

Board members present: W. James Griswold, Chairman and John R. LaCourse.

Others present: Diane L. Guimond, Town Administrator; Henry Brackett; Ryan Burnham; Michael Blake, Fire Chief; Leslie Martin; John & Judy Macdonald, owners of Lee USA Speedway; Robert Watson and Peter Watson, General Managers of Lee USA Speedway and Donna F. Eisenhard, Recording Secretary.

1. Chairman Griswold called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. New Business:

A. Ryan Burnham met with the Board and requested permission to repair and maintain some of the trails near Rita Lane. He said the trails are in deplorable condition and he would like to rebuild some bridges, correct trails eroding due to improper water runoff and then maintain them. He said some trails need to be shut off and revegetated. Chairman Griswold said the land is under conservation easement so he urged caution. He also recommended he contact Conservation Commission Chairman William Humm for input. He said the Conservation Commission has very knowledgeable and technical people. Also, it is expensive to maintain trails and funds to do so may have to come from conservation funds so he should bring this up to the conservation folks. Mr. Burnham said he may have a friend that will help him with the work. Selectman LaCourse said Mr. Burnham cannot begin work now due to winter so he has plenty of time to contact them. Recording Secretary Eisenhard said the town office has maps of the various trails which may be of benefit to him. Mr. Burnham agreed to come into the office and get one. Chairman Griswold said the Board is supportive and directed him to contact Chairman Humm. Selectman LaCourse agreed and thanked Mr. Burnham for coming.

B. Chairman Griswold noted that Land Protection Administrator Laurel Cox could not be present tonight but had updated the Board on easements via e-mail. He said she also secured a Grant for \$9,000 to be used towards transaction costs which the town had previously paid and that will be credited back into the accounts these costs were paid from.

C. School Committee member Henry Brackett met with the Board and informed them he goes to all the School Board meetings. He said the budget appropriation forthcoming has an 8.6% increase. Chairman Griswold asked how they justified that. Mr. Brackett said that the budget that went to the State on the MS-26, which is the full budget, had a 2.6% increase but on estimated revenues and such, the last line on the summary – local taxes to be raised-, it went from \$25 million to \$27 million. He said there is no carry-forward (surplus) on this budget like last year to offset this years budget. Mr. Brackett said he calculated \$1.37 more on the tax rate for school taxes alone. He also stated School Business Administrator Blaine Cox confirmed the 8.7% increase. Chairman Griswold stated he went to the meeting and was shunted to the overflow room. He asked what the town should do. Mr. Brackett suggested the Board get a copy of the MS-26 sent by the school to look at and see where increases are. He said the decrease in students is still happening. Regarding School Board votes, of the six, one said the

amount was too low, one said the amount was too high and the other four agreed with the amount there. Mr. Brackett said at the deliberative session, this can be adjusted. Chairman Griswold asked about contracts, can they be adjusted. Mr. Brackett said paraprofessionals (aides) are taking the biggest hit in loss of people. Bus drivers are losing one person and stated that with the economy the way it is and lost jobs, they are not asking for COLA's and there is only little increase in wages. He said 78% of the school budget is people. Teachers get a COLA and the Step program. He said they have 2000 students in the system and eliminated one position that was already vacant but none that were filled. Chairman Griswold asked about a buy-out for older teachers. Mr. Brackett said that medical benefits are a big thing so he does not think a buyout would be helpful. This program has not been talked about. He also said the default budget is a lot more. Selectman LaCourse asked what the student-teacher ratio is. Mr. Brackett said ORSD is average. He said they should have a plan, but they have none, if they want to go from a good to a great school.

Mr. Brackett presented a handout in relation to a Youth Risk Behavior Survey recently done at Oyster River Schools and whose results were sent to Supt. Coulter. He said the rates were high, if the students responded honestly, of students being under the influence of marijuana. He said the percentage of ORHS students was higher at 10.6% for the students who were under the influence of marijuana on school property on one or more times during the past 30 days compared to the state overall rate of 6.8%. He said he was concerned as a lot of those students were driving to school plus being high is not conducive to education. He said the town should contact the school and encourage drug education programs there. Leslie Martin said they may need to go beyond drug education. Mr. Brackett said he hoped the town would impress on the school the importance of this issue. Chairman Griswold said this is a parent issue too. It was suggested the school assign Assistant Principals to inspect lockers, as some schools already do, or have drug-sniffing dogs brought in from time to time. Selectman Lacourse asked if they still have officers at the school as part of DARE. A copy of the handout becomes a permanent part of these minutes.

