

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

Selectmen's Meeting

February 18, 2010

MINUTES

Present: Selectmen: Karel A. Crawford, Edward J. Charest, James F. Gray, Betsey L. Patten; Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator; Hope K. Kokas, Office Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Karel called the meeting to Order at 7:00 P.M.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

III. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES: Ed made the Motion to approve the Minutes of February 4, 2010 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. as written. Betsey Seconded. The Motion carried Unanimously.

IV. NEW RESIDENTS: Katherine J. Callahan, Patrick R. Huston, Kristy L. & Joseph A. Simpson, Kenneth P. Kasarjian, Allen & Joyce Brown, Patricia M. Kelley, Albert W. Thomas, Lisa A. Bartlett, John M. Gibbas, Roger B. McMullin, Jeffrey L. Vachon, Sandra K. & Bryan D. Ball.

V. PUBLIC MEETING:

1. Non-Public Session Per RSA 91-A:3 II (b), 6:30 PM
2. Citizen Input: 1) Jim Morrison asked the Selectmen about the Advisory Budget Committee's recommendation that the Town go to by-weekly payroll and outsourcing payroll. Karel replied that the Selectmen are still considering both, but it isn't a simple process to implement them. 2) Al Hume asked if there is a second set of test pits for the Lions Club property. Carter replied that there will be no additional test pits done, as there have now been two sets. The results of the second set of test pits were given to Mr. Hume as he requested. Mr. Hume told the Selectmen that per the newspaper article; it appeared that another set was to be completed. 3) Natt King asked the Selectmen to reconsider their recommendation of the petitioned warrant article to name the playing fields at the Lions Club property Veterans Memorial Park. Although he thought veterans would appreciate this gesture, he felt that naming the fields as such would take away from the Town's Veterans' Park and monument, which he feels is very special and doesn't want to see it trivialized. Karel thanked him for expressing his opinion and told him that the Selectmen's recommendation was split (2 Yes, 0 No, 3 Abstain). She added that the split is not due to anyone on the Board being against veterans. This will be a good discussion at Town Meeting and she encouraged him to express his opinion then.
3. Non-Public Session Per RSA 91-A:3 II (d), 8:00 PM

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation: Safe Routes to Schools Travel Plan: Mike Izard of Lakes Region Planning Commission thanked the Selectmen for extending the agreement with LRPC to finish the travel plan. The enthusiasm of the group resulted in more meetings than originally anticipated. There were a series of recommendations made and associated with them are

the who, how and when as to how they would be accomplished. Mr. Izard added that this will require coordination amongst the groups in the community. The travel plan is a prerequisite for implementation funding through the Safe Routes to School Program. The threshold for funding has been increased from \$100,000 to \$250,000, and any community requesting funds over \$100,000 must have a travel plan. The most important aspect of the plan is the safety of the students, getting to and from their homes to school, grades k-8. Mr. Izard told the Selectmen that the Committee met with the School Board and received their endorsement and is now asking the Selectmen for its endorsement. With the Board's endorsement LRPC would then send it to the state for their approval and eligibility for future grant funding. He told the Selectmen that members of the School Board were involved in the process and familiar with the content of the plan. At the meeting last week, although they endorsed the plan, there were comments raised that they will be looking at their next meeting to see how they can be engaged in the implementation process. Gary Torressen, the Chair of the Committee told the Selectmen that they have a good travel plan and a lot of time and effort was spent going over it. He thanked the Selectmen for the extension allowed. He told the Selectmen that he just had a conversation prior to the meeting, and that he felt responsible for what happened and any delays that resulted. Mr. Torressen told the Selectmen that he expected they will next hear comments and left it to the Selectmen for any action they will make. He concluded by apologizing to any Committee members who are unhappy for any omissions or items not completed in the travel plan. Betsey thanked Mr. Torressen for chairing the Committee and the other members for their participation and enthusiasm, adding that she was not able to attend all of the meetings, but it did take a while to establish a chair person. Karel commented that being a chair of any committee, especially with so many members is not an easy task. She thanked Mr. Torressen for being the chair. Joanne Coppinger, the Planning Board member of the Committee thanked Mr. Torressen for his words. She told the Selectmen that she has a complaint regarding the finalization of the travel plan, and stated that it was a good travel plan. A subcommittee was formed to review the plan and made minor changes. After the January 4th meeting, changes were submitted which she authored and the Committee reviewed with minor changes. She added that Mr. Izard was present at that meeting. After that meeting she made the changes that were discussed and emailed them to LRPC asking that the revised draft plan be sent to all Committee members for their review in advance in preparation for the February 9th School Board presentation. Ms. Coppinger stated that the Committee did not see the Travel Plan until it was posted on the Town's website only a few days before the School Board meeting. On February 5th she read the travel plan on line and was upset that the changes that were approved by the Committee and submitted to LRPC had been rewritten and inserted into the middle of the travel plan versus being an introduction as approved. She alerted the Committee of the problem one day before the School Board meeting which went well, and was endorsed. At the meeting, Mr. Izard told the School Board that he welcomed their comments. After the meeting Ms. Coppinger resubmitted the approved changes to LRPC with the assumption that they were in the middle of a public comment period, and asked what the process was and when would the public comment period end and what the next steps are. In addition, the changes that were approved would be implemented. Yesterday, Ms. Coppinger received an email that because the School Board accepted the travel plan that no more changes can be made. Upon hearing this she called the School Board Chair, Lori Whitley (also a member of the Safe Routes to School Committee) asking her if this was her understanding to which she replied it was not and the changes could be made without

