

DEERFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN – REGULAR MEETING

A regular scheduled meeting was held on January 14, 2015 in the main meeting room at Town Hall, 8 Conway Street, South Deerfield.

PRESENT: Carolyn Shores Ness (Chair), David Wolfram (Selectman), Kayce Warren (Town Administrator)

NOT PRESENT: Mark Gilmore

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

REVIEW OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Corrected minutes from December 3, and December 15 were reviewed

It was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Ness

To accept minutes from December 3, and December 15 were approved with only typographic corrections.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments

HEARINGS/APPEARANCES BEFORE THE BOARD

6:35 LYNN ROSE, GEOINSIGHT

Ms. Lynn Rose made comments in regard to various issues in regard to the railroad operations.

There are some concerns in relation to ongoing operations, remediation efforts, and a slowdown of appropriate compliance on the part of the railroad company. The DEP has been involved, and may take action in the near future.

Ms. Rose did note that, in the case of a spill, the railroad operator seems to be taking appropriate action more quickly than in the past. However monitoring efforts are not as vigilant as in the past.

Ms. Rose summarized that specific incidents indicate a pattern of noncompliance that requires further attention.

Another issue raised was in relation to a well, located close to a wetland, and proximity to an affected site; even though the site is off gradient. DEP did not seem to be concerned, as results of testing seem to indicate safe levels. However, this again is perceived to be part of a pattern.

Ness: is the new DEP agent assigned to Deerfield also assigned to sites elsewhere? Answer: unknown.

Ms. Rose also expressed concerns about the Rail Operator not following through on commitments, and failing to meet deadlines.

Ms. Rose: One thing to note: DEP had to change the ranking of the site where the well exists, which increases the necessary attention paid to the site.

Wolfram: has the railroad been contacted about these concerns?

Yes, and DEP is involved, but only because GeoInsight has continued its oversight.

Ms. Rose asked approval for a letter to be sent to DEP, detailing the concerns, and requesting oversight and assistance.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Wolfram:

To approve the letter written on behalf of the town, to be sent to the DEP.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

Letter is attached.

Ms. Ness also expressed concerns over at the railroad. Thanks to the efforts of the police chief, the board will be getting notice of any issues at the railroad, including derailments (of any scale), in keeping with Emergency Management requirements. Ms. Ness also encouraged individuals to sign up for CodeRed, in order to be notified in the case of future issues, including derailments.

MS. Rose thanked the town for funding GeoInsight.

6:54 PM: KEVIN SCARBOROUGH – TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

TRANSFER STATION BULKY WASTE FEES

Ms. Ness thanked Kevin and the Highway crew for their work on keeping Deerfield roads clean and safe.

Mr. Scarborough discussed the Bulky Waste container at the transfer station, and rates related to disposal of bulky-waste items. Essentially, the town has been losing money - \$75 / ton disposal costs are not being recovered through disposal fees charged.

Mr. Scarborough recommended the following fee increase:

Half pickup: \$20 (currently \$10)

Full pickup: \$40 (currently \$20)

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Wolfram, that

The recommended fee increases be approved, effective February 1, 2015.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

Wolfram: What about a scale?

Scarborough: It would not be cost effective, and would add more oversight.

Ms. Ness expressed concern that increases in prices could result in more illegal disposal of waste, along the side of roads, etc.

Scarborough agreed, and said that he would monitor the situation between now and July 1.

WWTP PRESENTATION BY WESTON AND SAMPSON

Mr. Scarborough discussed scheduling a presentation by Weston and Sampson related to necessary WWTP plant upgrades. Ms. Warren emphasized the need to schedule the presentation so that a majority of members of the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee, CIPC committee could all be present. Mr. Scarborough agreed.

Mr. Scarborough stated that the timeliness of the presentation would be up in the air, as the work would most likely not be able to begin by July 1, so that the presentation could be pushed to a later date without too much difficulty.

Ms. Ness described the need to pay attention to grant cycles.

