

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 21, 2014
MINUTES**

Call to Order

5:30pm: Chairman, Steve Barry called the meeting to order.

Present: Steve Barry, Chairman; Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman; Rebecca Hutchinson, R. Andrew Robertson and Jeff Shute Selectmen

Also Present: Michael Wright, Town Administrator; Jan Foisy, Finance Director

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Barry asked all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag.

Scheduled Appointments

Erick Berglund – Northern Pass

E. Berglund met with the Board to check in with an update on the Northern Pass Action Items identified in 2013. He spoke that the Department of Energy will be producing a draft report later this year resulting in the formation of a NH Site Evaluation Committee. As such, he indicated that they expect efforts opposing the Northern Pass to ramp up in the coming months. He reviewed the list of seven action items that were agreed to by the Board in 2013, the Board indicated it had done work with the first six, E. Berglund indicated that there may have been a misunderstanding on the seventh item, to draft an environmental impact statement. He does not think that the Board needs to fully engage a professional consultant to draft that statement. He composed one of his own and has submitted it.

Additional action items were presented to the Board, namely attendance at the Site Evaluation Committee Informational Hearing on May 4th. Selectman Robertson spoke that his opinion is that he is happy to represent the Town's opposition to the Northern Pass Project to the SEC, but that he personally does not intend to take an activist role. E. Berglund encouraged members of the Board to attend the meeting to get a better understanding of what is to come. The Board, together with the Town Administrator's office will work to get E. Berglund details of what letters have been mailed to whom thus far.

Mark Tibbetts – Town Hall

M. Tibbetts updated the Board that the sprinkler system at the Town Hall has a leak that needs to be repaired. He is in need of \$2,905 to do air testing, empty and clean the tank and locate the leak. Chairman Barry asked how much water was leaking from the system, M. Tibbetts answered 800-1,000 gallons every few months. He indicated that he does not have the funds available for this work through the Town Hall budget and requests use of the Expendable Trust Fund for Municipal Government Buildings and related Infrastructure repairs fund that the Town voted to add \$25,000 to at the last voting session.

Motion – Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve \$2,905 be taken from the Expendable Trust fund established for the purpose of repairs to Municipal Government Buildings and related Infrastructure

Second – Selectman Robertson

Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Selectwoman Hutchinson asked if the issues with the security of the Town Hall are being addressed, M. Tibbetts responded that the security of the doors has been fixed, the threshold of the rear entrance has rotted out and he is working with Gary Anderson to evaluate the issue and get pricing for its replacement.

5:54pm Non-Public – Police Chief Applicant

Motion – Vice Chairman Pitman moves to enter into a Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II b

Second – Selectman Robertson

Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Meeting Recessed

Also present in Non-Public session Officer in Charge, Daniel Deyermond; Fire Chief, Mark Tibbetts; Rescue Captain, Cynthia McHugh; Deerfield School Principal, Paul Yergeau.

6:17pm Reconvene

Regular Business

-Minutes of April 7, 2014

Motion – Selectman Robertson moves the minutes as written

Second – Selectwoman Hutchinson

Vote to approve as amended – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

-Accounts Payable - \$32,522.47

Motion – Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve

Second – Selectman Robertson

Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

-Appointment of David Durand as Planning Board Alternate Member – 3 Year Term

Motion – Vice Chairman Pitman moves to appoint Mr. Durand as voted on by the Planning Board on 4/9/14

Second – Selectman Robertson

Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

-Intent to Excavate – Nellie Rollins, Raymond Rd

Motion – Selectman Robertson moves to approve

Second – Selectman Shute

Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

-Intent to Cut Wood or Timber – Diana Stevens, Brown Rd

Signatures Executed

-Timber Tax Levy - \$127.35 – Russell & Diana Jeffers, Middle Rd

Motion – Selectman Robertson moves to approve collection

Second – Selectwoman Hutchinson

Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

-Timber Tax Levy - \$4,726.02 – Diana and Robert Stevens & Patrick and Sandra Cassier

Motion – Selectman Robertson moves to approve collection

Second – Selectman Shute

Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

-Application for Current Use – Addition of 0.39 Acres – Erik & Kathleen Berglund

Motion – Selectman Robertson moves to approve

Second – Selectwoman Hutchinson

Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

-Application for Current Use – Addition of 19.6 Acres – Charles & Cheri Sanborn, Middle Rd

