

**Town of Deerfield
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 21, 2016
MINUTES**

Call to Order

5:30p - Chairman Barry called the meeting to order.

Present: Stephen Barry, Chairman; Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman, Fred McGarry, Andrew Robertson, and Jeff Shute, Selectmen

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

Public Hearing - RSA 31-95b - Acceptance of Unanticipated Donation

Chairman Barry recessed the Select Board Meeting and opened a Public Hearing under RSA 31-95-b regarding the acceptance of unanticipated donations totaling more than \$10,000. Chairman Barry described that to date \$14,525 has been received by the Town towards the Northern Pass Defense Fund. An invoice for \$5,413.47 is owed to Attorney Whitley for representation, once paid the balance remaining in the fund will total \$286.53.

Denise Greig of Thurston Pond Road described that she has found Attorney Whitley to be attentive in his attendance at a number of technical sessions. She spoke of the unprecedented nature of the adjudication with more than 150 intervenors. Ms. Greig voiced her support for the Town's acceptance of the funds. Selectman Robertson noted that Attorney Whitley has asked for the Board's position regarding the burial of the lines associated with the project. It is estimated that burial would see an additional twelve acres of impacted property with the need for a converter station. Other potential impacts of burial would be disruption to wetlands and vernal pools in town and a more costly transmission.

Sara Kjendal of Coffeetown Rd spoke that, in her research, she has found that burying the lines requires a converter station be constructed at each segment of the burial and noted that electromagnetic impacts would not be diminished but might actually increase with a buried line. Erik Berglund of Nottingham Rd spoke that the Town's prior vote was to express a preference for burial of the lines, but that many questions remain as to the route the buried line would take. He referenced a successful burial project at Lake Champlain in Vermont, but asked what assumptions the Town was to operate under in responding to the question. Selectman Robertson responded that he believes Attorney Whitley is trying to determine whether Deerfield, as a member of the municipal consortium, is in consensus with the other municipalities, or may have differing views as it is impacted differently. Mr. Berglund added that construction of a converter station would represent major financial impacts to Deerfield.

Harriet Cady spoke that burial of the Northern Pass lines would not eliminate the current lines and estimates that the added cost would add some \$500M to the project. She feels that those advocating for burial are doing so in an effort to push the cost of the project so high that it becomes unfeasible to proceed.

Jim Page suggested that the Board reach out to the Public Utilities Commission to ask where the differential costs of burying the lines would be recovered. He asked whether the Town had explored alternatives to the proposed pole heights or other various solutions to the transmission.

Suzanne Steele of Harvey Road expressed her opposition to the project. She does not feel the power is needed and is concerned with the health effects.

Kate Hartnett of Thurston Pond Rd spoke that there have been twenty two technical sessions between September and November on the project as currently proposed. She feels it is premature for the Town to have a position regarding the burial of the lines, citing there would be too many assumptions to assess the impacts. She stressed that the projects is voluntary and not a reliability project.

Madeline Foulkes of Nottingham Road spoke of her family's experience with the Maine Hydro Electric project where pole heights were raised some two years post-project. She questioned the ISO 2030 report that referenced wind power being brought into Deerfield from Vermont.

Kathy Shigo of Cate Road spoke of her lack of trust in Eversource. She feels the project will bring unwanted noise and traffic to Deerfield and asked the Board to accept the donations in order to have someone advocating for Deerfield.

Members of the Board stressed that they were looking for direction. The funds donated have been spent almost in entirety, he would the Town like to compensate Attorney Whitley in 2017? Selectman McGarry reminded the Public that January 10th is the deadline to submit a petition Warrant Article. Ms. Foulkes asked why the funds needed to be raised in this way and couldn't be a component of the Town's proposed budget. Selectman Robertson responded that, in 2015, funding to defend against Northern Pass was soundly defeated, Kathy Shigo countered that three Warrant Articles expressing opposition to the project had also passed.

