

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

Selectmen's Meeting

December 2, 2010

MINUTES

Present: Selectmen: Joel R. Mudgett, Chairman, Karel A. Crawford, Edward J. Charest, James F. Gray, Betsey L. Patten; 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 18th and November 19, 2010. Ed Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously.

IV. NEW RESIDENTS: Trisha L. Lawler, Debra A. Matsumoto, Jackie E. Phinney, Eric J. Patch, Linda M. Graham, Roger & Cathy A. Robitaille.

V. PUBLIC MEETING:

Citizen Input: 1) Hollis Austin asked the Selectmen to consider placing a hiring freeze for any new positions or department expansions for the next 2 years, until it is apparent that the recession is over. Ed commented that this was something to consider and Joel agreed that the Selectmen would take this under advisement. Mr. Austin then asked for an update regarding the "unknown" lot, Map 109 Lot 001, and in particular why the assessment was so high for a small parcel (.19 acre), and if the abutter has decided to buy the lot. Joel corrected Mr. Austin, stating that the abutter has always owned the parcel. Carter added that when the Town was remapped, this piece was not found in any deed as the majority of his land is in Center Harbor, and therefore not identified as belonging to anyone and assessed as a building lot. Now that the owner is identified, it will be assessed as backland of a larger parcel. Although he couldn't recall the exact new assessment, he felt it was approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000. Carter stated that at the time, as a stand-alone lot, it had been assessed correctly. Mr. Austin asked the Selectmen if they thought the parcel had been assessed correctly. Betsey stated that she was satisfied that it was assessed correctly as a smaller buildable lot, and now assessed correctly reclassified as backland. Ed commented that many lots are unmarked and when resurveyed or remapped this happens. Mr. Austin commented that at .19 acre, this was not a buildable lot and felt that Vision's system was at fault. He asked the Selectmen if they have examined this further considering the issue Laconia is now having. Joel said that he can't speak for Laconia and cautioned people not to believe everything they read in the newspaper. He added that he wasn't going to jump to any conclusion until after the abatements are in and allowed to follow the process. That will be the time to evaluate the situation and to decide then. Betsey commented that one should govern on facts versus what is in the media. Carter, felt it important to read from the newspaper article regarding Laconia's revaluation, which he felt told the rest of the story and highlighted what Steven Hamilton, auditor for the Appraisal Division of Department of Revenue had to say: Mass appraisal is not easy with few sales; "There is nothing to indicate that the standard methodology

wasn't used"; and, "Nothing that indicates to me that there should be any concern." Mr. Hamilton stated that they will review the USPAP manual at the end of the process. Carter commented Vision is a large company with over 450 clients and Moultonborough had some specific things that were troubling to the Town's statistical update, but it was worked on, and when it is appropriate we will have them come in to discuss quality control. He felt it important to state that DRA found that there were no flaws in Vision's methodology and Laconia will play out based on their concerns. 2) Chris Shipp asked the Selectmen if they intended in filling the vacancy for the Recreation Advisory Board, as he had submitted his volunteer application during the summer. Joel informed him that the Vice Chair of the RAB is coming to talk to the Selectmen during tomorrow's budget work session to discuss the problem(s) with the board. Mr. Shipp commented that part of the problem might be that there are vacancies, and with a lack of input and it would function better if all member positions were filled.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation: MPD Citizens' Police Academy: Carter reported that Chief Dawson was not available to make the presentation and will reschedule at a later date to be determined.
2. Presentation: Lightec, Inc. – Town Hall Energy Audit Report: Carter asked that this be referred to tomorrow's budget work session. Agreed by Consensus.
3. Review for Approval: Deputy Chief Rick Buckler, MFRD – Proposed Budget Cuts: Deputy Chief Buckler told the Selectmen he is representing the volunteer members of the MFRD and not Chief Bengtson, nor was he or the volunteers present directed by the Chief to talk to the Selectmen. The Deputy stated they are very concerned about the elimination of the second full time Firefighter position. The volunteers have voted 100% in favor of Chief Bengtson's budget. He made it clear that they are not advocating to keep the Tower position, but to keep 2 full time Firefighter/EMT positions. He has been a member since 1975. MFRD's volunteer staff is a large and dedicated group (36). They've made a huge commitment to the MFRD. They are all trained at the same level as a full time Firefighter. They support the Chief and feel that he needs 2 day time staff. The volunteers provide coverage 70% of the time and most are unable to cover during the day due to their employment. Deputy Chief Buckler stated that 2 EMT/Firefighters are needed. Moultonborough has one of the busiest volunteer departments in the Lakes Region and stated that the Town Administrator wants to cut the budget. Joel made it clear that the Selectmen directed the Town Administrator to bring them a "zero" budget and the position being cut is a result of their desire to not increase the budget. Deputy Chief Buckler stated that Chief Bengtson's budget was without any increases, as he was directed. Cutting the full time Firefighter's position is cutting his staff in half, while the activity level is going up. Most of the volunteers are unable to leave their jobs during the day to answer a call. The Town is unique with 75 square miles; citing that from Long Island to Bald Peak is 19 miles. He added that there have been 3 fully involved fires during November. Deputy Chief Buckler said that the volunteer force saves the equivalent of 8 full time Firefighters. He restated that they are actively opposed to the MFRD's budget cut and their concern that the level of service during the day will decrease. The Chief's job is to direct his staff and not to operate equipment or man a fire hose. Betsey said the budget cut is not a reflection of the Fire Department or the volunteers. There are people in Town that are financially hurting. She recalled that in the past when the MFRD asked for a piece of equipment and all attended Town Meeting, how proud people were of them and they were supported. She suggested that they draw

