

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 22, 2013

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Board members present: Chairman LaCourse, and Selectman Cedarholm.

Others present: Allan Dennis, Robert Smith, Randy Stevens, Peg Dolan, Geoff Carlton, Steve Oles, Timothy Moody, Erick Sawtelle, David Young, Paul Gasowski, Town Administrator Julie Glover and Town Secretary Dawn Hayes.

1. Chairman LaCourse calls the meeting to order and opens the Budget Public Hearing at 6:00 pm.

Town Administrator Julie Glover advises that the proposed operating budget for FY 2014 is \$67,871.39 above the current fiscal year; \$37,000 of that is related to NH retirement costs from the State; notes the Board has voted to use \$135,000 from the unassigned fund balance to fund about half of the transfers to trust funds; when that is considered the overall proposed budget is down by \$25,000. Ms. Glover states the \$67,000 is not from any one area of the budget (some things are up and some are down), and the budget does not include a COLA for town staff.

Ms. Grovers advises there will be a warrant article for a police cruiser; a grass field at Little River Park; a petition warrant article relative to the Racetrack ordinance; a zoning change.

Ms. Glover has contacted DRA regarding how to list the Capital Reserve Trusts on the warrant; proposes listing all of the trusts as one warrant article. Ms. Glover advises the last day to post the warrant and the budget is January 28th.

Chairman LaCourse requests questions from the public, there being none, Chairman LaCourse closes the Public Hearing at 7:05 pm.

2. Chairman LaCourse motions to approve the minutes of January 14, 2013. Selectman Cedarholm, seconds. **Motion Carries.** Selectman Cedarholm motions to approve the manifest of January 6 through January 19, 2013. Chairman LaCourse, seconds. **Motion Carries.** Selectman Cedarholm motions to approve the payroll manifest of January 25, 2013. Chairman LaCourse, seconds. **Motion Carries.**
3. Chairman LaCourse opens the floor for Public Comment. Chairman of the Planning Board Robert Smith advises the Board, he is concerned about grouping items together on the warrant and the possibility of them getting voted down.
4. Town Administrator Julie advises the Board that Code Enforcement Officer Allan Dennis has communicated with Attorney Tanguay regarding the process of revoking the subdivision at Noble Farm. Attorney Tanguay has confirmed the process under RSA 676:4a shall be followed; as the Town is the owner of the property, the Town makes a request of the Planning Board to revoke the subdivision.

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Ms. Glover notes there is some concern about the standing of the current easement, the Town is both the grantor and the grantee; it does not allow public access to that easement. Ms. Glover recommends meeting with Mr. Dennis, and the Town's Attorney to review a bullet list of concerning items.

Chairman LaCourse requests Ms. Glover meet with the Planning Board to further discuss the issue of Noble Farm and the revocation of the subdivision.

5. Town Administrator Julie Glover advises the Board Mr. Fogg of 179 Wednesday Hill Rd has requested to build a barn on the conservation easement (owned by the Town) at his property. Ms. Glover notes the Conservation Commission has reviewed the plan and has no issue with it. (Ms. Glover submits the plan to the Board). Mr. Fogg (now present) addresses the Board and advises of the access road to the proposed barn. Selectman Cedarholm requests the access road be formally added to the plan.

Selectman Cedarholm motions to approve the request for construction of the barn on the conservation easement located at 179 Wednesday Hill Rd and to issue the building permit; and to show the upland access road to the barn on the plan. Chairman LaCourse, seconds. **Motion Carries.**

6. The Board discusses a grass field at Little River Park with Road Agent Randy Stevens and Recreation Commission Member Geoff Carlton. Mr. Carlton presents costs to construct a competition level playing field, including 12 inches of loam and an irrigation system (\$183,000); presents annual maintenance costs which could be as high as \$35,000 (includes lining the field \$7,000).

The matter of sod vs. seed is discussed. Sod is more costly, but allows field usage sooner. The cost of seed is less but may take up to a year before it could be played on. Drainage and irrigation concerns are also discussed.

Selectman Cedarholm asks if it makes more sense to build a general purpose field up front (to allow for the Lee Fair) and a competition level type field in the back area. Mr. Carlton states that there is not enough room in the back for a large field. Selectman Cedarholm requests this be discussed further.

Julie Glover recommends deciding on the purpose and vision for this field (competition level vs. general recreation). What the Board envisions for this field will need to be determined before tying a dollar amount to the warrant article for a grass field. Selectman Cedarholm agrees and reiterates, a plan for the park is still lacking; recommends building a grass field and still develop a plan for the park.

Chairman LaCourse opens the floor for comments from the public.

Erick Sawtelle remarks the topic of organic matter in the soil has not been discussed; recommends the use of sod.

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Peg Dolan requests the purpose/use of the field be specified in the warrant article.

Chairman LaCourse states there is not much enthusiasm from the Board for a competition level playing field; the vision of the park (the plan) is still unknown to the public.

Bob Smith recommends the plan include all of the athletic fields in town, not just at Little River Park.

Recreation Commission Member Dave Young comments: all along the fields were part of the plan; warrant articles have always come forward in stages.