After Ms. Ness expressed concern about the possible fiscal impact, Mr. Scarborough further reiterated the need for this presentation. Mr. Scarborough will work with Ms. Warren to finalize a date, if possible.

OTHER UPDATES

Mr. Scarborough expressed his satisfaction with the current 'Snow Policy', which has proven very helpful and effective in resolving snow removal issues with private contractors.

Exterior doors are nearly done.

Electric contracting for the ADA compliant door openers at Town Hall are ongoing.

Solar project for ODWWTP is ongoing; the project is moving a bit slower, but the project is in line, and the work is proceeding correctly.

Mr. Scarborough is also working with some contractors to resolve issues at Town Hall with the heating system, controls for same, etc.

Ms. Ness reiterated the need for a generator at Town Hall. Mr. Scarborough described efforts related to planning for, and installing a generator. Ms. Ness also described the importance of maintaining Town Hall as an emergency shelter in times of extreme heat, cold, or extended power outages.

Mr. Scarborough also discussed the need for a generator at Deerfield Elementary School. Ms. Ness stated that \$27,000 was allocated for it in 2013, but it was apparently not enough to complete the project. Mr. Scarborough stated that he would like to work with FRSD staff to implement the best system in order to meet the school's needs. Ms. Ness stated the most important need would be to maintain refrigeration in order to keep food during extended power outages.

Ms. Ness also expressed the importance of supporting regional shelter efforts.

Mr. Scarborough stated that he and his crew would do their best to keep the roads clear, and people safe through the rest of the winter. He complemented his current mechanical support crew, which has proven extremely resourceful in keeping older equipment highway and police department running well.

Mr. Scarborough has stated that the crew has worked to keep light pollution around the Highway garage site to a minimum, and described some plans to help alleviate issues that might concern neighborhood residents.

Ms. Ness thanked Mr. Scarborough for his report, and assured him

DISCUSSION/DECISION ITEMS

SEWER ABATEMENT REQUEST

A sewer abatement request from Ms. Maslanka. Records of past years' use was reviewed.

Mr. Scarborough stated that more review of the figures was warranted.

The board put the abatement request on hold, pending review of Ms. Maslanka's water usage.

DEERFIELD ARTS BANK ONE-DAY LIQUOR LICENSE FOR APPROVAL

A request for a one-day liquor license from the Deerfield Arts Bank was considered.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Wolfram

To approve the request for a one-day license.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

LIONS CLUB VENDOR FEE WAIVER REQUEST:

A request from the Deerfield Lions Club for a waiver of a transient vendor permit fee was considered.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Wolfram

To waive the transient vendor permit fee.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

BOARD OF HEALTH PERMITS APPROVAL

It as MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Wolfram

To approve the list of permits as presented.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

WMRLS BUILDING

No action taken.

OXFORD PROPERTY PURCHASE & SALE AGREEMENT

No action taken.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Warren spoke in regard to the upcoming MMA Annual Conference, and the option to designate a 'proxy' vote at the annual meeting. Ms. Ness stated that she would be present at the meeting, and declined to name a proxy.

Ms. Warren announced that Deerfield Academy had presented a gift check (PILOT) of \$51,800, and affirmed that they would be making a second gift of equal value prior to the end of the year, for a grand total of \$103,600 for FY2015.

Ms. Warren expressed the Planning Board's request to discuss housing initiatives at a joint meeting. Ms. Warren suggested meeting with the Planning Board at one of their regular Monday night meetings, but that a meeting in February would be difficult to plan.

Ms. Ness suggested a meeting at the end of February or early March, and further suggested that the (remaining) members of the Senior Housing Committee might also be invited to attend. She urged the necessity of restarting the discussion, and that interest from private contractors has been expressed. Ms. Ness suggested that the Building Commissioner should encourage attendance by interested parties.

The Planning Board has also requested a placeholder on the Town Meeting warrant for a zoning change related to the Industrial Park. Ms. Warren stated that the zoning change is also encouraged by DEDIC, in order to facilitate further development of the park.