Nancy Brown McKinney of Wild Turkey Road urged the Board to put emotional consideration into the matter. She spoke of generations that have worked hard to keep the Deerfield community's rural characteristics intact.

Recess/Reconvene

With no further Public Comment, Chairman Barry recesses the Public Hearing and reconvenes the Select Board Meeting.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to accept the donations

Second: Selectman McGarry

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

Scheduled Appointments

James Spillane

Representative Spillane updated the Board that the request to introduce a Bill to change the polling day requirement from all Members to a quorum would be best served via a Constitutional Amendment put before the House at the end of 2017. The Board thanked Representative Spillane for the information.

Kevin Macdonald

Kevin McDonald asked what action the Board would be taking regarding the concerns raised by himself, together with 28 former Fire Department members, regarding the Chief. Selectman Robertson commented that, as of this meeting, the Board is taking no action, but continues to work through deliberations under RSA definable protocols. He advised that the comments are being taken seriously, but that no motion to remove the Fire Chief would be made this evening. Mr. MacDonald asked what

investigation has been carried out and expressed disagreement with the statements made last week by Captain Dubiansky. Mr. MacDonald took issue with the Warrant Article to install a 30,000 gallon water cistern in the area of Town Hall when the 10,000 gallon unit at Sherburne Woods went untouched during a recent structure fire. He feels that items like the \$67,000 cistern should evolve from an overriding Master Plan for the Department. Selectman Shute noted that the Board very recently had received an update on the seven items to be implemented at the Department, and will be taking it under review.

Regular Business

Minutes - November 14, 2016

Motion: Selectman Robertson moves to approve the minutes

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

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

Accounts Payable - \$33,690.97

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve

Second: Selectman Robertson

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

Payroll Manifest - \$42,299.89 (\$36,976.57 net)

Motion: Selectman Shute moves to approve

Second: Selectman McGarry

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

Highway Department Winter Contractors Contracts

East Coast Signals	Paul Smith
Kevin Fisher	John Winslow
LJD Dirtworks	Kevin Young
Steve Rollings	Mark Tibbetts
Gary Sanborn	Mark Young

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the contracts

Second: Selectman McGarry

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

Warrant of Contested Tax Deeded Properties

Chairman Barry described the Town's preference not to take ownership of properties as it has no way to dispose of the Real Estate and finds it to be an undesirable obligation of liability and risk.

Map 209, Lot 40 (12 Parade Rd)	Map 418, Lot 62 (Reservation Rd)
Map 420, Lot 56 (151 South Rd)	Map 423, Lot 20 (38 South Rd)
Map 201, Lot 21 (Kanoza Ave)	Map 208, Lot 22 (20 Hammond Rd)
Map 418, Lot 25 (Reservation Rd)	Map 208, Lot 26 (Hammond Rd)
Map 418, Lot 26 (Raymond Rd)	Map 405, Lot 46 (Griffin Rd)
Map 420, Lot 66 (141 South Rd)	Map 415, Lot 48 (Adams Hill)
Map 405, Lot 26 (North Rd)	Map 413, Lot 63-2 (Rear Middle Rd)
Map 406, Lot 36 (Saddleback Mtn Rd)	Map 416, Lot 72 (Nottingham Rd)
Map 210, Lot 9 (23 Church St)	Map 208, Lot 3 (North Rd)
Map 405, Lot 19 (Off North Rd)	

Motion: Selectman Robertson moves to authorize the Chair to sign the Deed Waiver

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Discussion: Vice Chairman Pitman elaborated that the Town is putting forward a Warrant Article in March to change its authority to dispose of such properties.