going back to the School Board. Ms. Coppinger asked the Selectmen that if they were to endorse the overall objectives of the travel plan to states this and add that edits to the plan are currently being undertaken as part of a public comment period, with March 1st deadline being set for public comment and the final plan being posted on the Town's website prior to it being submitted to the state. Ms. Coppinger asked that she and any other Committee members be allowed to work with LRPC to edit the travel plan to better reflect the intentions of the Committee and the final travel plan be posted on the website March 2nd and sent to the state March 9th. Karel asked if the state has a deadline. Mr. Izard replied the deadline between the Town and LRPC is March 1st. Ed commented that he has no problem with making the edits to the travel plan. Betsey asked if the public comment time was ever set. Mr. Izard replied that public comment would be taken prior to presenting it to the School Board with every intention to gather public input, with all minutes being posted on the Town's website. The process of public input took place throughout that period. The travel plan was available to the Committee one week prior to the School Board meeting and was mailed out, although he did not know when it went on the website. Karel asked Ms. Coppinger to confirm that her complaint is that the revisions that she made and she felt were important, were discussed by the committee but didn't get into the report. Ms. Coppinger said this was correct. Karel then asked if the Committee voted to put Ms. Coppinger's revisions into the report and learned from Mr. Izard that there was a recommendation to make a subcommittee to reword sections of the travel plan, there was no final vote and they were to submit them to LRPC which they did. Mr. Izard stated that he is not opposed to making the edits and would agree that they don't change the recommendation of the travel plan. Karel asked if it would satisfy Ms. Coppinger and the Committee if the Selectmen approve the travel plan with the understanding that editing of certain portions would be completed by LRPC and not change the overall plan, just particular areas to prevent further delay. Ms. Coppinger agreed and said the implementation of the edits would satisfy her. Based on Carter's suggestion, Betsey Made the Motion to endorse the Safe Routes to School Travel Plan subject to the inclusion of substantive edits made by the subcommittee with the exception of relocating the Committee letter and to dissolve the Committee with the thanks of a grateful community. Jim Seconded the Motion. Discussion occurred by Ms. Coppinger about who she would work with to ensure the changes are made. The Selectmen agreed that this was the Committee Chair's decision. The Motion carried Unanimously.

2. Review: NH DRA 2009 Median Ratio: Karel reported that the Town received from DRA the 2009 equalized value ratio using the weighted mean assessment of 95.1% and the median ratio is 97.3%. In the Assessor's memo to the Selectmen, Craig Nichols explained that the Median Ratio falls within DRA's guidelines of between 90% and 110%. He pointed out that the Town's Price Related Differential is 1.07%. DRA's guidelines for a community like Moultonborough should have a PRD between .98% and 1.03%. This measures the differences in assessments between lower valued property and the higher valued property. Any PRD higher than 1.03% is an indication that lower valued property is being assessed at a higher ratio than the higher valued property. DRA will be paying close attention to the Town's ratios over the next few years to see if the yearly updates correct the inequity.