D. Fire Chief Michael Blake met with the Board and presented a handout with quotes from three vendors for Protective Clothing for the Fire Department. Quotes were as follows for three sets of Coat/Pant sets:

Galls	\$6,389.94
The Fire Store	\$5,191.44
Bergeron Protective Clothing	\$4,493.36

Chief Blake stated he would like to choose Bergeron as their service is the best overall plus they have the state bid. He said they send people out to measure and should repairs be needed on any of their clothing, it is done in three days and done to code. They also notify you if the cost for repairs is more than replacement. He said he has used them in the past and would like to stay with them. He noted the costs come out of the protective gear fund. Selectman LaCourse made a motion to approve Bergeron for protective clothing. Chairman Griswold seconded. Chairman Griswold called for a

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discussion. There being none, Chairman Griswold called for a vote. Motion passes. A copy of the handout becomes a permanent part of these minutes.

Chief Blake informed the Board he secured two additional estimates for insurance for Emergency Responders. The two additional quotes were as follows:

Francis L. Dean & Associates	\$3,500.75
The Hartford	\$5,315.00

He said there were also exclusions or limits on both. He asked if the Board wanted Tom Green to come back. Chairman Griswold said he would like to see a spread sheet comparing apples to apples and directed the Town Administrator to do one to include a summary with prices. Town Administrator Guimond said she would work with Fire Chief Blake tomorrow.

Non-Public Session: Selectman LaCourse made a motion to enter into Non-Public Session for personnel matters. Chairman Griswold seconded. Chairman Griswold polled for a vote: LaCourse-aye; Griswold-aye. Motion passes. The Board entered into Non-Public Session at 7:31 p.m. The Board exited Non-Public Session at 8:00 p.m. and re-entered the Regular Session.

Racetrack Public Hearing – 8:00 p.m.

Recording Secretary Eisenhard handed out 2009 schedules for review by those present. General Manager Bob Watson stated every year the track has to come before the Board to request a license for the coming year. He said last year they had nine rainouts. He said their goal is to conclude all events by 11:00 p.m. however, rain makes events longer. He said they usually ask for rain dates, as needed, but this takes time. He said on this year's schedule they added built-in rain dates. He said they don't like to race on Sundays if they can help it so lost nine dates last year. He said this season the economy is not good and they dropped their admission fee down to \$10.00 (under 10 yrs free) and that helped the track. He thanked the Board for allowing the July 5th Monster Truck Show fundraiser event for the Youth Athletic Program last year and said it was so successful they wanted to do it again this year. He said they also spoke with Co-Chair of the Lee Country Fair Richard Von Oeyen offering the Fair the option to move there. he said they like to help the town whenever they can and the racetrack could be used to raise funds. He said they were looking at three additional dates with Tuesday, July 14th being questionable. He said they would like to have pro-stock racers on that day because it is Bastille Day in Canada, which is a holiday. They would start at 2:30 p.m. and conclude by 9:30 p.m. that evening. He said Lee is sanctioned by NASCAR so they have to abide by certain rules in that respect. He said they have until September 19th of the current year to schedule the dates they have to have. He said there are set divisions in each event and state. If you don't make up 18 dates, drivers are not scored on competition for state and

national titles. Chairman Griswold said the Board declines making a decision tonight due to the absence of Selectman Reinhold. Mr. Brackett said with the increase in school taxes, he is concerned with youth and was pleased to hear they are in fundraising that supports our youth. He said it helps the town with what they do and considers Saturday fundraising events a couple of times as a benefit that offsets the noise. He thought consideration from the Selectmen was due. Mrs. Martin said we ought to support any organization that wants to raise funds. Without the speedway, there is little option for kids to raise funds. Mr. Watson said the track helped out 26 charitable groups last year including veterans (363 attended a Veteran's Night free) and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. He said they will again speak with Lee Country Fair about moving there. He thanked the Board for their time.

He also said he would like to note that they left last year's town meeting early as they were told their warrant articles would not be voted on because of the lateness of the hour only to leave and learn later that they had been moved forward from the floor and voted on without them being there for input. He said he was most displeased about this. Chairman Griswold said town meeting is an interesting animal. Peter Watson said it is not only about racing but they keep the track safe and attractive and Lee is noted on the map by the speedway. He said they used it for their disaster drill and, last year, two people had heart attacks there at events and would not have survived except that emergency responders were right there, as required when the track operates. Following this, Chairman Griswold said the vote on the license will take place at the February 6th Work Session.

