

Bob Thompson

John Allen

Dick Bennett

Selectmen's Board Meeting

June 9, 2016

Present: Bob Thompson, Chairman; John Allen and Bill Lockard, Selectmen

Visitors: Town Administrator Julie Atwell, Police Chief Doug Jette, Building Inspector Kevin Bennett, EMD/HO Tom Greig, Engineer Burr Phillips, Treasurer Kathleen Dougherty, Videographer Hank Benesh, Bea Davis, Stan Weiss, George Howard, Richard Levine, Martha Benesh, Joyce Allan, Sarah Clemons, Klaus Doelling, Jerry Dougherty, Terry and Andrea Venema.

Chairman Bob Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

1. **Amend & approve minutes**
 - a. Selectmen's Meeting – May 26, 2016 The minutes were approved as written.
2. **Update on May 26, 2016 Action Items**
 - a. NHEC spraying A notice was put in the Enews.
 - b. Upcoming Meeting Dates The next meeting will be June 30th; July meetings will be on 14th and 28th and August meetings will be on the 11th and 25th.
3. **Police Report** Chief Doug Jette noted things are going well; Officer Orsini is attending Prosecutors School in Concord; it means Jackson will have a prosecutor. Cop Synch has been approved through the SAU so that is moving forward. The Department is in possession of its replacement cruiser; it should be in service the end of June/beginning of July. Chief Jette will be writing the ad for bits on the old 2011 cruiser. The funds from that sale will be returned to the town. His last concern was brought to him; there is a sign on the Transfer Station gate that says don't dump your trash here, gives the hours and states there is a two hundred fifty dollar fine. Chief Jette wants to know where the authority for that sign comes from when Jackson doesn't have an ordinance and the state littering fine is three hundred dollars. He wants to know who will enforce it; if someone calls the police regarding trash and a fine is called for, Chief Jette needs to know what the basis for it is. He also wants to know if there have been any instances of enforcement; he's not seen it in four to five years. It was noted that Bartlett does have an ordinance that they want to enforce; that sign has been there since 1987. Chief Jette noted a sign like that would typically say, "...under the authority of RSA whatever" but this sign doesn't; it just says there's a two hundred fifty dollar

fine. The Transfer Station is in Jackson, not Bartlett. Chief Jette is not going to enforce this; that expectation has been thrown out on another situation. The town has been pretty quiet; police have been monitoring traffic. He urged folks to call with any concerns. EMD/HO Grieg noted Bartlett has an ordinance against illegal dumping; it prohibits dumping and litter other than in the authorized areas at the Transfer Station. A violation results in a one hundred dollar fine. Clearly their fine doesn't match the sign. Selectman Allen will follow up on that. Bea noted she heard that the new cruiser is a pick-up truck; she wants to know why. Chief Jette noted the town has already gone to a truck chassis with the Tahoe's so looking at a truck made sense. The town is not giving up anything in terms of space inside and it has more space outside. The new cruiser stays with the same capacity and enables the police to haul those that are under arrest and be able to haul around what the police need to in terms of cones and barricades for special occasions. The base price was six thousand dollars less than a Tahoe; they got everything they needed and it cost less. Chief Jette was thanked for saving money. There was a noise complaint; Chief Jette will be catching up with the individual.

4. **Public Comment** Sarah Clemons noted she received a letter from Chairman Thompson regarding her Right to Know (RTK) requests. The letter says that Sarah has received all the public information she is entitled to from her RTK request that she had written. Even after Sarah showed the Board exactly what she was looking for, which she got from Conway with no problem, she's being told she can't have the information. She's written another request which she read into the record. Sarah is looking for the town of Jackson's portion, raised and appropriated by taxes. She is looking for the cost of Jackson's contribution to employee benefits including all employees, even those that are part time. Sarah is also handing in a copy of the similar information she got. She wants to know if there's something she's not doing; something that isn't written correctly she is looking for input from somebody on how to get the answer to her question. She doesn't mean to be redundant but she's looking for something and she's not getting it. Sarah wondered if the rules are different in every town hall. She'll give the request with Administrator Atwell and would like to know if she's not asking in the proper manner. Administrator Atwell informed Sarah she is not asking in the proper manner. Sarah will speak with Administrator Atwell to get input. Bea wants to know about the facilities in the dugout; there were porta-potties for the Quack Race. Chairman Thompson noted this will be checked into. EMD/HO Grieg wanted to make sure everyone knew that Jeff Menard received his heart transplant. The Board will send a congratulations letter. EMD/HO Grieg noted Jeff did a lot of educating; he's an amazing man. Selectman Allen noted he will check into the ball field; the facilities are operational. Regarding the information Sarah is looking for, her requests have been reviewed by the Board and Counsel; and the Board is not able to provide it. The Board has run these requests by, and gets, legal counsel on whether or not the Board is able to provide Sarah with what she is asking for and they are not. Sarah is free to seek out whoever she wants for consultation; the information she's looking for is privileged and the Board is not able to share that information on employees. Selectman Allen noted there was an article about Jeff laying out his history with

Wildcat; Selectman Allen suggests that the letter of congratulations be signed by not only just the Selectmen but anyone with a connection to the town.

