

**FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2003
(Public Session)**

In attendance: Chairman John Fitch, David Hall, Gerald McCarthy & Student Selectmen's Rep. Greg Chick

Staff: Ernest M. Creveling, Town Administrator, Dale Sprague, Director of DPW, Fire Chief Randall (Ky) Goslin & Deputy Vachon

Public present: Walter Mills, Teresa Mills, Susan Loker, Bob Loker, Barry Elliot, Mary Hersey & Brad Anderson

The meeting convened and was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chairman Fitch. John thanked those present for their attendance and interest in town government.

Minutes

Gerry said the December 23rd, 2002 non-public session minutes need to be approved. ***Gerald McCarthy made a motion to approve the minutes from December 23, 2002 non-public session as written. David Hall seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Gerry then moved to approve the minutes from December 23, 2002 public session,*** seeking clarification for himself regarding the encumbrances. He said he didn't remember discussing the \$1,200 encumbrance for a radio antennae and radio communication wiring for the Municipal Offices. Ernie elaborated there is a two-way radio, which enables communication between the Town offices and the Highway and Water/Wastewater depts. He said since the move of the Town offices in August this radio has not been functional and there is no hookup at the new Municipal Offices. ***Gerry proceeded with his motion to approve the Dec. 23rd minutes. David Hall seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.*** Next to be approved were the minutes from January 6, 2003. Gerry said these minutes are non-public and concern an employee grievance and therefore should be sealed.

Gerald McCarthy made a motion to approve and seal the non-public Session I meeting minutes from January 6, 2003. David Hall seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Gerry said the January 6, 2003 non-public Session II minutes require to include a motion to come out of executive session, made by himself with a second by David Hall and a unanimous vote. ***Gerald McCarthy motioned to approve the minutes from January 6, 2003 non-public Session II, as amended. David Hall seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.***

Gerry then motioned to approve the minutes from January 6, 2003 public session. David Hall seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Old Business

Rte #11 & Rte #153 Intersection

Ernie said during the Budget Committee meeting last week, the question arose about when the work was to begin on this project. He said he spoke with Robert Berry of the NH Dept. of Transportation (D.O.T.) and then received a letter from them. He read the letter aloud to those present. The letter said the project was moving slower than anticipated, but that bid advertising should begin in December 2003, after the Irving property rights are confirmed.

Public Comment

John opened the meeting to comment. He said if there are any comments regarding personnel issues, the Board is not at the liberty to discuss them. Walter Mills sought clarification. He said there seem to be problems between the Board of Selectmen and the Fire Dept., asking what the Selectmen are doing to ensure better communication between the two. Gerry said he asked the Fire Dept. to come this evening. Just as he said this the Fire Chief and Deputy arrived.

New Business

Budget 2003 Discussion

Ernie said there are a few short issues to discuss before the review of the Fire Dept. budget begins. He said Parks & Recreation Director, Kerry Mucher has asked that the Board of Selectmen consider additional funding in the amount of \$3,000 in her equipment line to enable her to complete the equipping of the skateboard park. Gerry sought confirmation that she is actually seeking \$5,000, but \$2,000 of this she hopes to raise through fundraising with the youth of the Parks & Recreation dept. ***Gerald McCarthy motioned to add \$3,000 to the Parks & Recreation equipment budget line. David Hall seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.***

Student Selectman Representative, Greg Chick said many kids utilize the skateboard park and he too feels the addition of these funds to the equipment line would be great. David expressed his concern about the parking problem at Fernald Park, noting he feels this should be addressed before Spring. Both Gerry and John said changes to the parking situation had been made last year.

