

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

January 12, 2015

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: Jan Foisy, Town Finance Director/Interim Town Administrator; Penny Touchette, Bookkeeper/Assessing Supervisor

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

Regular Business & Signatures

- **Minutes of December 29, 2014**
Motion – Vice Chairman Pitman moves the minutes as written
Second – Selectwoman Hutchinson
Vote to approve – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries
- **Accounts Payable - \$531,673.18 (\$500,000 transferred to the School)**
Motion – Selectman Robertson moves to approve
Second – Selectman Shute
Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries
- **Petition – Regarding Resignation of Representative Brian Dobson**
Motion – Vice Chairman Pitman moves to petition Executive Council Chris Pappas and the Governor for a Special Election
Second – Selectman Robertson
Discussion: Chairman Barry spoke that an increase in the Meetings & Election line of the budget will likely be needed to fund the Special Election needed to fill the seat vacated by Brian Dobson. Selectman Robertson noted that the MBC has added \$5,730 to that line of its budget to accommodate the election. Selectwoman Hutchinson wondered whether Mr. Dobson’s intentions might have been made known earlier in order to spare many communities this added cost.
Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries
- **Draft Letter to Gail Hennessey of Southern NH Services – Re: Lack of Generator at Sherburne Woods**
Motion – Vice Chairman Pitman moves to authorize the Chair to sign
Second – Selectwoman Hutchinson
Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries
- **Draft Letter to NH Municipal Association – Identifying which members of the local government my contact them directly**
Motion – Vice Chairman Pitman moves to authorize the Chair to sign
Second – Selectman Robertson
Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries
- **Town Clerk/Tax Collector Refund Request – \$107 to Raymond Ellis for a Motor Vehicle Renewal made in error**
Motion – Selectman Robertson moves to approve the refund
Second – Selectman Shute
Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries
- **Property Tax Credit - \$2,000 - Joseph Maynard, 73 Raymond Rd**
Motion – Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve
Second – Selectman Robertson
Vote – Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries
- **Non – Contemporaneous Business – January 2nd - 5th – 3 Members Signing**
Accounts Payable - \$56,063.38
Accounts Payable - \$35,946.42
Payroll Manifest - \$51,867.58 (\$39,702.97 net)

Correspondence

The Town has received a Citizens Petition Warrant Article to see whether the Town of Deerfield will vote to discontinue and relinquish all rights to Lang Road so long as it is done with no cost to the Town. Selectman Robertson spoke that through his own research he has determined that the Road was discontinued in 1999 and since that time has had a classification subject to gates and bars. The Town is unable by law to discontinue use of the Road beyond that classification and it is unclear to him what the Petition Warrant Article is seeking to achieve. Selectwoman Hutchinson, as an abutter to Lang Road and signor of the Petition, spoke that it is her understanding the intent is to revert the Road to the land owner so that he can ensure it is not destroyed. Specifically, there is an annual event where dirt bikes and ATVs run through the road, causing significant problems for the land owner. It was noted that Lang Rd is not a part of the approved route for that annual ride. There was some question as to the legality of the Article, Chairman Barry spoke that it will be required to go on the ballot and asked that the Town Administrator's Office research the matter further. If it does pass and is found to be outside the scope of the law, action would stop there. H. Cady spoke that, at this time, the Supervisors of the Checklist do not believe there are twenty-five valid signatures and will be reaching out to the Petitioner tomorrow to further discuss.

Chairman Barry spoke that he has been informed that the Fire Chief's Chevy Tahoe was in an accident and the repairs are expected to total \$2,325.13. There is a \$1,000 deductible on the policy. The Board agreed, so long as the vehicle is safe, to postpone making a decision on repairs until after the March election.

The Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission has requested a list of ongoing projects from its member communities. The Board will review the request for information and take action at its next meeting.

A complaint has been received from a Mr. Harvey regarding the parking lot across the street from the George B. White building and the lights and noise associated with the 18 wheelers using the lot. J. Foisy has asked Mr. Harvey to prepare a formal letter identifying the issues for the Board.

Town Administrator's Report

J. Foisy confirmed that the Tahoe has been in an accident and that her office is waiting for further information from Primex following the damage assessment.

Steve Keach was in contact with the Town on January 7th and will be setting up a time to review and make recommendations on Babb Road.

The Ladies Restroom near the Parks & Recreation Office will be closed for renovations from January 14th through February 2nd.

The Farmer's Markets have been discontinued for 2015 due to health issues plaguing some of its coordinators.

The Rescue Squad's Van collided with the side of the Fire Station Door recently when going out to a call. Primex will be coming out to review.

Finally, J. Foisy reminded that the MBC will hold its Public Hearing on Friday, January 16th at 7p at the Town Hall.

Regular Business Continued

Chairman Barry spoke that, with a \$5,730 adjustment for the added Special Election the new default amount would be \$3,693,104.

Motion: Selectman Robertson moves to add \$5,730 to the default budget for the purpose of covering the Special Election

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

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

Motion: Selectman Robertson moves to approve the 2015 Default Budget in the amount of \$3,693,104

Second: Selectwoman Hutchinson

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

Motion: Selectman Robertson moves to add \$5,730 to the 2015 Board of Selectmen Proposed Operating Budget

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion: Selectman Robertson noted that the MBC's budget is expected to be approximately \$2,000 less than this amount.

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

Unfinished Business

Selectman Robertson spoke that at the last MBC meeting the Committee expressed a desire that the Town label its Warrant Articles where money is to come from surplus in a manner consistent with the School. It was suggested the, "No money to come from taxes," be added to the language. J. Foisy confirmed that she had run the suggestion by the DRA and the changes have been made.

