

Board of Selectmen Minutes
Meeting –
August 13, 2014

Present: Selectmen – Mark Gilmore, Carolyn Shores Ness, David Wolfram
Interim Town Administrator – Kayce Warren

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Ness at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall at 8 Conway Street.

Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Wolfram, seconded by Ms. Ness and unanimously voted, to accept the minutes of June 18 and 25, July 15 and 30.

Public Comments:

Selectmen's Comments/ Announcements: The Rec department has a full schedule of activities for the fall season including: soccer, field hockey (at various levels), and yoga. Information regarding registering, costs, etc is on the town web site.

The State Primary is September 9th from 7:am to 8:pm at Town Hall.

Mr. Gilmore reported that he had agreed to find reasons for closure of the plant causing 600 people to loose their jobs. He said he has been unable to find an answer.

Board of Health Comments/ Announcements: Ms. Ness recommended people check yards for standing water, the breeding ground for mosquitoes, and also check for ticks as they will be active until cold weather arrives.

Hearings/ Appearances before the Board:

Energy Resources Committee: Present – MA Swedlund, David Gilbert-Keith, Rene Clancy, Jay Stryker

Ms. Swedlund reported that only one bid was received for the project to install solar panels at the wastewater treatment plant in Old Deerfield. After careful examination of the bid from M.L. Schmitt, the committee voted to recommend acceptance of the bid and issue a Notice of Award. The project will be paid by: 1) \$90,000 of a Green Community Grant, 2) \$20,000 from Town in monies set aside for energy improvement at the plant, and 3) \$27,000 in a Clean Energy grant. The system will belong to the Town and has warranties included in the project cost. **A motion was made by Mr. Gilmore, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and unanimously voted, to issue a Notice of Award to M.L. Schmitt.**

Until the Town has the infrastructure in place (office support), Ms. Swedlund said the committee did not wish to begin additional projects. However, the committee is willing to take a look at and meet with Charlie Jenkins of Solare regarding a potential solar project on the closed landfill. The Board asked that the committee look at a new proposal from another company. The Board expects there will be other similar proposals as more companies become involved in solar projects. Ms. Ness said there is potential for income from leasing the property (rent plus tax) and reduced electrical costs.

Discussion/Decision Items:

- **Kinder Morgan (K-M) update:** Ms. Warren reported that late this afternoon she finally received a response to her numerous messages. K-M is willing to meet with the Board in September. The Board will hold an already scheduled meeting next week with residents to discuss the proposed pipeline and to accept a resolution which will be forwarded to the state government officials.

During discussion Mr. Wolfram suggested that should the pipeline be “stuffed down our throats” one recourse for the Town might be to split the tax rate for utilities. The legality of doing this would need to be checked. Mr. Gilmore commented that since the gas utility is not a monopoly it should pay a fair share.

A certified letter will be sent inviting K-M to have representation at a meeting to be held on either September 3rd or 10th.

- **Executive Assistant’s position:** A slightly revised description of the Executive Administrator’s position was presented for comment. Mr. Gilmore, previously indicated concern about the interaction between the administrative roles. On this occasion he spoke of the Executive Administrator’s role in managing other staff members. He noted the cyclic nature of positions and felt a need to find ways to improve the working environment in the office.

Someone in the audience, later identified as Jeff Upton, inquired about increasing the BOS to five members. He commented about better scheduling between various town entities so that School Committees and Selectmen, for example, didn’t meet on the same nights at the same times. Mr. Wolfram responded that he thought with a Town Administrator and an Executive Assistant there wasn’t a need for a five member board. He noted that once the positions were filled, there would, hopefully, be better communication between the boards in town, noting the BOS is trying to develop the Oxford property, while at the same time, the Planning Board is working on putting housing at the same location.

A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and unanimously voted, to advertise the Executive Administrator position, as revised. Mr. Wolfram commented that when hiring someone for the position he would consider whether that the candidate could step into the Town Administrator position, should circumstances require that to happen.

There was discussion about who should be involved in reviewing the applications. Suggestions were: the Accountant, Town Administrator, Health Agent/Building Inspector, Highway Superintendent, and a Selectman. Mr. Gilmore thought it best to delay establishing the reviewing committee until resumes begin coming in. He cautioned about being so fixed on the process that a likely candidate is overlooked, which may have happened recently.

- **Appointment:** A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and unanimously voted, to appoint Robert B. Cowles to the Conservation Commission.

Town Administrator’s Report:

Oxford Property - Ms. Warren reported that the RFP for the oxford property will appear in the Central Register on August 20th. She still has a few documents to locate for inclusion in the RFP packet available for interested bidders. Ms. Ness responded to a comment that it was true that the Town may have paid too much for the property. She explained it was done so the Town would have control over what happened on the property; and, she added, that this decision had proved itself within the first year. She said people are interested in senior housing, but they do not want a large institutional type senior housing development. The preference is for small groups of housing scattered within the central village area.

RR update –The Pleasant St crossing is being improved this week. The Elm St crossing will begin next week. People will need to seek alternate routes while this is happening. The Highway Director and Ms. Warren have meet with the RR people and succeeded in getting some modifications to the Elm St crossing: cobble stones instead of concrete in some areas, and a widened roadway to accommodate snow plows. The Conway St./Pleasant St. issue has not been resolved. A traffic study may be needed to justify the closing of Pleasant St and opening of Conway Street crossings. A

question was asked about plans for the dry bridge at the north end of North Main Street. No one was certain, but the original proposal was thought to be to raise and straighten it. While this was happening traffic would have to use the Pleasant Street crossing. Comment was made that the bridge would need to be strong enough for big truck traffic. Possibly Pelican could be included in this discussion.

Upcoming meetings: August 20, 2014, September 10, 2014

A motion to adjourn with the signing of warrants (W15-04) was made.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Phelps

Document list: Recreation department program announcements
Warrant report