Ernie said Dale Sprague, Director of DPW is here this evening to discuss the landfill. Dale said he's trying to put together a warrant article for Town Meeting for the landfill closure. He said there would be no physical closure occurring in the year 2003 and rather than try to speculate on actual numbers for closure, since there would be no actual construction in 2003, it might be more appropriate to continue with a warrant article. He said the article would fund the engineering consultant costs, which would include final closure design, preparation for the project presentation to NH DES, etc. for March 2004 Town Meeting. He said this will enable all parties involved to have time to establish the fixed closure costs, construction costs for the transfer station, etc. Dale said the cost will be \$96,000 to complete the package right through to the bidding process with GEO Insight. Gerry asked why the engineers would be needed after the bidding and Dale said he would need an engineer on site during the construction with the contractors. Gerry sought to confirm that \$95,500 would be sufficient to cover these expenses and would be the end of expenses incurred for engineering services to close the landfill and open the transfer station. Dale said due to the number of unknowns at this time, this action of a warrant article simply makes sense. He said he's got a time line and still needs to coordinate with Colins & Aikman regarding the Cardinal landfill too. He said the Town of Farmington would need to borrow money or raise it through taxes, in order to pay contractors. He said grant money will come in, but it is a long-term process to receive approximately 20% in aid. John asked how long it could be drawn out and Dale said it depends upon the Town of Farmington, noting the terms can be spread out in favor of the Town. He explained why it takes so long to see the total return of the grant money. He said this year the Town of Farmington will get money back for the consulting engineers cost, the lab work, etc., further noting NH DES issues two checks, one for the prior work and then one for the final contractors' work etc., once the physical closure begins and is completed. Gerry sought confirmation of how the process works. David asked if there is any grant money, which could be obtained for the transfer/recycling center, and Dale said no, the Town would have to borrow the money for that. He said he'd work with Ernie to determine what amount would be appropriate for the warrant article. Ernie defined draft wording for the warrant article.

Dale said he has met with Wright Pierce regarding their work for the redesign of the wastewater treatment plant and the Cocheco River is a low priority for them at this time. He said the engineers have the data, but will not be moving on it until year 2004 or until the Town of Farmington permit expires in year 2005. He said if it goes into year 2005, then after the design, it would mean they would be into year 2007 before the work actually proceeds. Dale said the pumps and other equipment are very old and tired, noting he would be happy to show the Selectmen. He said the equipment is 27 years old and needs replacing and upgrading with an approximate price tag of \$1.29 million for the plant the Town has now. He said this means the plant upgrade could and should occur in two phases, the first being the design work, along with some of the equipment replacement. He said he's encumbered some money from 2002 in order to help keep his engineering consultant costs budget line down for FY 2003.

John said the Fire/EMS budget review would be next, suggesting that everyone begin with the ambulance budget. Discussion ensued regarding the Fire Dept. secretary salary and then on to dispatch costs. Ky said he's meeting with Carroll County and Lakes Region Dispatch services to compare pricing. He said his training budget line is up by \$1,000, because this last year they were over budget by \$800.00, due to the need for a lot of new licensing. Ky said the medical supply line is up too, due to the increase in call volume and the higher cost of supplies. John recommended that Ky look into the Donation Depot through South Eastern NH University where he knows Ky could obtain brand new stretchers for only \$50.00 each. Discussion then ensued regarding the physicals budget line. Ky said his payroll budget line is up due to a pay increase he's giving his Deputies. David asked why the telephone budget line has increased to over \$4,000, saying he doesn't understand why it's so high. Both Ky and Ernie said this cost includes the pagers too. The Board then discussed with Ky the gear/outfitting line and Ky said it costs almost \$2,000 per person to outfit a firefighter. He said he has 12 new members, plus a lot of the gear is worn out, some has been lost and/or burned too. The forestry equipment line was next to be reviewed, noting it is the same every year. David asked if there are any problems between the digital and analog radios and Ky said yes, all kinds of problems, particularly fire calls to motor vehicle accidents. He said the dept. receives a tone,

