

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

Selectmen's Meeting

November 18, 2010

MINUTES

Present: Selectmen: Joel R. Mudgett, Chairman, Karel A. Crawford, Edward J. Charest, James F. Gray (absent with prior notice), Betsey L. Patten (absent with prior notice); Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator; Hope K. Kokas, Administrative Assistant.

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

III. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES: Karel made the Motion to approve the Minutes of November 4th and November 5, 2010. Ed Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously.

IV. NEW RESIDENTS: Christine L. Woodland, Leslie E. Payne, Leana Maher, Mary E. & Ron E. Elliard, Thomas J. McEuog, Gerald D. DeVeer, Laura L. Blundo, James F. Wilson.

V. PUBLIC MEETING:

Citizen Input: 1) Hollis Austin asked the Selectmen if there is or were they considering placing a hiring freeze. Joel replied that there is not a blanket hiring freeze. The need could arise that a vacancy comes up that requires that it be filled. It will depend on the position that needs to be filled and will be considered on a position basis. Carter added that over this year, where they filled a position in house and didn't fill the resulting vacancy.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation: MPD Citizens' Police Academy: Joel reported that Chief Tom Dawson is unable to make the presentation as he is out of Town at a training and will give the presentation at the next meeting, December 2, 2010.
2. Review for Approval: Acceptance of 2007 Tax Deeds: Tax Collector, Susette Remson reported that there were nine tax deeds for 2007. All of these properties have unknown owners due to the remapping that took place in 2007. Susette asked the Selectmen to accept the deeds and if it is their wish, to authorize her to record the nine tax deeds at the Carroll County Register of Deeds. She added that due to the fact that the Town doesn't know the legal owners for these properties, the billing, lien and tax deeding processes could be challenged. Per RSA 80:78 the tax deeds may not be contested after ten years from the date of recording, therefore, she recommends that the Town retain ownership for at least ten years. Karel asked if the RSA just pertains to tax deeded properties with unknown owners. Susette replied that the RSA applies to all properties. She informed the Selectmen that the unknown property that she reported previously, Map 109 Lot 001, on the Center Harbor town line, the Assessor is working with the abutting property owner in Center Harbor who is acknowledging ownership, and needs to correct his deed identifying the land in Moultonborough. This property owner is questioning the present

assessed value of the .19 acre lot and if not reduced he will not accept ownership. Carter explained the appraising theory of more is less (economy of scale). After the first acre (43,560 square feet), which is considered the building lot, the value of the “back land” is much less. The Assessor feels that once the lot becomes a part of the bigger lot the value will be reduced. Karel Made the Motion to accept the nine tax deeds for 2007 and authorize the Tax Collector to record the deeds at the Carroll County Register of Deeds. Ed Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously.

