

**OFFICE OF SELECTMEN
6 HOLLAND STREET
PO BOX 139
MOULTONBOROUGH, NH 03254**

Selectmen's Meeting

October 29, 2009

MINUTES

Present: Selectmen: Joel R. Mudgett, Vice Chair, Edward J. Charest, James F. Gray, Betsey L. Patten; Hope Kokas, Office Secretary.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Joel called the meeting to Order at 7:00 P.M.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Joel introduced the Boy Scout Pack 369 and asked them to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES:** Ed made the Motion to approve the Minutes of October 15th 12:00 & 7:00 p.m., October 23rd & October 27, 2009 as written. Betsey Seconded. The Motion carried Unanimously.
- IV. **NEW RESIDENTS:** David P. Roberts, Rachel R. Ferrante, Patricia C. Leavitt, Marlene J. & Raymond A. Heal, Nicholas T. VonMertens, Tonya M. Paradise, Joseph N. Glidden, Leaman W. & Abigail M. Antone, Richard W. & Dorothy S. Botnick, Bruce W. Roberts, Susan R. Merrifield, Richard T. Pringle, Jennifer R. Smith.
- V. **PUBLIC MEETING:**
 1. **Citizen Input:** 1) Bob Wallace explained to the Selectmen that his property borders the Town owned Lions Club. He added that along the Town's back boundary line, the area is loaded with bittersweet which is choking the saplings and other trees and shrubs. He asked permission to cut the saplings and clean up the bittersweet problem. The Selectmen gave their approval by consensus.
 2. **Presentation: Conservation Committee Re Potential Milfoil Program:** Peter Jensen, speaking on behalf of the Conservation Commission Milfoil Committee, thanked the Selectmen for providing time to speak on this issue. The milfoil infestation which started in New Hampshire during the 1960's is negatively impacting the Town's revenue by reducing assessed values of waterfront property. Mr. Jensen stated that this trend will continue to increase in the future if the Town doesn't adopt a plan to eradicate it. He added that all property owners in Town will be negatively affected, not just waterfront owners, as our economy is dependent on its waterfront. Milfoil spreads from plant fragments and also by seeds that lay dormant for 12 years. Mr. Jensen informed the Selectmen that DES has mapped approximately 200 acres in the bay and estimate that the cost for treatment in the first two years will be approximately \$80,000 to \$90,000 per year. After that the Town will need to continue doing spot treatment as the milfoil reappears. The 2006 Master Plan survey found that the milfoil problem was a high priority. The Committee is requesting that the Selectmen set up a Milfoil Control Reserve Fund in order to start saving for the project. Besides hiring professionals to do the work, resident volunteers could be used as "Weed Watchers" flagging areas that need to be treated. Mr. Jensen asked the Selectmen what the Committee needs to do towards