Warren: The state has increased Chapter 90 funding for FY2015, to \$597,000. Highway Department has been notified. Mr. Scarborough was going to be making use of the funds for pavement management and road projects, and less on capital purchases.

Warren: A preliminary budget for the DES has been received. The School Committee has requested a meeting to discuss their budget on January 27. Coordination of this meeting date with CIPC and the Finance Committee has not yet been concluded, but agreement on the date is expected soon.

Warren: Historically, the town has allowed both the Emergency Management Director and the Town Administrator to serve as authorized signers for state MEMA grant administration.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Wolfram

That the Emergency Management Director and the Town Administrator be authorized signatories for MEMA grants.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

Warren: Town Administrators have historically setup meeting dates for inter-town discussions on relevant topics. Topics include regionalization of commonly needed services, such as IT, HR, etc.

Ness: Might some regionalization of recreation department efforts also be considered?

Warren: It has been discussed, and will continue to be looked at.

There was further discussion about the possibility, and means of inter-town collaboration in regards to after-school programs and recreation, as well as other needs such as IT and HR.

Warren: There will be follow-up on this topic.

Warren: A letter of resignation from Sharon Paciorek was received.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Wolfram

To accept the resignation of Sharon Paciorek from the Tri-Town Beach Commission.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

The Board of Selectmen expressed their sincere thanks for her decades of service.

Warren: There has been some discussion about the repairs scheduled for the North Main Street bridge over the railroad tracks (The so-called "Dry Bridge"), as well as the Stillwater Road bridge over the Deerfield River. Ms. Ness requested that Ms. Warren get an update as to the status of both projects, and determine their 'standing' in the list of upcoming projects.

Wolfram: Would also like Town Administrator to pursue status of the re-opening of Conway Street, and asked for the emphasis of the public-safety aspect of the Dry Bridge and Conway Street projects.

Wolfram: The other concern is the Route 5&10 and North Main Street intersection. Because so many northbound cars are turning west onto Mill Village Road, other northbound traffic pose a danger to cars waiting at North Main Street.

Ness: Plus, due to additional bus service in South Deerfield, we need more grant money for sidewalks. We have a complete streetscape plan, but no money to implement – the state needs to step-up and help to fund the plan.

Ness: A resource conservation protection area grant has been approved; the town's share of the grant has not been determined yet. The grant details will be announced tomorrow (1/15/2015).

Warren: Members of the Personnel Board are being sought. Prospective members should not be currently serving on a town board, or be a town employee.

Warren: Preliminary budgets have begun to be collected. A few have been distributed to Selectmen for initial review.

Wolfram: Re/ Police Budget resource officer: "I don't think we should plan on that." Mr. Wolfram suggested that unless the state funds the mandate, it should not be considered.

Warren: The issue is up for discussion for everyone. Ms. Warren suggested a night separate from regular meetings to review and discuss budgets. Ms. Warren also stated that staff and department heads are expecting to present preliminary budgets to the Select Board first.

Warren: Budget presentation binders are not yet complete, but work is ongoing.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

FCAT's Open House:

Mini Open House: 1/28/2015 at Deerfield Town Hall

Full Open House and Annual Meeting: 1/29/2015 at FCAT offices

Ongoing activities sponsored by the Deerfield Recreation Department.

Ness: It's flu season: if you're sick, stay home!

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

A meeting / budget work session was scheduled for January 21, 2015, beginning at 6:30 PM. The next regular meeting was scheduled for January 28, 2015, at 6:30 PM.

Additional upcoming meetings (tentative):

- February 4 (working session)
- February 11 (regular meeting)
- February 18 (working session)
- February 25 (regular meeting)
- March 4 (working session)
- March 11 (regular meeting)
- March 18 (working session)
- March 25 (regular meeting)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business it was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Ness:

To adjourn with the signing of the Warrant.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas C. Finn