New Business

Vice Chairman Pitman reported that, at the request of the Fire Chief, the Deerfield Fair Association has obtained a full report from Gemini Electric on the fairgrounds. The report is some 1,000 pages detailing each panel and outlet on the grounds. Of 234 panels approximately 80 have needs to be addressed. The Association will next go out to bid for the work.

Selectman Shute thanked Mark Tibbetts and his crew for the work that has been done near the Parks & Recreation space. The Board thanked Penny Touchette and her daughter for the painting and other improvements they have done.

Recess – Select Board Meeting

Open Public Hearing Regarding the Acceptance of Brown’s Mill Road, Corey Drive and Hidden Drive as Class V Roads

Chairman Barry opened the Public Hearing to hear public input on whether the Town should accept Brown’s Mill Road, Corey Drive and Hidden Drive as Class V roads. He noted that the Planning Board voted at its December 17th meeting to recommend acceptance of the roads based on information from Town Engineer Steve Keach.

Resident Daniel Tisbert spoke in favor of the Town’s acceptance of the roads and spoke highly of the property owner and the individuals who constructed the road. Planning Board member Fred McGarry spoke that the roads are constructed in accordance to the plans assigned by the Planning Board and have been inspected by Keech Nordstrom and Associates. He reiterated that it is the Planning Board’s recommendation that they be accepted. Selectman Robertson spoke in support of accepting the roads, he noted that they provide access to the Corey Wildlife Management Unit and feels it is important to have good public access to those lands. Mr. McGarry noted that a requirement of the Planning Board was that the builder include an easement to run along the back of the property to the Fish & Game land.

Close Public Hearing

Reconvene Select Board Meeting

Selectman Robertson asked that it be verified whether there is an easement over Corey Road prior to taking action on the acceptance of the roads. The topic was tabled.

Scheduled Appointments – Continued

Northern Pass Committee Update – Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) Process

Members Jeanne Menard, Erik Berglund and Lisa Wolford presented the Board with information relevant to the upcoming SEC review process for the Northern Pass. Ms. Menard reviewed the timeline of Northern Pass developments to date and described that the Opposition Committee has focused on four areas of work, Alternatives, View Shed Impacts, Taxes and Historical and Cultural Concerns. She spoke that in May 2014 the DOE published a report on alternatives to the Northern Pass as presented. Some twenty four alternatives are being reviewed. A draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected from the DOE in the Spring of 2015 and that publishing will trigger the Northern Pass to submit application for NH Certification of Site and Facility from the NH SEC. There will be several opportunities for Town involvement and it is the goal of the Committee to make sure the Board is aware of and prepared for the opportunities to intervene. The process is expected to be complex and participation with the SEC will likely be expensive. The Committee suggested that Deerfield collaborate with other Towns.

Mr. Berglund presented the Board with maps showing proposed tower and line changes that would occur with the Northern Pass. He spoke that many poles would double in height and that tower footprints are planned to be 25 feet square, far larger than the current pole footprints.

The Committee reminded the board that in 1989 the Town was forced to bond \$925,000 to pay back taxes collected from PSNH in the years 1981-1989 and cautioned that revenue projections given in promotion of the project may fall far short of expectations.

Selectwoman Hutchinson noted that the plans call for a Converter Station to be placed at 53 North Road and asked what is currently on that property, Ms. Menard responded that it is the site of the helicopter landing pad. Selectwoman Hutchinson asked, if some of the alternatives under review rise to the top, will there be additional opportunities in the process for the Town to respond. Ms. Menard reiterated the complex nature of the process adding that for this reason the Committee is urging early involvement. Things such as lining up expert witnesses to testify, will take time to plan for.

Lisa Wolford spoke on the two Petition Warrant Articles to be place on the March ballots. The first is to see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$10,000 that would allow the Board of Selectman to advocate for the Town during the SEC process. The second is to see if the Town will create a mechanism for accepting donations to supplement the money appropriated. The language for these Articles was taken from similar measures adopted in Sugar Hill. The Committee expressed that it feels legal representation for the Town is the most practical way for the Board to proceed. It was unclear whether Upton and Hatfield would perform this type of service. The Committee asked that the Board identify a point person to ensure all deadlines are met and information is funneled appropriately.

The Board thanked the Committee for its presentation and agreed to review the Action Plan and its recommendations. Selectwoman Hutchinson spoke in support of the Petition Warrant Articles, adding that she finds them to be a useful way to gauge the community's level of opposition. Selectman Robertson was comfortable supporting the Warrant Articles, provided that RSAs allow for the Board to state an opinion. Chairman Barry asked that Upton and Hatfield be contacted to see if they have an expertise on this topic.

MBC Chairman Kevin Verville asked that a copy of the Committee's presentation be placed online for public viewing. He also encouraged the group to present the information at Friday's Public Hearing.

Selectwoman Hutchinson commented that she found the need to enlist an attorney for the process discouraging. She wondered if the Town could find a way to participate in the process without legal representation, though all understood it appears impractical.

Other Business

Chairman Barry received confirmation that the deed for Corey Rd has been properly recorded.

Motion: Selectman Robertson moves to accept Brown's Mill Road, Corey Drive and Hidden Drive as Class V Roads per the Planning Boards recommendation

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

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

Citizens Comments

Harriet Cady spoke of some cabinetry and shelving needs in the Supervisor's of the Checklist office space.

Adjournment – 7:00p

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn the meeting of January 12th

Second: Selectman Robertson

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

Next Meeting Friday, January 16th @ 6:30p

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