

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 2016**

PRESENT: SEAN P. MURPHY, CHAIRMAN, PRISCILLA R. LINDQUIST, SELECTMAN; CHAD BENNETT, SELECTMAN, SALLY THERIAULT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Visitors: B. Worthen, C. Kowalski, P. Bracken, E. Reschberger, N. Gallo, S. Harms, Chief Carrier, Chief Beaudoin, J. Skidmore, J. Mesa-Tejada, B. O'Brien and P. Williams (Tri-Town News)

Public Announcements

- Kent Farm Transfer Station will be open on Saturday, April 9th, from 8 am to 4 pm.
- Compost bins are available at the Town Offices. The cost for each bin is \$50 each.
- Waste Oil, car batteries and thermostats are collected at the Town Garage on the first and third Saturdays of the month 8 am to 1 pm. Books may be dropped off anytime.

Visitors Comment

There were none present

Department Heads

There were no updates

New Business

Update on Kent Farm Transfer Station

Pat Bracken, Chairman of the RAWD (Recycling and Waste Disposal Committee) stated that they would like the Selectmen to consider allowing them to enforce the current regulations at the transfer station regarding construction debris (wood, sheet rock, shingles etc.) Mr. Bracken explained that at the last open day they heard traffic was backed up onto Kent Farm Road and that there were homeowners coming in with trailers loaded down with construction debris. The staff has made allowances for small amounts of construction debris but the tonnage for the month of November was 10 ton more than a normal time. There was a concern among the committee members that this was going to continue and their budget wasn't going to be able to sustain the increase. They wanted to enforce the current regulation and send out a flyer describing what construction debris is. Mr. Bracken explained that the committee went back and forth on the current practice on allowing small amounts and enforcing the rule completely and ultimately decided their only recourse was to stop accepting it at all because there was no way to control it. Mr. Bracken spoke with Mr. Kris Emerson and he was willing to give the flyer out with building permits to make sure residents knew what the options were and what was not collected at the transfer station. Mr. Bracken reiterated that this was not a change, but enforcement of the current policy and a clear definition and allows the staff working to better enforce the rules. Chairman Murphy stated that he had an issue with it. He stated that it would now cost a homeowner to get rid of something like a door, whereas prior to this, there was no cost at the transfer station. He went on to state that the RAWD budget is roughly 12% of the town's budget and this service is one that a lot of people take advantage of. He also stated that he felt that the committee was over reacting to the one month tonnage total. He asked that they wait and get a couple months more results before looking to change. He stated that the month of November could have just been a fluke. Chairman Murphy looked over the numbers for the prior years and they

average under 36 tons per collection day, which leads him to believe it is an anomaly. Mr. Harms asked where the line is drawn on how much is too much from a resident and stated that they have used the discretionary method for years but the amount coming in is growing. Selectman Bennett suggested limiting the number of trips. The response was that this would be too difficult to police. Mr. Bracken mentioned that they have budgeted to have someone stay at the area of where they could turn a car around with items that aren't accepted for at least ½ the day and that Mr. Harms normally does this as well until he is needed to run the backhoe.

There was a suggestion to see how many homes had been sold in that time frame because the additional 10 tons did not come from a few extra 2 x 4's. Mr. Kowalski reported that at the budget meeting the committee came in with more money in this line item, but that the Selectmen reduced their budget. The committee sees that the trend is continuing to go up. When they looked into why the increase in tonnage, they invited Mr. Harms into their meeting and his response was the increase in construction debris he is seeing come in. He emphasized that the rules currently state no construction debris and in the past the "wheelbarrow method" that was used to allow homeowners to bring things in. Mr. Kowalski stated that this is no policy and they need to enforce the rules. If the town wants it at the discretion of the people there, then they will need to plan on budgeting more for 2017. Chairman Murphy emphasized that he wants to see the tonnage for April and May before he makes any decisions and re-evaluate it. He stated that for now they should continue with small renovations such as doors, which are palatable for the town to handle. Anything larger such as a kitchen renovation, the homeowner should take the responsibility and get the dumpster bag, or a dumpster and bear the cost. Chief Beaudoin reported that in places he works, his building permit requires him to show where the debris is going, when it is over a certain dollar value in construction. He also needs to show who the dumpster company is and sign an affidavit. Over a certain dollar amount, the building department can require a dumpster. Selectman Lindquist stated that she would talk with Mr. Kris Emerson about the suggestion Chief Beaudoin had about permits and dumpsters.

Update of Road Agent Position

Chairman Murphy announced that the Selectmen had advertised for the new full time appointed road agent position. There were 5 applicants received and they interviewed 3 applicants. In the best interest of the town, the Selectmen chose Dean Howard Jr. as the new road agent. He is scheduled to start on March 21st. Chairman Murphy took the opportunity to thank Jon Worthen for his years of service and all that he did for the town.

Re-organization

Whereas this is the first meeting after town elections, the Selectmen review their current liaison positions and ex-officio positions and see if anyone wants to change. The only change requests came from Selectman Bennett. He asked to have the Police Department from Chairman Murphy and the Building Department/Code Enforcement Office from Selectman Lindquist. He offered to give up the Planning Board. There were no takers for the Planning Board and Selectman Lindquist did not relinquish it. Chairman Murphy asked if Selectman Bennett was interested in the School but the response was no. In the end, Chairman Murphy gave up the police department but did state that he wanted to be part of the negotiations for the next police contract. It was discussed to take off Personnel Policy and Senior's from the list. The senior's should go under recreation and the personnel policy committee is no longer valid. Selectman Lindquist motioned for Sean Murphy to be Chair. The motion was seconded by Selectman Bennett. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

There was none

Liaison Reports

Chairman Murphy

No update

Selectman Lindquist

No update

Selectman Bennett

No update

AA Report:

Septage agreement to be signed

Septage agreement with the Town of Somersworth needs to be signed every five years due to RSAs. It is a backup if disposal companies have no place to go. The only fee is when the septage is disposed of and the consumer pays any fees

Cost Analysis of town-wide mowing

Two contractors have been in to get the list of fields, and other places that are mowed to determine the cost of putting the work out to bid. Mrs. Theriault is waiting to hear back from one more contractor and then will provide the information to the Board.

