

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes – July 6, 2011

Present: Selectmen – Mark Gilmore, Elizabeth Clarke, Carolyn Shore Ness
Town Administrator – Bernie Kubiak

Public Comments:

1.) **Senior Center** – Audience members present: Nancy Paciorek and Sharon Paciorek:

Ms. Nancy Paciorek reported that on a hot day in, June the Senior Center was opened. Seventeen seniors were accommodated. Dunkin Donuts sent over donuts, Triad provided pizza and salad, and Georgio's sent over soda. She felt the Deerfield Selectmen were not overly thrilled about opening the center. She wanted to know what the plan is for seniors on hot, humid days.

Mr. Gilmore responded that the current senior center arrangement is new for Deerfield and he felt there needs to be some written guidelines. He went on to say the Board of Health has two functions, one of which is to make an area available, and second to declare the emergency. In a true emergency, a full-time department, such as the police or ambulance service would have the ability to open the area designated. The building belongs to the Town of Deerfield, but the scheduling is done by the Board of Oversight.

Ms. Paciorek exclaimed, "You're a little slow!" She went on to say, she was raising the issue because seniors are asking her. Could the center be open more hours? Perhaps Triad would purchase fans for persons to use in their homes. Mr. Gilmore commented that as a result of this being mentioned, persons watching at home would in all likelihood donate fans to meet the need.

After more discussion, the suggestion was made that a core group of persons including **RSVP**, the town Councils-on-Aging, and Triad meet with the Senior Center Director, Mary Wheelan, and prepare a proposal to address the issue of heat emergencies. The proposal should address questions such as who will be in charge, making a determination as to when the center would open (temperature/humidity, etc), and be presented to the Board of Oversight, as the Center's governing body. The suggestion was made that a proposal be available for the next Board meeting on July 20, 2011. Mr. Kubiak will make available copies of the Memorandum of Understanding so people could see how the Board of Oversight relates to the Senior Center. [Ms. Ness arrived at this point.]

2.) **DCTV:** Bob Ogrodnik, who has recorded meetings in the Town Hall both for DCTV and for FCAT, commented on the situation at the station. He thanked **Tommy Zanowski and Wally Sadowski** for tapes and DVDs, then said, "That was the last polka," turned in his key and left. Mr. Gilmore apologized to the viewing public, saying, "This was disheartening."

Selectmen's Comments: The Library will be holding its annual book sale this coming weekend. Members of the Friends of the Library are invited to get first pick on Friday evening. . The sale will be Saturday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM and Sunday 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. On Sunday, at the end of the day, persons can purchase books at \$3.00 per bag.

Board of Health Comments: Ms. Ness repeated her message of taking measures to avoid standing water. With these thunderstorms and rain there is standing water where mosquitoes tend to breed. She urged people to police their yards and check for ticks.

Appearances: None scheduled

Discussion and Decisions Items:

1.) Appointment of Public Weighers – A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Ms. Clarke, and voted to approve the list of public weighers. Mr. Kubiak read the list. Paul Johnson's name was added to the list before the vote was taken.

Sidney Amidon
James Houle
Paul Olson
Nicholas Denno
Todd Jarvis
Leo Chicoine
John Yokubaitis
Paul Johnson

2.) FEMA Grant Application – A few months ago FRCOG got a contract to work with FEMA and MEMA to identify potential hazards in the area that could be mitigated and assessed. They identified four projects one of which is a section of the Connecticut riverbank just upstream of the Deerfield WWTP and above an area previously addressed. The **cost-benefit ratio 1.01** means it qualifies for FEMA funding. Mr. Kubiak said the application for funding would be a bit of a long shot. It is a competitive process, and he didn't know how much money was available. He went on to explain that FEMA totals up the cost of last winter's heavy snow, the recent tornados, and adds 15% to that total to determine the pool of funds available to towns in the surrounding area.

Ms. Clarke asked if this was something that the Town would need to address **grant or no grant**. Mr. Kubiak replied that at some point, yes. This was an opportunity to work through the FRCOG to get funding assistance. Although the grant application will not be submitted for a few months, the Town has to make a commitment within the next two weeks if it wishes to participate.

Ms. Ness added that she had met with NRCS to show the area of concern. Under the NRCS program, the damage has to have actually occurred and be related to an event. Erosion over time would not qualify for NRCS assistance. She said that the FEMA project requires an engineering plan, which the Town already has. She then made a motion, seconded by Ms. Clarke, to participate in the FRCOG grant. During discussion, Mr. Kubiak said he would be in contact with the heads of Deerfield Academy, Bement, and Eaglebrook to discuss how the schools will manage during the nine days of temporary sewer service that will be needed when the project is being done. The vote was unanimous in favor of participating in the grant application.

3.) Sale/lease of concrete block building – Mr. Kubiak reported that in following up on the discussion at the last Selectboard meeting, the Highway Superintendent has been looking at the space to determine how much of the concrete building might be available for rent or lease. Ms. Clarke said there is an agreement in principle that such a plan could work.

4.) Senior Survey Questions – The senior center is planning to conduct a survey to determine needs of the Town's elder population. A sample of questions used in a similar survey, prepared by Dr. Stokes of UMASS, and conducted in Amherst was available for the Board to consider. Ms. Clarke had a comment about adding a choice to the needing assistance question to ask if assistance was already being received. Mr. Kubiak said a decision had yet to be made on the size of the population to be sampled. Unlike a previous survey, this one is intended to include persons who are not yet seniors. Mr. Gilmore thought Conway should be provided a copy and more should be done to include Conway in such projects. Mr. Kubiak will pass the comments made back to the committee.

5.) Transfer requests – The Building Inspector account is \$1,473 short. Mr. Kubiak requested that the Board authorize a transfer of funds from the Reserve Account. He said there has been a lot of building activity. A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Ms. Clarke, and unanimously voted to approve the request. Mr. Gilmore said this might be an account that should be increased. Ms. Clarke inquired about a plan to revisit inspection fees. Mr. Kubiak said that was on the “To-Do” list.

6.) Town tag sale day – Mr. Max Hartshorne wrote to request to hold the Deerfield Attractions Town Tag Sale. He also asked if he could have copies of whoever has a tag sale permit so he can put them on his website. Mr. Kubiak said he needs to have a phone number people can call with questions about the event. A motion was made, seconded, and voted to approve the request.

7.) Insurance – A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Ms. Clarke, and unanimously voted to decline the terrorism coverage on insurance policies.

8.) Scrap metal hauling contract – Mr. Kubiak said that the accountant would like a 90-day extension of the current contract so that she can iron out an issue with the Inspector General’s Office over whether the crew that drives the trucks has to be paid prevailing wage. Ms. Ness made a motion, seconded by Ms. Clarke, and voted to approve extension of the contract.

Transfer Station: Ms. Clarke said the transfer station tour was enlightening. She said it was worth a visit to the Northfield site which she described as well thought-out. She found the arrangement with the containers located to the side and lower (so that no steps or lifting were required) made the site accessible. While she was out, she took a peek at the highway garage. She thought it was nicely organized and very efficient, based on the amount of space.

Other items: Ms. Clarke suggested setting a date to meet with the accountant and auditor to address concerns raised in the most recent audit. Mr. Gilmore suggested a Friday meeting. Mr. Kubiak will make the arrangements.

Mr. Gilmore asked about the police union proposal parts that may influence the personnel policy. Mr. Kubiak said he will get it out.

A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Ms. Clarke, and voted, to adjourn with the signing of the warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Phelps