5. New Business

- a. Trustees of Trust Funds – Withdrawal Requests **Selectman Lockard, seconded by Selectman Allen, made a motion to withdraw twenty eight thousand eight hundred twelve dollars and twenty cents from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund to pay Central Chrysler Jeep Dodge Invoice Number 80274 dated 5/24/16 in the amount of twenty eight thousand one hundred seventy three dollars and Professional Vehicle Corporation Sales Order Number 9636 dated 5/25/16 in the amount of six hundred thirty nine dollars and twenty cents. The motion passed unanimously.**
- b. Request to Cut Trees on Town Property (added) Terry and Andrea Venema are seeking permission to cut on Tin Mine Road where Profile Rock is. They want to recapture and enhance their view. Chairman Thompson asked if any of the trees are in the setback; there is a twenty five foot setback from their property line to the towns. The Venemas have cut all the trees on their lot. The Board would like the specific trees marked. Chairman Thompson went up there with Road Agent Kelley; he has no real problem with it; he just wants to see what trees they plan to cut. Selectman Lockard would like more details; he'd like them to have the trees marked that they are proposing to take down and then find out if the Conservation Commission would like to weigh in on what trees are taken down on town property. Inspector Bennett agrees with involving the Conservation Commission. Martha Benesh wondered if the abutter down the hill had been notified; they may have a certain sense of privacy and cutting trees would mean less privacy than they had before. The Board asked that once the trees are marked the Venemas notify the Office and everyone will weigh in.
- c. Inn at Thorn Hill Septic (added) Burr Phillips, Kevin Bennett, Tom Greig and Klaus Doelling joined the board. Burr Phillips reported that several months ago he was notified by Kevin Bennett of an odor behind the Public Works garage coming from the Inn at Thorn Hill. Tom Greig explained that there was evidence of sewerage coming from the Inn back in January. He contacted the Innkeeper, Klaus Doelling regarding the issue. Klaus had the septic system was pumped. Tom stated that a few weeks ago there was still evidence of leakage and asked Burr to look at the area again. Burr reported that it is an obvious failed system and has been leaking and saturated for a while. He recommends the Inn get someone to come in and take a look at it. Selectman Lockard agrees with Burr that it needs to be addressed. Chairman Thompson stated that it is a serious situation and everything that they have tried has failed. He noted it's a failed system that continues to exist and needs to be corrected as soon as possible. He stated the Selectmen will support the Inn in any way they can. Klaus

agreed to get someone up there and let them know he has a failed system. He will contact the office with his progress. Burr offered to give Klaus names of people who do this type of work. Selectman Allen asked if there should be any concern with the fishing pond in town. Kevin Bennett said at this time no.

6. Old Business

- a. Wildcat Townhouse Resort Association Richard Levine joined the Board; asking if the Town found anything out about the property they discussed at the last meeting and if the Town would like to sell. Chairman Thompson reported that he spoke with the Town Clerk/Tax Collector who indicated there are 24 properties that currently have back taxes owed in the amount of \$98,586.54. Mr. Levine stated that is incorrect and he would like that corrected on TV. Chairman Thompson gave Mr. Levine the option to speak after he was done. Mr. Levine left the meeting before Chairman Thompson finished his comments.
- b. NHEC Vegetation Control Service, Inc. and herbicide spraying Scott Knapp of NHEC joined the board and reported that herbicide treatment under the utilities lines where they are cutting will begin in the Fall/Late Summer. Vegetation Control Services is the contractor doing the work. Scott encourages property owners to call the contractor with any questions or concerns. Chairman Thompson noted that he did get a request from Ton Seidel of the Conservation Commission to be involved in this. Selectman Lockard stated that he is okay with the process and if people have questions they can phone in. Chairman Thompson noted that the Town Office did receive a letter from Ann Kantack with her concerns. Scott Knapp stated that NHEC has authority to do this because they have a right-of-way and they follow all state RSA's regarding the application of herbicide spraying. Bob Kantack commented on the toxicity of Round-Up and the effects on ground water. Scott Knapp noted that there are a lot of public water wells around Jackson so there is a lot of spraying that they cannot do. Chairman Thompson asked Joyce Allan is she wanted to add anything since she was on the Knotweed Committee. Joyce asked why they spray vegetation on the ground. Scott Knapp answered through research and past experience it is more cost effective, promotes low growth vegetation and a more sustainable right-of-way. Joyce Allan asked if they are trying to prevent the higher growth. Scott said yes. Scott reiterated that they allow folks to opt out of the spraying and there are some property owners who want the spraying. Chairman Thompson noted that a notification of the spraying and opt out information will go out again in Enews.
- c. Transfer Station Updates Selectman Lockard reported the potential labor/manpower issues during Phase I which may postpone the work until September. Chairman noted that he gave Burr Phillips the go ahead to

order \$23,000 in concrete barriers and steps. George Howard asked to see something that lays out the changes. Chairman Thompson stated the poster that was available at town meeting is here at the Town Office for anyone to view.

- d. Building Inspector Job Description Chairman Thompson noted the recommended changes were approved at the last meeting but it is back on the agenda because a citizen expressed concerns about the changes. George Howard stated #5 of the new responsibilities does not add up with the ordinance passed by the town which lays out the responsibilities of the building inspector. He also noted he has no complaints about Kevin. Chairman Thompson asked if it would help to meet outside of a meeting. Selectman Lockard stated he is not going to meet again and has spent enough time on this topic. Chairman Thompson asked Mr. Howard to get some questions together for him and he will meet with Mr. Howard outside of a meeting.

7. Public Comment None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Martha D. Tobin

Recording Secretary