Motion – Selectman Robertson moves to approve

Second – Selectman Shute

Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

-Permit Application – Veteran’s Tax Exemption – Mary Helen McDowell & Christopher Bartley, Haynes Rd

Motion – Selectman Robertson moves to approve

Second – Selectwoman Hutchinson

Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

-Permit Application – Elderly Tax Exemption – Chester & Harriet Cady

Motion – Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve

Second – Selectman Robertson

Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

-Notice of Abatement - 64 Raymond Rd

Executed at April 7, 2014 meeting – signatures required

-Notice of Abatement – BMI Realty Trust - Map 411, Lot 45-3. Assessment reduced from \$86,000 to \$75,400

Motion – Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve

Second – Selectman Robertson

Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

-Notice of Abatement – BMI Realty Trust - Map 411, Lot 45-4. Assessment reduced from \$89,700 to \$76,300 and abatement of \$304 for the 2013 Tax Year

Motion – Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve

Second – Selectman Robertson

Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

-Computer Adjustment – Town of Deerfield – Map 411, Lot 045-008 – Assessment reduced from \$267,789 to \$181,089 and abatement of \$1,963 for the 2013 Tax Year

Motion – Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve

Second – Selectman Robertson

Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

-Abatement Request – Gina White, Map 419, Lot 46-014 – Assessor recommends to deny request

Motion – Selectman Robertson moves to deny

Second – Selectman Shute

Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Review of Correspondence

-Congress Woman Ann McLane Kuster – Notice of Available Assistance

A notice to residents that assistance is available through Ann McLane Kuster’s office has been posted

-Letter from Candidate for Chief of Police

The Board has received a letter from a candidate for the Police Chief position that he/she is no longer interested.

-The Road Agent has approved a Driveway Permit at 173 South Rd for Thomas Rocca

Town Administrators Report

M. Wright spoke that his office has been reviewing the Town’s expenditure reports through the 17 week mark. He expects to do a more thorough, line by line review with the Board at 26 weeks, but provided an overview to date. The targeted expenditure at this juncture is 33%, the Town Administrators budget is currently 31% spent, the Town Clerk’s is at 30%. IT is 44% spent, however M. Wright noted that this is due to some early purchases of software, as a result this Departments expenditures are front loaded. The Highway Department is looking at a potential shortfall of between \$50,000 and \$75,000, M. Wright will be working with the Road Agent to put together a presentation for the next Board meeting. They anticipate substantial revisions to the road resurfacing plans. Overall the Town as a whole is under 30% expended year to date.

The Court date for the Warhall case has been rescheduled to May 5th.

The individual on a repayment plan with the Town is current and on track with her payments.

Selectman Robertson expressed his concern with the 4 Corey Rd property and that there was currently a tenant residing at a Town-owned property. He asked what the Town’s liability would be should something happen. M. Wright spoke that the property is being reviewed and that they are actively working towards a settlement for redemption. Selectman Robertson voiced his interest in mitigating the Town’s risk and thanked M. Wright for the update.

The Board’s May 5th meeting will mark the three month review period for M. Wright as Town Administrator. The formal review previously agreed to will be a part of that meeting. M. Wright informed the Board that the Town’s Legal line is currently less than 20% spent.

Other Business None

Unfinished Business None

New Business

Selectman Shute asked how the Board would like to proceed with regards to the Warrant Article calling for the formation of a Committee to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Deerfield. Jack Hutchinson has begun speaking with the Parks & Recreation Commission and Fair Association on the matter. The Board agreed it should have Mr. Hutchinson on the agenda

for the second meeting in May.

6:48pm Non Public Session RSA 91-A:3, II b

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to enter into a Non Public Session under RSA 91-A3, b

Second: Selectman Robertson

Vote: Yea 5, nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

8:34pm Reconvene

Chairman Barry notes for the record that no action was taken during the Non Public Session.

Motion: Selectman Robertson moves to seal the minutes from the Non Public Session

Second: Selectwoman Hutchinson

Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman Barry notes that the Board is continuing to search for a candidate for the Chief of Police position.

8:35pm Adjournment

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn the meeting of April 21st

Second: Selectman Shute

Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Next Meeting Monday, May 5th @ 5:30p

*The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.
Pending Approval by the Board of Selectmen*