VII. OLD BUSINESS: None.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Legislative Update: Betsey reported that out of the two bills for donor towns, HB 1674 was killed which would have placed a sunset date on donor towns. HB 1677 extends holding donor towns harmless until 2012 and 2013. Betsey stressed that it is important to remember that the new definition of a quality education is something that the state can't afford. The formula was changed to particularly address Manchester and Nashua. She spoke about other bills that were passed regarding the sale of raw milk, the prohibition of having loaded muzzleloaders in vehicles, and that same sex marriage remains law. All of the bills have been reported. Any stimulus money that municipalities receive after Town Meeting can be expended.
2. Planning Board Update: Ed commented that they met last week, going over one subdivision and a boundary line adjustment. He added that the subdivision off of Severance Road has caused concern from property owners in the area about development and the discussion that occurred regarding property rights, which include subdividing as long as it meets Planning Board approval.
3. Administration Update: Carter reported that other than his weekly update, HB 1677 will be voted on March 8th, which extends the collar to 2013. The Selectmen have sent letters to all of the Town's representatives and he encourages citizens to do the same. He added that the memo to our neighboring town's involved in the Stewart's Ambulance contract have been sent out and it is hoped that the next meeting will occur on March 25th. Based on the meeting of towns to consider the joint purchase of a Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) machine for the treatment of milfoil or hiring a firm to do the job, an Intermunicipal Agreement is being developed.
4. Board of Library Trustees Minutes January 7 & 19, 2010: Acknowledged.
5. Milfoil Committee Minutes, February 2, 2010: Acknowledged.

IX. PENDING: None.

X. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. UNH Technology Transfer Center, February 1, 2010: Karel reported that Jim Nave has achieved the status of Road Scholar One. The Selectmen congratulated Mr. Nave on this achievement and are always glad to hear that employees are receiving additional training.
2. Time Warner Cable, February 2 & 5, 2010: Karel reported that this is the usual letter the Town receives regarding any likely changes to programming as a result of renewing contract agreements.
3. Shirley M. Cassesso, February 5, 2010: Karel reported that in Ms. Cassesso's letter she requests that the Selectmen forgive and refund the interest charged for her late payment of taxes, which she claims is the fault of the post office. Karel stated and the Selectmen agreed that it is the taxpayer's responsibility to be sure that their mailing address is correct and/or the post office forwards it correctly. In addition, taxpayers know that taxes are due twice a year and approximately when they are due. If the taxpayer doesn't receive their bill it is their responsibility to contact the Tax Collector and make the payment. Betsey Made the Motion to not refund the interest charged to Shirley M. Cassesso for interest due for late payment of real estate taxes. Ed Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously.
4. Ed commented that he attended the meeting of the towns to consider the purchase of the DASH and was happy to hear other towns' concerns and interest in working together.

- XI. CITIZEN INPUT:** 1) Julia Velie told the Selectmen that she is a supporter of recycling, but expressed her concern that too many changes are being made at the Transfer Station and they need to be publicized prior to the changes being made. Ms. Velie added that people aren't happy. Scott Kinmond, Public Works Director, stated that they have tried this by using handbills, which was not effective. They will provide information about the changes to customers using charts posted at the Transfer Station. Karel and Ed both reported that they have heard complaints that staff are going through customers' trash looking for recyclables. Carter stated that it is mandatory that people recycle, but suggested that the enforcement be more periodic. Scott commented that the Transfer Employees really care about recycling and the resulting commodity. He added that he gets complaints, but the praises outnumber the complaints. Carter added that they will use the Town's website, news release and the newsletter to inform people. Ms. Velie expressed her concern that if the Transfer Station continues down this path, non-residents and renters will begin illegally dumping their trash in some of the Town's rural and out of the way areas. 2) Al Hume asked the Selectmen what can be done about the frost heaves in the Public Safety Building's driveway and what can be done. The Selectmen acknowledged the problem.

Ed Made the Motion for the Selectmen to go into Non-Public Session per 91-A:3 II (d). Betsey Seconded the Motion. Karel called for a roll call: Jim – Aye; Betsey – Aye; Ed – Aye; Karel – Aye. The Selectmen went into Non-Public Session at 8:06 p.m.

The Board exited Non-Public Session at 8:38 p.m. having voted by a vote of 2/3 or greater of the members present to not disclose the minutes and decisions reached therein to the public, as divulgence of the information discussed likely would affect adversely the negotiations of any real estate transaction, until - in the opinion of a majority of the members - the aforesaid circumstances no longer apply.

- XII. ADJOURNMENT:** Betsey Made the Motion to Adjourn. Jim Seconded. Motion Carried Unanimously. Karel adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Approved

Date
Respectfully Submitted
Hope K. Kokas, Office Secretary