Firelane #1

Mrs. Theriault stated that the BOS needs to make a determination whether or not it has an interest in Firelane #1. This parcel is located off Main Street below Lexington Ave. Right now an abutter wants to use Firelane #1 as a driveway for a lot that is to be subdivided from the mother lot. The abutter believes that the Town did not properly discontinue the road and convert it into a trail.

Mrs. Theriault asked the Selectmen two questions for the ZBA.

1) Does the BOS have an opinion or care about Firelane#1?

2) If so, does the Board believe that it has discontinued the road and turned it into a trail?

The case is currently before the ZBA and the Chairman needed a response to those questions.

The ZBA requests that the Board communicate with them either by appearing at the next meeting on April 7th or by letter expressing its position.

It is possible that the BOS will have to have an attorney look into the matter if it wants to prove that the Town owns Firelane #1.

Chairman Murphy stated that if a surveyor is stating that the town did not close the road correctly, then he should bring forward the proof of his information. The property was originally discontinued. Then in 1997, there were two articles, one to discontinue subject to gate and bars and the second one, if the first article passed, to reclass it as a class A trail. The abutters told the surveyor that they were never notified as part of the process of the warrant article, as required by law. There is other vacant land around the parcel that could potentially be opened up for further development. Mrs. Theriault asked if the Selectmen wanted her to contact town counsel for advice. After some discussion it was agreed to ask if there were affidavits from the abutters and that it was up to the applicants to show the town did not follow proper procedure. If the Selectmen have interest, they could appeal the ZBA decision and then look into retaining town counsel.

Conservation will discuss the issue at their next meeting and will write a letter of concern, if that is what they decide.

Activity Log

The activity log was reviewed. There is a meeting with Sheehan, Finney and Bass regarding the MS-4 regulations. Mrs. Theriault noted that she went two years ago and someone from the Town should attend the meeting. Chairman Murphy asked that he be forwarded the information. There is no update on the LED lights. Kris Emerson gave an estimate of \$1,500 to get a design done for the potential comfort station. With the design, they would be able to get estimates to construct to be ready for 2017 Town Meeting. He thought it would be roughly \$50,000- \$60,000 to build. The Selectmen agreed that it was a good use of the property and worth investing up to \$1,500 for the design and directed Mrs. Theriault to find the funds for it. Any additional funds would be brought to the voters in 2017.

Mrs. Theriault reported that so far, only the Highway Department has had the inventory completed. She will talk with the Department Heads at the next meeting about updating the information.

The Lawn Care proposal was already update. The COLA calculation formula can be researched over the summer. Mrs. Theriault reported that she updated Selectman Bennett regarding the Rail Trail. She stated that it was a grass roots organization that handled the funding. They reported to her that there were currently no grants available and that the estimated cost was \$140,000 per mile and Hampstead has several miles of trails. Other towns have done the work in segments. She reported that she has the information if there were residents or organizations interested in moving this forward. Mrs. Theriault sent out a request from other towns on how they handle electronic recordkeeping and she only heard back from one town. She will contact him to get further information. Selectman Lindquist mentioned that there is a currently a Records Retention Committee who is given the task for handling records. The committee is made up of the Town Clerk, Town Treasurer and a Selectman. Mrs. Theriault noted the concern she heard from Chairman Murphy on the records was safety and preservation. She reported that most of the important documents are recorded at the Registry of Deeds. The Fire Department currently backs up their files to a cloud based program. Police and the town office both back up to a file and back up storage. The largest section of data that exists primarily on paper is the building files and Selectman Lindquist said that they must be saved. Chairman Murphy questioned why. Mrs. Theriault reported that anything more than 10 years old must be saved in paper form according to the current RSA. Chairman Murphy asked her to lay out in a report the information so that it could be reviewed.

Mrs. Theriault will bring the Strategic Planning information to the Department Heads at the upcoming meetings. She started updating them at the last department head meeting. The Town Administrator position is on the activity log and it was suggested to put a committee together of department heads. Someone suggested that maybe business people could also be included.

Mrs. Theriault mentioned that Jon Worthen and Mrs. Theriault met with a company that was offering a 10 year road study plan. The will be sending in a proposal shortly.

Re- Appointments/Appointments

Call for candidates:

- Ordway Park, full members and alternates – monthly meeting
- Recycling and Waste Disposal Committee – monthly meeting
- Recreation Commission, alternate member – monthly meetings
- Trustees of the Trust Funds, alternate members – meetings as needed

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- Zoning Board of Adjustment, alternate member – monthly meeting

Senior Committee- The Recreation Commission is recommending the appointment of Carol and Joseph Jesso as the Senior Trip Coordinators.

Selectman Lindquist motioned to appoint Carol Jesso and Joseph Jesso as the Senior Trip Coordinators for a term of three years. Selectman Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The appointment for Dean Howard, Jr. was also signed at this time.

Correspondence

There was none.

Visitors Comments

There were none.

Selectman Lindquist motioned to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Selectman Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A True Record.




Tina Harrington, Recording Secretary

Approved By:



Sean P. Murphy, Chairman

Chad R. Bennett, Selectman



Priscilla R. Lindquist, Selectman