3. Review for Approval: 2011 Milfoil Joint Board Proposed Budget: Carter reported the Intermunicipal Agreement between all three towns requires that each town receive the operating budget. Moultonborough’s portion will come from the Milfoil Trust Fund. Carter said that it is in the recommended budget and suggested they review it at the Selectmen’s work session. Ed asked Peter Jensen what the fee is for the divers. Mr. Jensen replied that the fee hasn’t been set yet. Carter added that the fee for two divers and equipment is \$1,400; however they are hoping to reduce it to \$1,100 as they will provide the equipment.
4. Review for Approval: Request for Tuition Reimbursement – Officer Peter John: Joel reported that Officer John’s letter informed the Board that he will be taking classes in 2011 and he will be requesting tuition reimbursement at that time. Approved by Consensus.
5. Review for Approval: 2010-2011 Snow Removal Equipment Lease Contracts: Joel explained that these are the contracts for subcontractors to plow snow for mostly private roads. Ed Made the Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the contracts as they come in. Karel Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously.
6. Review for Approval: 2011 Flexible Spending Account: Carter explained that the FSA, administered through the Local Government Center, allows employees to pay with pre-tax money for an account to pay for medical items not covered by their health insurance. The fee for 2011 will be increased but it will be the same as it was in 2008 under the old provider. Karel Made the Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the service agreement and also the HIPPA Business Associate Agreement. Ed Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously.
7. Review for Approval: Resignation from Recreation Advisory Board – Jane Fairchild: Joel reported that Jane Fairchild has submitted her resignation from the Recreation Advisory Board, which the Selectmen accept with regret. Carter was asked to draft a letter for their signature. Carter recommended inviting the Vice Chair of the RAB, Joann Farnham to come in during their budget work session, on the same day the Recreation Department will have its budget reviewed. Agreed by Consensus.
8. Review for Approval: Carroll County Tax, December 17, 2010: Carter reported that Moultonborough’s portion of the county tax is 22.6%, commenting that the Town receives relatively few services. Peter Jensen asked what the 2009 county tax bill was and Carter replied that he didn’t have the figure.
9. Review: UNH Technology Transfer Center’s Road Scholar Program – Bill Dow: Joel and the Selectmen congratulated Bill Dow for becoming a Senior Roads Scholar. Joel added that the Highway Agent has done a good job encouraging his staff to increase their education and training.
10. Review for Approval: VNS DHHS License – 2011: Karel Made the Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Moultonborough Visiting Nurse Service’s 2011 Application for Residential or Health Care License. Ed Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Review for Approval: NH & FBI Criminal History Record Checks RSA 103-a & 103-b: Carter reported that both of these items were not ready for action.
2. Review for Approval: Revised Cemetery Ordinance: Not ready for action.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Legislative Update: No update available.
2. Planning Board Update: Ed reported that he was unable to attend the work session. He asked Peter Jensen, Planning Board Alternate, who said that they discussed the outstanding ordinances, without taking any action. Ed added that Dan told him that this year's LGC Conference was very helpful.
3. Administration Update: Other than his weekly update, Carter had nothing new to report.
4. Moultonborough, Tuftonboro, Wolfeboro Milfoil Joint Board Minutes, October 13, 2010: Acknowledged.
5. Milfoil Committee Minutes, October 26, 2010: Acknowledged.
6. ABC Minutes, October 26, 2010 & November 12, 2010: Acknowledged.
7. Planning Board Minutes, November 10, 2010: Acknowledged.
8. Zoning Board Minutes, November 3, 2010: Acknowledged.
9. Trustees of the Trust Funds Minutes, November 4, 2010: Acknowledged.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Time Warner Cable, November 5, 2010 – Program Changes: Joel acknowledged their letter of possible program changes. Ed asked Carter to check with Time Warner on the status of channel 13, which has a scroll on it saying that it may no longer be available to cable subscribers. If this CBS channel is no longer available it is one of the three major channels. Carter said he will check on it.
2. Douglas W. Vanderpool, November 5, 2010 – Fire Tower Position: Joel acknowledged Mr. Vanderpool's letter regarding the proposed elimination of this position.
3. Julia Velie, November 15, 2010 – Holland Hill Street Light Reductions: Joel acknowledged Ms. Velie's letter, stating that they will have department heads review the list again. Carter stated that the list was reviewed by Public Works and the Police Department. Both departments drove by each street light at night and concluded that public safety would not be jeopardized. The Fire Chief also reviewed the list without any opposition. The list was then reviewed by the Recreation Department who had some concerns. The revised list was then given to the Selectmen. Carter stated that he too drove by all of the lights proposed. Center Harbor was notified about taking over the street lights in that area and they are not interested. The Town sent out 110 letters and to date, we have received notification of only one being adopted. Ms. Velie spoke to her email, saying that the cost savings was not worth jeopardizing public safety, especially that of her 3 children who walk Holland Street. She added that there are 10 children on the road, which is used by people walking, cyclers and is a major road to Sandwich. She told the Selectmen that back in 2008-09 she asked for a speed study from the previous Police Chief, Scott Kinmond. Ms. Velie said she just received the study which found that 1/3 of all vehicular traffic travels above the 40 miles per hour speed limit, which she realizes is set by the state. She asked the Selectmen to reconsider the elimination of this street light. Carter said that he'd ask the NH Electric Cooperative to hold off shutting the

lights off until the Selectmen can review their decision. He added that whenever there are budget cuts, there are always opponents. Ed told Ms. Velie that he shared her concern, especially for the Safe Routes to School initiative and acknowledged that speed on Holland Street is an issue. The Selectmen were asked if any of the proposed eliminated street lights are on state roads and learned that there were. Peter Jensen asked if there are any energy efficient options to lower the cost. Carter replied that they looked at LED, but this is very expensive. Solar lights are \$1,500 just to purchase and there isn't any grant programs to help offset the cost. The cost for each street light is approximately \$150 per year, which is set by the NH Electric Cooperative.

4. J. Peter Hare, November 10, 2010 – Street Light Reductions: Joel acknowledged Mr. Hare's letter, adding that he plans on adopting a street light in his area.
5. Amy Elflin, November 4, 2010 – Police Department: Joel reported that Ms. Elflin in her letter expressed her appreciation for the Police Department and their presence in Town. Recently Officer John patrolled the area and found that Ms. Elflin's restaurant, the Mug, had its back door unlocked. Officer John notified the owners by telephone and then locked the door to eliminate the need for them to come out late at night to lock it. The Selectmen agreed that they appreciated Ms. Elflin's letter.
6. Susan Harding, November 15, 2010 – Street Light Reductions: Joel acknowledged Ms. Harding's letter.

XI. CITIZEN INPUT: 1) Hollis Austin asked, if Vision Appraisal was responsible for the high value of the unknown parcel on the Center Harbor town line. Carter replied that this is an appraising concept, the smaller the parcel, the more valuable. If the parcel is part of a larger parcel, the value decreases. Mr. Austin suggested the Selectmen look into Vision Appraisal's practices to see if this is the problem. Joel replied that the Selectmen will review the situation based on the number of abatements received and how they hold up and then consider their next steps. Mr. Austin then asked if the Selectmen have considered looking into a different way to assess the county tax, considering the recent elections, there may be other towns open to the discussion. Karel said that Sunapee was in the same situation, adding that she wasn't sure what else could be done. The present practice is to assess towns based on property values versus the actual need and use. Towns with high property values receive the majority of the tax. Ed commented that it will never change. Other towns and elected legislators will never agree to change, as their town/district's share will increase. He added that those politicians who don't take the no new tax "pledge" will never get elected. The property tax is the only remaining way to fund services. Mr. Austin responded that he didn't think any new taxes were needed, but the property values are too heavily weighted.

XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Not needed.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: Karel Made the Motion to Adjourn. Ed Seconded the Motion. Motion Carried Unanimously.
Joel adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Approved

Date
Respectfully Submitted
Hope K. Kokas, Administrative Assistant