

Lyndeborough Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2015

Final

Members Present: Chairman Fred Douglas, Selectman Lee Mayhew and Selectman Mark Schultz.

Staff Present: Town Administrator Russ Boland

Public Present: Sen. Andy Sanborn, Rep. Laurie Sanborn, Ian McSweeney, Mike Decubellis and James Robbins.

Media Present: Jessie Salisbury

Recorder: Kathleen Humphreys.
The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Consent Agenda:

Review and signing of consent agenda items

- a. A/P Warrant 5/13/15
- b. Payroll 5/14/15
- c. Northpoint Engineering Agreement
- d. Nortrax Purchase Order
- e. Non-Public Meeting Minutes 4/29/15
- f. Meeting Minutes 4/29/15
- g. Appreciation Letter, Clayton and Polly Brown
- h. Appreciation Letter, Bud and Peg McEntee
- i. Timber Yield Tax 14-279-03

Appointments:

Sen. Andy Sanborn and Rep. Laurie Sanborn, 6:05pm appointment

Sen. Andy Sanborn was present to discussed HB 547, which addresses the pole tax and provide clarification on the potential tax implication to the town. HB 547 bill recently passed the House and moved onto the New Hampshire Senate.

The Bill came about because towns tax utility companies per poles. There is no guideline or formula for the price per utility pole in the various towns. According to Sen. Sanborn, some towns charge as low as \$173 per pole and others charge thousands of dollars per pole. The utility companies felt this system was unfair. They conceded to the tax but wanted it to be fair. The Board of Land and Tax Appeal will work on a solution.

Lyndeborough charges \$700 per pole which brings in roughly \$50,000 in tax revenue.

Town Administrator Russ Boland asked what could be expected as the bill goes through the Senate. Sen Sanborn responded, "When you do the next budget you might want to figure a little haircut on that."

Sen. Sanborn discussed how the utility power generators need to "decouple" from the income they are compensated for selling energy and Forced Divesture with the utility companies as well as the proposed Kinder Morgan 36" pipeline, emanate domain to how the Northern Pass proposal is heating up again to two new wind tower projects and a smaller gas line in Dover.

Sanborn also discussed three major hurdles for the state budget such as Medicaid expansion, the medical enhancement tax and the mental health budget.

Sen. Sanborn talked about the following items:

The current budget is authorized to spend \$10.5 billion dollars. It looks like it actually will be \$10.7 billion

Due to Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Exchange Act, the Modified Adjusted Gross Income formula added 18,000 new Medicaid prescribers and will cost \$50,000 more.

An agreement with the Federal Government increases the Mental Health Budget by \$258 million over ten years. The state needs to come up with that money.

For the Medical Enhancement Tax the state would tax hospitals 5% of net patient revenue. Hospitals would pay about \$250-300 million to the State and the Federal Government would match the money and the money returned to the hospitals. The state was fined \$50 million and the practice discontinued. Today, the state still taxes the hospitals but the money is not returned to the hospitals. The reconfiguration will cost \$270 million.

Block grants, schools, Medicaid, state employee's pay raises and staff numbers were discussed. Bills that deal with narcan to concealed weapons were discussed.

Sen. Sanborn said, "The most important social program we should work on that would cure every problem we have is everyone should have a good job. If people have a good job they can have a house and put money away..."

Chairman Douglas thanked Sen. Sanborn for visiting and he replied, "Andy please, Remember I'm your employee."

Woodmont Orchard Conservation Easement, 7pm appointment

Ian McSweeney from the Russell Foundation and Mike Decubellis from the Lyndeborough Conservation Commission were present.

Mr. McSweeney was looking for the town's signature on documents to proceed with the town holding the easement on Woodmont Orchard. Mr. McSweeney explained it's a federal application as part of the Agriculture Land Easement Bill which will make up 50% of the easement cost.

Mr. Decubellis said "From a town's perspective we are happy to get this done and leverage the town's fund. This way we have the funds and we are maximizing the leverage."

Jessie Salisbury informed the Board she signed forms for the Souhegan Valley Land Trust allowing them to accept donations on behalf of the town. They already received three donations and the forms were signed earlier today.

VOTE: Selectman Mayhew made a motion to allow Chairman Douglas to sign the land easement documents for Woodmont Orchards. Selectman Schultz seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Chairman Douglas signed the documents.

Mr. McSweeney will get landowners signature tomorrow. There about 60-day waiting period.

James Robbins, Zoning Concerns. 7:15pm appointment.