but then has to call dispatch to find out where the emergency is. Gerry offered the Board of Selectmen to set up a meeting with the State and the Sheriff of dispatch concerning this issue. Discussion then ensued about the alarm system budget line and the need to have all tied into the system comply with hardwire alarming versus the old pull boxes. The Chief discussed running both systems simultaneously until all serviced are hard wired with new alarms within a year. Ernie asked Ky if this simultaneous run of two systems could endure for a longer period of time, such as approximately three years versus only one year, in order to give all the opportunity to comply, due to the cost. John discussed the building maintenance budget line and Ky said he would like to have the fire station interior painted and the old rug on the stairs and upstairs hallways pulled out and replaced. John suggested placement of some fire doors for the safety of the building too. Ky noted the heating system for the upstairs, is also in need of repair. He said it's been 20 years since any serious work has been done to the station and it really needs touching up. John said he'd like to see a change in the cost of the telephone bill and Ernie said he has reviewed the call log on the bills and the cost is merely due to the number of phones, noting the calls made are legitimate. He said he would look into making the service more efficient, by perhaps checking into different calling programs, which might help. Gerry asked Ky about the ambulance new equipment budget line, wondering what it's for and Ky said it's for new gear, a new defibrillator, etc. Gerry then asked that Ky define and breakdown the following budget lines for him before tomorrow evening's Budget Committee review of the Fire/EMS budget for 2003. He said it may be difficult for him to remember all the items covered by these budget lines: training costs, Fire Dept. software, ambulance new equipment, ambulance vehicle maintenance equipment, equipment expenses and building maintenance. John asked if the water service has been repaired at the Fire Station and Ky said the work has begun.

Gerry said in regards to the 500 Boys Club budget line, the Town of Farmington needs to consider purchasing land, which is now available, for the 500 Boys Club at a cost of \$10,000. He said this would help to provide the club with three playing fields, two ball fields and one soccer. Gerry said this offer won't be available next year and there are grant monies available which can help with the cost to actually construct the fields. David asked Brad Anderson if the Conservation Commission has looked into this same purchase along with the 500 Boys Club. Brad said this whole project is a large collaborative effort along with Pike Industries, Moose Mtn. Regional Greenways, the Conservation Commission and the 500 Boys Club. He said the property is actually worth \$200,000, after a recent appraisal and the Town of Farmington would only have to contribute \$10,000 to this entire effort (good cause). ***John Fitch made a motion to appropriate \$10,000 in the FY 2003 500 Boys Club budget toward the purchase of land for three ball fields for the 500 Boys Club. David Hall seconded the motion.*** Discussion ensued. Ernie wondered if this could be considered a Conservation Commission funding, but Brad said the Commission already committed to \$8,000 in support of this project. Ernie said perhaps it could be a split cost. ***The vote was unanimous.***

Ernie discussed the need to purchase a new and safer industrial size chipper. He said last year's Capital Plan allowed for two 10' sanders, which cost less than anticipated, noting the new York rake was also less expensive too and another piece of Townequipment was rebuilt. He said as a result, the cost of a new chipper won't be as much as thought. John said he thinks it would be cheaper to rent a chipper each year. David suggested the Town look into companies filing for bankruptcy or going out of business and try to pick up a new/used chipper that way. Barry Elliot asked how many hours a chipper is actually used. Brad then came before the Board of Selectmen, saying on Wednesday night he is bringing an idea before the Conservation Commission to authorize the Selectmen to put conservation easements on Town properties, in order to make the Town eligible for more grant monies. Gerry said he doesn't support this because the Board of Selectmen shouldn't have sole authorization or control over a community without a Town Meeting vote. Brad said the town of Middleton is considering this authorization. Gerry said the Commission could put a petition forward at Town Meeting, if they so wish. Brad said he doesn't want to bring this to the voters without the Boards' endorsement.

Gerald McCarthy made a motion to adjourn. David Hall seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn C. Seaboyer
Admin. Asst.

APPROVED

John Fitch, Chairman

David Hall

Gerald McCarthy