

**TOWN OF ANTRIM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
September 27, 1999**

APPROVED OCT 4 1999

6:00 p.m. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Chairman Seeger opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Seeger, Selectmen Dargie and Tenney and Town Administrator Kelley Collins

6:30 p.m. INTERVIEW ASSESSING FIRMS

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Earls and Associates/Jeffrey Earls

The Selectmen met with Jeffrey Earls, President of Earls and Associates and generally discussed the assessing needs of the Town and the services that Earls and Associates can provide.

7:30 – 7:55 p.m. Municipal Resources, Inc./Joseph Lessard

The Selectmen met with Joseph Lessard, Manager of Assessing Services and Mr. McQueen from MRI and generally discussed the assessing needs of the Town and the services that MRI can provide.

Towards the end of the meeting the Selectmen went back and discussed the advantages/disadvantages of both firms. The Board generally agreed that both firms were very experienced and reputable. Chairman Seeger made a motion to retain Earls and Associates to do the Town's assessing, effective immediately. Selectman Dargie seconded. VOTE: 3-0.

8:00 p.m. MEET WITH RESIDENT, TOM DAVIS RE: Property at Map 8D, Lot 44 currently owned by the Heirs of Maybelle Scadding

Mr. Davis stated that he asked for this meeting with the Selectmen to discuss the status of the property currently owned by the Heirs of Maybelle Scadding, who was Mr. Davis' grandmother. Mr. Davis gave a brief history of the facts that this land was at one time a part of the property currently owned by Barbara Elia. Mrs. Elia's property had clear title at the time her home was built on it. Somehow the subject property never got probated through the death of members of Mr. Davis' family and Mrs. Elia and Mrs. Scadding have paid the taxes on this property at least back to the late 1950's.

Mr. Davis is here tonight to ask the Selectmen to take the property by tax deed and then, in accordance with their authority to "...accept or reject any or all bids..." as part of the auction process sell it back to Mrs. Elia. Mrs. Elia is prepared to offer an amount equal to \$1 plus all back taxes, interest and penalties. The Board admits that is quite a bit more generous than what they usually get for auctioned tax-deeded property.

The Town Administrator suggested just running this by the Town Attorney for a couple of reasons. First, the tax deeding law changed, effective this year and now requires additional notice to the former owner. The law also doesn't allow for the Town to just attempt to make notice. We are now required to actually notify. In this case we may not have the names and addresses of all the people who constitute the "heirs of..." In addition, we usually do our auctions in the summer following the deeding, not immediately and what is the scenario if we auction and someone offers more...? Finally

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the Town Administrator wants to be sure that if we do this, we do it in a way that is fair to Mrs. Elia. The Selectmen agreed to authorize the Town Administrator to discuss this matter with the Town Attorney.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Review and discuss increases to employee insurance for 2000 budget.**

The Town Administrator made the Selectmen aware that we received the 2000 amounts for employee insurance from the New Hampshire Municipal Association – Health Insurance Trust (NHMA-HIT). The increase in the health insurance is 5% , the increase in the dental insurance is 4% and the increase to the short-term disability is 14.9%. The Town Administrator notes that while no rate increase is ever looked forward to, this increase seems more modest than the years it has risen over 20%.

- **Review and discuss setting cost of living increase for employees for 2000 budget purposes.**

The Town Administrator made the Selectmen aware that she spoke to the Office of State Planning and obtained the change in the consumer price index (CPI) over the one year period that runs from August 1998 through August 1999. The change in the CPI was an increase of 2.26%. There was considerable discussion regarding tying any cost of living allowance (COLA) to the CPI and whether or not the Selectmen will support merit increases this year. There was also considerable discussion regarding whether the a cost of living raise will be retroactive back to January 1, as in other years, or take effect after Town Meeting. The Board decided to work-up the figures using January 1.

- **Review and discuss dates for budget worksessions with department heads**

The Selectmen will not set dates for budget worksessions until they have the department head’s budgets in hand. The Board would like the Town Administrator to prepare budget notebooks similar to the ones she prepared for each of them last year. Selectman Tenney would like the Board to have a rough bottom line budget around the first of the year. The Town Administrator made Selectman Tenney aware that they will have to move their budget deliberations forward considerably to meet this deadline. In addition, the deadline for petition warrant articles will not be until the first week of February so there may be additional budget impact from the warrant.

There was also some general discussion as part of both the interviews of assessing firms and as part of the budget discussion regarding updating of tax maps. The Town Administrator is very concerned because it has recently been brought to light that there are some serious problems with the tax maps. In addition, most re-val firms are going to be looking for accurate tax maps as part of the resources to conduct a town-wide revaluation. Selectman Tenney believes this was not properly sold last year to the Town Meeting.

- **Review and approve the minutes of the September 20, 1999 Selectmen’s Meeting**

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 20, 1999 meeting, as submitted.

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• **Letter of complaint regarding MediaOne**

The Town Administrator made the Selectmen aware of a letter of complaint she received regarding extending services to one house on Maple Avenue. The resident claims that the line runs on the rest of the road and MediaOne has been very unresponsive regarding his request.

The Board signed the following items:

The Board of Selectmen sent a letter to a resident regarding delinquent 1996 property taxes.

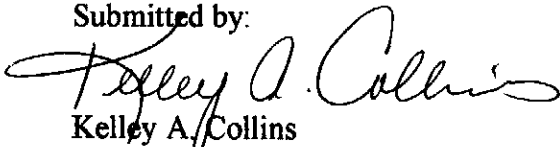
October 4, 1999 Selectmen’s Meeting

The Town Administrator noted that the Board has meetings scheduled with the two applicants for the on-call position at A.R.T.S. at 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. and they have a meeting with the members of the Fire Department’s Ladies’ Auxiliary from 8:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further information to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by:


Kelley A. Collins
Town Administrator