Road Agent Randy Stevens recommends using some of the material already located at the park, put grass seed down, put some money toward it and move forward; it can be added on to in the future. Mr. Carlton disagrees.

Ms. Glover reminds the Board that regardless of the type of field that is put in, some amount of money will need to be budgeted every year to maintain it. Mr. Carlton recommends putting \$25,000 annually in the Recreation Commission's budget for this purpose.

Chairman LaCourse will take all information under consideration and tables the matter for further discussion.

7. Road Agent Randy Stevens presents a power point presentation of Town plow trucks. Mr. Stevens reviews the history of the fleet, as well as quality and costs. Mr. Stevens is concerned that it may be time to upgrade the aging fleet of highway trucks.

Chairman LaCourse recommends moving forward with the consideration of a new truck. Selectman Cedarholm agrees to start looking for a new truck.

Town Administrator advises that the Board of Selectmen are agents to expend the trust (balance \$179,000). Selectman Cedarholm advises holding a public hearing separate from the deliberative session to gather opinion from the public.

8. Chairman LaCourse motions to accept the Consent agenda. Selectman Cedarholm, seconds. **Motion Carries.**
9. Town Administrator Julie Glover reviews the three bids received on the surplus vehicle (2007 Crown Victoria). Chairman LaCourse motions to accept the bid of \$751 submitted by Lawrence Rice of Lee.
10. Town Administrator Julie Glover reports that no contact has been made from the Recreation Commission to the Road Agent regarding any town recreation

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- equipment that was stored in the trailer (previously located at Little River Park). Further, Ms. Glover explains the frame of the elephant swing has been located and moved to the highway garage, however the location of the swing seat is unknown.
11. Town Administrator Julie Glover advises the Board that the Town of Durham is renegotiating their agreement with Comcast; requests the Town of Lee's permission to continue to allow Lee residents the ability to view the Durham PEG channel (channel 22); they are also pursuing the launch of a second channel to devote to ORCSD. Agreeing to this will restrict Lee's ability to expand to two or three local channels. (The need for expansion seems unlikely). Chairman LaCourse motions to allow the Town of Durham to continue to provide Lee residents access to Durham's peg channel (channel 22) and an additional channel for ORCSD. Selectman Cedarholm, seconds. **Motion Carries.**
 12. Ms. Glover requests the Board's permission to remove the current Christmas tree lights at the triangle and have the town execute the plan for next year (timers and lights need to be upgraded). The Board agrees. The Board requests a letter of thanks be sent to Elena Pascal for her years of service assisting with the lighting of the Holiday Tree.
 13. Chairman LaCourse requests the Race Track Ad Hoc Committee meet on January 28, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the Public Safety Complex.
 14. Town Administrator advises there are only four days left to assemble the warrant and the budget and requests further direction from the Board regarding any changes to the budget and/or warrant articles. The Board agrees there are no changes to the budget. Chairman LaCourse motions to assemble a warrant article to raise and appropriate \$80,000 to construct a natural grass field for general recreation. Selectman Cedarholm, seconds. **Motion Carries.**
 15. Chairman LaCourse motions to enter into a Non Public Session per 91-A:3 II (a) at 8:10 pm. Present in Non Public: Chairman LaCourse, Selectman Cedarholm and Barry Brenner of Brenner Associates. Non Public Ends at 8:25 pm, the minutes are sealed.
 16. Chairman LaCourse motions to enter into a Non Public Session per 91-A:3 II (a) at 8:30 pm for the annual review of the Police Chief. Present in Non Public: Chairman LaCourse, Selectman Cedarholm, Chet Murch. Non Public Ends at 8:45 pm. The minutes are sealed.
 17. Chairman LaCourse motions to enter into a Non Public Session per 91-A:3 II (a) at 8:47 pm for the annual review of the Code Enforcement Officer. Present in Non Public: Chairman LaCourse, Selectman Cedarholm, Allan Dennis. Non Public Ends at 9:06 pm.

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Chairman LaCourse motions to seal all three Non Public minutes. Selectman Cedarholm, seconds. **Motion Carries.** The minutes are sealed.

18. Chairman LaCourse introduces Barry Brenner of Brenner Associates; advises the Board has enlisted Mr. Brenner to perform an efficiency evaluation of town departments (excluding the Police Department). Chairman LaCourse requests the Town Administrator prepare a statement advising town departments to work with the consultant.

Mr. Brenner expects to complete the review, prepare an analysis and report to the Board in 45 days.

19. The Board agrees to meet on Friday, January 25th at 3:00 pm to sign the warrant and budget.
20. Selectman Cedarholm remarks that the Emery and Garrett Associates (Spruce Hole well project) is requesting the placement of a water depth Doppler instrument in the culvert at Packers Falls Road to monitor the impact of the Chesley Brook.
21. Chairman LaCourse motions to adjourn **9:17 pm**. Selectman Cedarholm, seconds. **Motion Carries.**

Minutes transcribed by:

Dawn Hayes, Town Secretary

Minutes accepted by:

Chairman, John R. LaCourse

W. James Griswold

David Cedarholm

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