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

Town Clerk/Tax Collector - Waiver of \$2,261.05 of the 2014 Tax Lien on Map 205, Lot 80 at 273 North Rd

Motion: Selectman Robertson moves to approve

Second: Selectman Shute

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

NH Public Works - Mutual Aid Agreement

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to authorize the Chair's signature

Second: Selectman McGarry

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

Review of Correspondence

Penny Touchette updated the Board that David Noyes has been hired by Epsom to set the boundaries between Epsom and Deerfield. Mr. Noyes has found a property marker that had been moved and is seeking Deerfield's approval to place it where it belongs. The Board had no objection.

The Boy Scouts have written to express thanks for the Board's willingness to work with the Troop on identifying a meeting location. The group has asked permission to use the Town Hall on December 19th.

Motion: Selectman Robertson moves to waive the Town Hall rental fee

Second: Selectman Shute

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

The Town has drafted a letter to notify the Cemetery Commission that the tax allocation has been increased in 2017 by \$5,000.

Chief Tibbetts has provided a Material Safety Data Sheet for the Board's review. He advises that no harmful foam has been used.

The Board continues to review the information on the website development and implementation. Selectman Robertson noted the 1, 2 and 3 year payment options which would make the cost more palatable. Members will consider the matter further.

Town Administrator's Report

Jan Foisy updated that the Transfer Station Director has advised her of an issue where a resident was turned away from dumping a mattress as they did not have the fees to cover the cost. Additionally, the advertisement for Hazardous Waste day had indicated the event would run, "...until funds are expended." The Clean Harbor group actually left at noon and five people were unable to drop off Hazardous waste. Selectman Robertson voiced the Board's support for the Transfer Station Attendants and the importance of keeping to the cash handling protocols.

Ms. Foisy reminded everyone that the Town Offices will be closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving.

2017 Budget & Warrant Article Review

Chairman Barry reported that the total Town proposed operating budget is \$3,879,427. The Board was in favor of the proposed stipends for the Fire Department (\$2,000 excluding the Chief) and Rescue Squad (\$3,280).

Selectman McGarry asked the Town Administrator to request from the Road Agent a cost estimate for striping along Church Street where the SNHPC temporary paint was laid out.

Unfinished/Other/New Business

Non Public Session

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to enter into a Non Public Session under RSA 91A:3II(c)

Second: Selectman Robertson

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

Reconvene

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

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

Second: Selectman Shute

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

Citizens Comments

Linda Clark, 10 James City Road, introduced herself as the niece, aunt, ex-wife, current wife, sister and most importantly daughter, of former Deerfield Fire Fighters. She spoke of her father's love for the Town and Department, noting that he would be devastated to see the state of the Department today. She is deeply concerned, especially with the way surrounding Towns don't trust in Deerfield to come to their mutual aid. She urged the Board to take action.

Harriet Cady asked when the Board had discussed joining the Public Works Mutual Aid arrangement and who would handle the receipt of the funds. She asked when the Board had asked Representative Spillane to put forward a Bill as it was not discussed in a public meeting. Selectman Robertson responded that several members had had informal direct conversations with Representative Spillane at the election, but a formal vote had not occurred.

Denise Greig thanked the Boy Scouts, their families and the Food Pantry volunteers who collected items recently to fill the shelves; Scouting for Food was a very successful event. She thanked Judy Marshall for her volunteer work.

Kevin MacDonald, noting the seven administrative changes to have occurred at the Fire Department, said that two members were recently "ousted" with letters that contained only three signatures and with no exit interview held.

Jim Page updated that he recently visited the mooring work done at the substation property and was disappointed in the way the project was being conducted. He stressed the importance of playing by the rules when operating under a wetland permit, noting that the mat layout had been sloppy and poorly handled. He submitted photos to the DES and feels that the project is missing a key management component where they allow contractors to do consistently sloppy work. He feels this is an indicator of big

problems down the road for Deerfield and suggested the Town form a Committee to monitor work and ensure permitting is adhered to.

Adjourn

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn the meeting of November 28, 2016

Second: Selectman McGarry

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

Next Meeting Monday, November 28, 2016 @ 5:30p

*The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.
Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen.*