achieving a positive outcome. Joel asked how many other towns are involved, and learned that Alton, Center Harbor, Meredith, and Wolfeboro were also involved. Betsey added that the Selectmen have sent a letter to all of neighboring towns, asking to partner towards approaching the state for financial support. Betsey asked how many approved treatment programs were there. Karin Nelson stated that last year there were approximately 6 approved plans. Mr. Jensen told the Selectmen that it is important to not just eradicate the milfoil, but to prevent property owners from using fertilizer with phosphorous, which the weed feeds on. He told the Selectmen that there will need to be a transition plan between the current approved plans and the Town taking a unified approach. Ed asked about the cost and Mr. Jensen replied that the estimate given by DES of \$80,000 to \$90,000, the Committee feels is too low and should be \$100,000. Ed expressed his concern that if the milfoil is just treated and not eradicated fully, it will just continue to spread. Mr. Jensen agreed, and that is why spot treatments will need to continue every year. Bob Clark, Chair of the Conservation Committee told the Selectmen that the Town should plan on funding \$100,000. The Selectmen heard from several residents who support the Committee's goal of eradicating the milfoil. Stewart Lamprey, who has been working with the state on the milfoil problem, informed the Selectmen and the audience that due to his health he is unable to be as active as he'd like. He did attend the recent Milfoil Summit which had excellent attendance. The state has funded only \$60,000 for the treatment of milfoil. He added that the state knows how to resolve the problem, but doesn't have the funds. Mr. Lamprey estimated that it will take 5 years to knock the milfoil down, but then the problem must be treated yearly. Paul Daisy told the Selectmen that his group has submitted a Citizens' Petition for treatment of milfoil and they have applied to the state for \$15-\$16,000 for 20 acres. He added that he's concerned property owners will try to treat this on their own, using chemicals, which could present problem. Ed emphasized the importance of educating property owners and then organizing to control the milfoil. Joe Keegan asked the Selectmen the likelihood of this being on the budget. Joel explained that they need to obtain a citizen's petition for the question to be a warrant article and then it needs to pass at Town Meeting (last day to submit citizen petitions is February 2, 2010). He added that it will have a real impact on the budget. Mr. Jensen explained that the Committee is requesting that the Selectmen sponsor a reserve fund. Ed agreed with Joel that it would be best for them to submit a citizen's petition and the Selectmen will vote on the question, which he feels all would support. He added that in 2012 donor towns will be back and this will really impact the tax rate, and then add on this funding request. Joel acknowledged this, but without taking action, the Town will be further negatively impacted. When the Selectmen were asked to express their support of this effort, Betsey replied that it is too early in the budget process to say, but encouraged the Conservation Commission to go forward with this effort. She added that voters will want to see a plan before funding the project. Mr. Jensen explained that DES requires a 5year plan of what the state has already mapped. The next Milfoil Summit will be held sometime in November. Joel asked Mr. Jensen to report back and keep the Selectmen informed. The Selectmen thanked the Conservation Commission and the Milfoil Committee and all of the people who came to the meeting to support this issue.

3. Joel announced that during a meeting between the NH Department of Revenue and the Selectmen on October 27th, the tax rate was set at \$7.70 from the last year's rate of \$7.66. Ed complimented the staff in Assessing, Carol, Hope and Heidi for their hard work and attention to detail. He added that DRA allows for no more than a ½% of variation in the warrant and the state's MS-1, which for Moultonborough would be \$108,000. The

assessed values delivered to the Tax Collector had a variation of approximately \$3,200, and most of this is due to rounding.

3. Presentation: Stewart's Ambulance: Justin Bennett introduced himself to the Selectmen and told them that he was there to answer any of their questions. He told them that Moultonborough's hardship cases have increased greatly. Mr. Bennett explained that due to the economy, people are waiting longer to call 911. He wanted everyone to know that if Stewart's Ambulance is called, but doesn't transfer a patient to the hospital, there is no charge. Those who claim hardship must complete Stewart's paperwork. In an effort to make this easier, they are now partnering with Lakes Region General Hospital to get this done and he feels this will allow them to be more generous. Mr. Bennett told the Selectmen that Stewart's exceeds the contract requirements, adding that all of the owners have family in this area and want to make sure that everyone receives the same kind of care as they would want their family to receive. During the past 2 years, they have upgraded their equipment. Mr. Bennett told the Selectmen that they have changed one of their policies and now will suit patients who receive insurance reimbursement, but neglect to pay their ambulance bill. Joel thanked Mr. Bennett and Stewart's for attending their meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review for Approval: DPW Review/Recommendation for Generator Bids: Joel relayed to the Selectmen that Highway Agent, Scott Kinmond, informed him that he needs to first consult with the Town engineer before making any recommendation. Joel asked that this be tabled for one week.
2. Review for Approval: Tri-County Community Action Program, Request for Funds: Joel explained that this is a citizen's petition to be on the Town Warrant and asked that this be placed in the budget file.
3. Review for Approval: Disposal Agreement, Andy Savage: Betsey Made the Motion to approve the Disposal Agreement with Andy Savage and authorize the Vice Chair to sign the agreement. Jim Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously.
4. Review for Approval: Primex Workers' Compensation & Property/Liability Member Contribution Agreements: Joel explained that Primex is offering to extend the present agreement which runs out in 2012 by offering additional discounts. The Selectmen agreed that they've recently had problems with Primex and felt it unwise to extend the present contract.
5. Review for Approval: Citizens Petition – "Veterans Memorial Park": Betsey commented that although Veterans Memorial Park was a fine tribute to those that have served, she thought naming the fields should be explored. Sally Carver suggested allowing the children to name the fields. Joel asked that the petition be placed in the Budget file.
6. Review for Approval: Annual Wentworth Acres Road Closure Request – Halloween: Joel explained that they make this request yearly and approved by Consensus.
7. Review for Approval: LRPC 2010 HHWC Request for Appropriation: Betsey made the Motion to authorize the Vice Chair to sign the commitment letter of \$6,271 for the 2010 Household Hazardous Waste Collections pending approval at Town Meeting. Ed Seconded the Motion. Joel asked that this be placed in the Budget file.
8. Review for Approval: Request for Sole Source Procurement – MFD Turnout Gear: Chief Bengtson explained that Bergeron Protective Clothing is the territorial and sole vendor of Globe Fire Suits in New Hampshire, and therefore the Department is unable to