There being no further business, Chairman Griswold closed the Public Hearing at 8:27 p.m.

3. Town Administrator:

Correspondence:

- A. Joe Quimby, 1/20/09, re: new property tax concept.
- B. State of NH, Department of Transportation, dated 1/7/09, re: fixed price unleaded fuel contract.
- C. Local Government Center, received 1/23/09, re: WELLDollars Grant Program award.
- D. Lamprey Regional Cooperative, dated 1/21/09, re: 2009 Annual Operating Budget Public Hearing Notice, February 3 3:00 p.m. at Stratham Municipal Center.
- E. Foster's Daily Democrat, dated 1/12/09, thank you for being a customer.
- F. Lamprey Health Care, dated 1/14/09, re: thank you for continued support.
- G. McGregor Memorial Ambulance, dated 1/11/09, re: 2009 requested appropriation in amount of \$19,685. *Note: Town Administrator Guimond said the cost could drop by 50% if the Town of Durham signs a three-year contract.
- H. Local Government Center, received 1/23/09, 2008 Annual Report.

Chairman Griswold signed the contract with the SPCA for renewal of animal care services.

The Board signed a letter to Frederick Schultz regarding the "kettle hole".

The Board signed an Appointment Slip for Heather Thibodeau as welfare Officer.

Town Administrator Guimond informed the Board David Miner is working on a design for the Town Seal.

Town Administrator Guimond said she e-mailed Richard Weyrick about a cover for the town report but has no response yet.

Town Administrator Guimond presented drafts of the 2009 Town Warrant, Budget Analysis 2009-2010 and Prework for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 for the Board's review. It was suggested to put all CIP items together. The Board also asked that the warrant be structured so the most important items are first. The Board will review the drafts in depth at the Work Sessions previously scheduled. Copies of the drafts become a permanent part of these minutes.

4. Town Secretary – review and approve manifests and minutes.

Manifests presented were reviewed and authorized for payment. Manifest #27 for 1/17/09 totaled \$150,264.00.

Selectman LaCourse made a motion to accept minutes from the January 12, 2009 Regular Session and January 20, 2009 Work Session. Chairman Griswold seconded. Chairman Griswold called for a discussion. There being none, Chairman Griswold called for a vote. Motion passes.

A Veteran's Exemption was approved for PID#17-01-0400 - Larry Kindberg.

5. Old Business:

A. Library Director Lisa Morin met with the Board and presented bid proposals for renovations/repairs to the library. She said they asked four contractors but only two responded. Chairman Griswold opened the proposals which were as follows:

Brian Dagenais, Carpenter	\$5,800.00
Frank DeRocchi & Sons	\$4,660.00

The Board agreed the Code enforcement Officer should look over the proposals before a decision is made and directed Ms. Morin to contact him and get something in writing.

Ms. Morin also presented a handout entitled Lee Public Library – Library Warrant Articles for March 2009 Elections & Town Meeting for the Board's review. Warrant Article #2 pertains to the Library Trustees being authorized to accept gifts of personal property offered to the library and will be voted on the floor. Warrant Article #3

pertains to the library being permitted to retain all money received from income-generating equipment (FAX and copier) for repairs or for books & supplies for the library. This will be by paper ballot at the polls. Selectman Lacourse asked if they have any policy already. Ms. Morin said they did have a gifts policy but it had never been officially adopted and this has been required since 1983. Also, they have to have a paper ballot on adopting RSA202-A:11 – retaining funds from income generating equipment. She said she has always accounted for this income on her annual reports each year in either case. She said the library would pay for any notices required regarding a public hearing, if necessary. Selectman LaCourse suggested putting the warrant articles on the e-crier. She said that once this is done, the library will be all caught up on requirements until a new law may be passed. She said both articles had been passed through Local Government center's Attorney Jeanne Samms. Copies of the handouts from Ms. Morin become a permanent part of these minutes.

6. There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Donna F. Eisenhard, Recording Secretary

Minutes accepted by:

W. James Griswold, Chairman

Frank W. Reinhold, Jr.

John R. LaCourse
Lee Board of Selectmen