr. Forster, at his request. The Selectmen are sympathetic to the plight of these trees but the forestry report solicited by the Town gives several other possible causes of the damage to these trees including: continually tapping, vehicle exhaust, severe ice storms, etc. The Selectmen agreed unanimously that they are not willing to take any further Town action on this matter. The Town Administrator will notify Mr. Forster of this decision, in writing.

Status for handling any questions during Road Agent's upcoming vacation.

The Road Agent will be on vacation from June 15 through June 29, 1998. The Road Agent has every confidence in his employees and stated that the Town Administrator can call any member of the Highway Department. Normally, Mr. Gutgesell would be the next person in line to call.

6:45 – 7:25 p.m. MEET WITH POLICE CHIEF, BRIAN BROWN

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Discuss written request for additional speed limit signs on Rte 31. The Selectmen reviewed the written request and discussed the Town Administrator's conversation with the State of New Hampshire, regarding signage. The State will only increase signage if it is a direct request from the community. The Police Chief states that he has been up there three times since he got a copy of this letter and the only violation he found was one person going 48 in a 40. Generally, the Chief feels that the signs are adequate and appropriate and feels that additional signage is not going to stop the people who are speeding. The Chief does note that there is increased traffic in the area, especially truck traffic but it is a state road. At this time the Board is not inclined to support additional signage. The Board asked the Town Administrator to write to the NH Department of Transportation person with responsibility for this area, to have him check to make sure that all the signs required are actually there. She is also to carbon copy this resident on the letter to the State and explain the Board's decision to the resident.

Discuss continuing status of responses to Girl's Shelter. The Police Chief updated the Selectmen that two more clients "ran" on Sunday night and it appears they stole a resident's 1994 van. The meeting between Lutheran Services, the Division of Children and Youth Services, the local director, the Selectmen and Police Chief is scheduled for Monday, July 13, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

**7:25 – 8:32 P.M. MEET WITH BOB BERNSTEIN AND BEN PRATT
REFERENCE THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
APPLICATION FOR REFURBISHING OF THE AIKEN HOUSE**

Mr. Bernstein had already submitted a draft of the proposed application for the Selectmen's review. Considerable discussion took place regarding the Board's concerns that if fund raising ever fell short, or if the Grapevine fell on hard economic times the Town (tax money) would have to come up with the money to maintain that building. Mr. Bernstein and Mr. Pratt went over the application and the feelings of the committee that put together the original proposal. The bottom line is that the voters approved applying for the project in the amount of \$350,000. The public hearing on the application portion of the project is June 22, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

8:32 p.m. MEET WITH MR. DAVE WILSON, AT HIS REQUEST.

Mr. Wilson thanked the Selectmen for seeing him without an appointment and explained that he came to discuss the possibility of using an area next to the existing basketball hoop for a skateboard/rollerblading area. He notes that the current area is approximately 49' x 100'. If the Town could pave an additional 30' x 100' section we could have a nice spot. The Town Administrator asked the Selectmen to take this under advisement for the time being. She noted that we need to talk to our insurance company regarding liability. Mr. Wilson told the Board that he would like to see this project come to fruition this summer but realizes it is complicated. Some discussion took place regarding fund

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raising since no money was budgeted for this. Mr. Wilson will do some further research and contact the Board again.

9:10 p.m. GENERAL BUSINESS

Discuss written request for extension on dooamage for cut at Map 7, Lot 43

Mr. Forster has written requesting an extension, for submission of his "report of cut" because he experienced some hardship on this cut. The Board of Selectmen are sympathetic to Mr. Forster's problems with his logger but the statutes are clear on this matter. In addition, the Town Administrator reminded the Board that Dennis Thorell, timber tax appraiser for the State was the one who actually requested that we charge Mr. Forster the dooamage. The Selectmen agreed unanimously to not grant an extension or an abatement.

Officially welcome Recreation Coordinator

Effective June 4, 1998, the Town has a new Recreation Coordinator, Ms. Shelly Gardner. The Board would like the Town Administrator to send Ms. Gardner a letter of welcome and invite her to a Selectmen's Meeting on Monday, August 17, 1998.

Discuss fishing derby expenses. The Town Administrator made the Board aware that Mr. Wilson actually paid approximately \$90 out of his own pocket for the fishing derby because he bought 150 fish this year instead of 100. She also noted that Mr. Wilson has not asked to be reimbursed—he doesn't even know that she is discussing this with the Board. The Board agreed unanimously to reimburse Mr. Wilson any out-of-pocket expense for the fishing derby. The Selectmen appreciate all the time and effort volunteers like Mr. Wilson put in to projects like the fishing derby.

Thank you letter to (2) employees for services rendered

The Town Administrator noted that she has taken the liberty of drafting two letters for the Selectmen's signatures, thanking Barbara Elia for all her years of service to the Town, and thanking Ann Dwight for serving as a Trustee of the Trust Funds.

Review letter to Fire Department from Water & Sewer Department ref: hydrant use

The Selectmen briefly reviewed a copy of the letter that the Water & Sewer Department sent to Fire Chief Beauchamp regarding the use of certain hydrants and the impact that has on some water customers. Chairman Smith noted that this has been discussed with the Fire Department on other occasions.

Status of excavations at Tri-Town Landfill

Some general discussion took place regarding the accounting/tally sheets for the excavated material. The Selectmen asked the Town Administrator if we have received the May figures. We haven't, but the Town Administrator will give Bennington a call. In addition, the slab is laid for the Bennington Highway Garage. The Selectmen reminded the Town Administrator that there is supposed to be a document releasing Francestown

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and Antrim from any liability surrounding this building. Some discussion also ensued regarding the fact that Bennington wrote to us asking if we wanted figures on the grubbing work and we write back to say "yes" and find out that Frankestown has already proceeded with the grubbing and they will be billed for this service. Chairman Smith and Selectman Seeger are both particularly concerned that we appear to have issues that are not yet addressed and that all three Towns have the same Attorney. There was some discussion regarding hiring another attorney to represent us in this matter to make sure that Antrim's best interests are being served. (The Selectmen signed a fee agreement letter with Mitchell & Bates)

The Selectmen signed (2) abatements. One abatement was for \$461.57 for land that should have been in current use. The other abatement was for \$156.00 for a correction to a yield tax.

Minutes of May 28, 1998 Meeting

The Selectmen unanimously approved the minutes of the May 28, 1998 meeting, as printed.

**9:25 p.m. NON-PUBLIC SESSION TO DISCUSS A DELINQUENT TAX
MATTER PER RSA 91-A:3, II (c)**

Chairman Smith made a motion to go in to Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II c matters which may adversely affect the reputation of a person, other than a member of the body or agency itself. Selectman Timothy Seeger seconded at 9:25 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Smith – yes; Selectman Seeger – yes; Selectman Dargie – yes.

The Selectmen generally discussed the payment plan of a resident with delinquent taxes.

Selectman Seeger made a motion to end the Non-Public Session at 9:40 p.m. Selectman Dargie seconded. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Smith – yes; Selectman Seeger – yes; Selectman Dargie – yes.

Status of Joint Loss Management Committee

The Town Administrator made the Board aware that memos have gone out to all department heads and the goal is to have an organizational meeting within the month.

Media One Letter from Henniker

The Town Administrator made the Board aware that Henniker faxed us a draft of a letter that is intended to go to Media One regarding current and future cable service in our Towns.

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10:00 p.m. Adjournment

There being no further business the Selectmen adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Submitted by:



Kelley A. Collins
Town Administrator

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