get competitive bids for the six sets of turnout gear. For insurance purposes all of the gear needs to be the same. Betsey Made the Motion to waive the competitive bidding process. Ed Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously.

9. Announcement: Re: Litigation: Joel announced that the court ruled in the Town's favor regarding the law suit brought by Paul Punturieri regarding the Right to Know law. Joel read Karel's statement:

"We are pleased that the court has upheld our actions. This SelectBoard understands full well the critical need for a rigorous adherence to the statute. While the court saw we had done just that, the Board members were collectively frustrated that we had to expend a little over \$2,000 in legal fees and an additional 40+ hours of lost staff time to defend our actions; actions now validated by the court. Those dollars and efforts would have been far more productive on behalf of the community at large."

10. Opening of Bids: Community Notification System & Street Signs: Joel opened the sealed bids for the street signs, of which there was only one from Paquette signs, \$11,509.13 for 267 signs and \$4,668 for posts and brackets. Betsey asked why the Town is putting this out to bid when we usually use the prison for our street signs. Joel thought that the Highway Agent had made this request as many of the Town's road signs were not in compliance. Joel then opened the bids for the Community Notification System:

ADT Security Service, Hollis, NH, \$42,300
CodeRed, Ormond Beach, FL, \$48,000
Everbridge, Glendale, CA, no total price given

Joel stated that Chief Bengtson will take the bids for review and will make his recommendation. Betsey asked Chief Bengtson to explain the notification system. He told the Selectmen that the notification system can call all the people in Town for emergency purposes, or can just target a neighborhood. Chief Bengtson added that it should only be used for emergency situations.

VII. OLD BUSINESS: None.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Legislative Update: Betsey reported that the Governor's vetoes were sustained.
2. Planning Board Update: Ed reported that they had another late meeting last night, of which he had to leave before it ended for medical reasons. He added that they had a number of subdivisions to look at and commented that the quality of the land is not as good as in the past and requires much more attention to detail.
3. Administration Update: See Carter's weekly update.
4. Zoning Board of Adjustment Minutes, October 7, 2009 & October 21, 2009: Acknowledged.
5. Planning Board Minutes, October 14, 2009: Acknowledged.

IX. PENDING: None.

X. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Jaye Olmstead, David's House, September 17, 2009: Acknowledged.
2. Linsey Shaw, UNH Technology Transfer Center, October 19, 2009: Joel reported that Highway Foreman, Ed Wakefield has achieved the Senior Road Scholar, which is the third achievement level out of four. The Selectmen congratulated Ed.
3. Letters in Support of Milfoil Treatment Funding in Suissevale: Bob Ashton, Richard Freni, Greg Johns, Craig Letourneau, Leonora Lilley, Jim Long, Janice L. Paulsen, Joe Shapiro, Herb & Patricia Monahan, Ken Alley, Tom Leahy, Tom Hammersla, Craig Zamzow, Nina Marchese, Nick DeMeo, John & Karen Buckley, John Hawkins, Ray Beauregard: Acknowledged.

XI. CITIZEN INPUT: None.

- XII. ADJOURNMENT: Betsey Made the Motion to Adjourn. Ed Seconded.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
Joel adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.**

Approved

Date
Respectfully Submitted
Hope K. Kokas, Office Secretary