Mr. Robbins owns property on Rt. 31. He was approached by a contractor who wants to purchase the lot to build a home and a price was agreed upon. After walking the property the price was reduced \$8,000, which is below the assessed value, and the reason given was the disarray of the neighbor's property which would affect the sale of the property. The property is one lot north of Old Temple Road. Lot 231-021-000.

Mr. Robbins explained the abutting property has a boundary line filled with "collectibles" and he is concerned he has a house lot that is not buildable. After reviewing the Zoning Ordinances Mr. Robbins felt there are a few sections that apply.

2:13: Junk Yards

200.05: Automobile Grave Yards

Mr. Robbins said they have a considerable amount of boats, cars, snowmobiles and motorcycles.

200.1: Abandonment

407.00: Junk yards and automobile graveyards are not prohibited in the town of Lyndeborough

It was discussed to inform the Building Inspector. Mr. Robbins said he is happy to walk the property with the building inspector.

Community Forum

None

New Business

Employee Health Insurance

Mr. Boland reviewed options to the employee health insurance plan and possible changes. The town, as of July 1, will have six employees: two singles, two 2-persons and two families. The Board decided on getting input from employees. Open enrollment closes on June 6. There is flexibility with the payment split but the deadline is a hard deadline.

The Board wondered if it's legal to co-mingle on health insurance. Mr. Boland has a meeting with Frankestown, Greenfield and New Boston on May 19, 2015 to discuss propane and will bring up this topic.

Employee Vacation Time

A 26 plus year vacation schedule category was discussed.

VOTE: Selectman Mayhew made a motion to add a 26 plus years, 30 days, 240 with a calculation of 0.18473 to be part of the payroll bracket. Chairman Douglas seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

It was discussed to start as of January 1, 2016.

VOTE: Selectman Mayhew made a motion to be effective January 1, 2016. Chairman Douglas seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

Selectman Schultz abstained from the employee conversations because his wife is a town employee.

Discussed earned time, days off and overtime in the same pay period. If there is a day off due to earned time, are they eligible for overtime if they work an extra shift. Selectman Mayhew would like to know what the state law is. Mr. Boland will research it.

Chairman Douglas suggested, if research shows it's permissible, he wants it explained to employees the Board had concerns about this but even though it will continue it needs to be looked at closely during the winter months because of the overtime factors. If an employee works on Monday-Thursday and stay home on Friday due to a pending storm to cut down on overtime and make adjustment in the schedules.

Discussed earned time explanation in the employee manual.

Mountain Road Engineering Contract

The contract was changed to agree to settle up at 30 days instead 15 days. Overage projection of \$5,000 for permits/legal was changed.

VOTE: Selectman Mayhew authorize the chairman to execute the Mountain Road Engineering Contract with Northpoint on behalf of the town of Lyndeborough. Selectman Schultz seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Chairman Douglas signed the document.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Boland and Road Agent Perry attended the Pavement Preservation class in Milford by T-Square. Mr. Boland said there is a science to it and he learned a lot. On May 27, Mr. Perry will discuss some items with the Board.

Selectman Mayhew would like to plant the seed to have an engineer look at pavement for next year. He would also like to see the Board of Selectmen more involved in the pavement plan.

Wilton-Lyndeborough-Temple Ambulance Association has lapsed. It's a non-profit. Selectman Douglas was inquiring if they have a Board of Directors. The Board discussed an email from the association.

The Town renewed FCC license with the police department.

New Hampshire Resource Management met to work on flood prone areas.

Mark Schultz, Lee Mayhew and Kent Perry attended a review class upstairs at Citizens' Hall.

Police and Highway will meet next meeting for strategic planning. It will be upstairs with the safety complex members.

Grader: The Board would like to know the life expectancy of the grader. It could be a conversation with the CIP. In August, the lease on the backhoe is complete. Discussed the 550s and the highway fleet and strategic planning.

Chief Deware and Mr. Boland attended a CERT meeting in Amherst.

A man on Highbridge Road wants to talk with the Board about donating his house and land as a possible children's camp.

Auditors have been at the town office all week. Things have been positive.

DRA sent a letter stating the audit had no points against it.

The Board went into a Non-Public Session, 91-A:2 (a), to discuss Personnel started at 8:45pm. Non-Public Session ended at 9:55pm.

Adjournment:

All scheduled items having been addressed, the public meeting was adjourned at 9:55pm.

Date:

Kathleen Humphreys, Transcriber

Fred Douglas
Chairman

Selectman Lee Mayhew

Selectman Mark Schultz

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON MAY 27, 2015