up a citizens' petition and get the question on the Town Warrant and let the people vote. Betsey thanked the MFRD and its volunteers for their service. Ed agreed with Betsey, adding that people are more important than things. Karel asked Deputy Chief Buckler to confirm that they were not asking that the Red Hill Tower position be reinstated, but were asking that there be 2 full time Firefighter/EMT positions. The Deputy confirmed this, adding that the Chief should have the discretion to send staff to the Tower when needed. Joel said that they asked the Chief how many days the tower needed to be manned and how many days were spent working at the fire station and were told by The Chief that 70 days were spent at the fire station. This position did not require an EMT certificate. Joel stated that it is hard to justify this position. Chris Shipp, a volunteer member, told the Selectmen that he was unaware of a public outcry to reduce the budget and asked how they justify the new position of Town Planner. He added that he felt the savings from the street light reduction doesn't add up. Joel reminded everyone that Moultonborough will be a donor town again, having to pay \$3.5 million towards the SWEPT. He added that the Selectmen have been asked by some to reduce the budget by \$3.5 million. Jim asked and the Deputy confirmed that he would be in favor of a warrant article asking for another full time Firefighter/EMT position. Ed commented that the Town Planner position was put to the Town and it was approved. Mr. Shipp stated that it was odd that the Selectmen were in support of a warrant article, but cut the position. Joel replied that the tower position has been eliminated. 3) Al Hume stated that while he is in favor of cutting the budget, he questioned that money that was used to pay off the bond is now going to rehabilitate the roads. He felt it more important to keep Firefighters than rehab the roads. Karel expressed her feeling that the Town needs decent roads and her frustration with Mr. Hume as he is always asking for budget cuts, and when they cut the budget they are criticized. Mr. Hume denied this. 4) Kelly Marsh, a volunteer member and a full time Firefighter/Medic with the Belmont Fire Department told the Selectmen that she can't answer night time calls, as she needs to be fresh for her full time position. She stated that Moultonborough has a great call department, but with the cut position, she is concerned that there will be burnout. They have all made a huge commitment and reiterated that the Chief's proposed budget was what was requested. Joel responded that the cost of everything is going up and they need to cut the budget. Karel added that only 70 days in the fire station was an eye-opener to her. She asked how the department functions during those days that the Tower is manned. Deputy Chief Buckler replied that when the Tower position was created it was considered full time and felt that 70 days was a low estimate. Joel stated that the number came from the Chief. The Deputy Chief stated that the Chief already works a high number of hours. Joel and the Selectmen agreed and acknowledged the hard work and dedication of Chief Bengtson. 5) Peter Jensen said that he would be in support of a Warrant Article for a second full time Firefighter position. Jim reminded everyone that they were just asked by Mr. Austin to consider a hiring freeze. Mr. Jensen replied that a hiring freeze would be on the Selectmen's budget, not on a warrant article. Deputy Chief Buckler concluded by saying that it is important to replace any opening in the public safety staff. 6) Bill Burke, also a volunteer member stated these are tight times and it is important to cut if possible and work more efficiently and having 2 full time Firefighter positions is more efficient. Joel and the Selectmen agreed, but the Tower position can't be rewritten. 7) Jean Beadle asked if all Firefighters are all EMT's. The Deputy explained that 2 MFRD staff accompanies Stewart's Ambulance on certain medical emergencies in order to save lives. MFRD are the first to respond and need to be EMT's. Joel thanked the Deputy and all of the volunteer Firefighters for attending the meeting.

4. Review for Approval: Stewart's Ambulance Service – Charge Off Report: As part of Stewart's contract they report on the amount that was charged off for those who are unable to pay for their ambulance cost. The total reported was \$30,651.37.
5. Review for Approval: Carroll County Transit News Release: Carter reported that the Carroll County Transit bus system will have three routes encompassing North Conway, Wolfeboro and Laconia. The Dial a Ride will be available next week for people who have medical appointments or need to access CAP for fuel assistance, etc.
6. Review for Approval: Citizens' Petition – WMF/Beach Sticker Fee: Joel summarized the petition requesting that the sticker cost be reinstated to \$10 for 2 years and \$5 for seniors for 2 years. Joel asked that the petition be placed in the budget folder. Joel asked the Selectmen and they agreed that the \$20 stickers be made available for sale tomorrow, December 3rd. If the warrant article is approved, then the cost will be as of Town Meeting.
7. Review for Approval: Capital Improvement Program Committee – Appointment: Carter reported that the CIPC recommends appointing Richard Brown as a member as Kim Dubuque resigned. Betsey Made the Motion to appoint Richard Brown as a member of the CIPC. Jim 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 items were not ready for action.
2. Review for Approval: Revised Cemetery Ordinance: Not ready for action.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Legislative Update: Betsey reported that 632 bills have been filed and 4 to 5 have to do with changing the educational funding formula. She suggested those that are interested to check the website. The Session starts January 5th. Betsey added that she is looking forward to the collar being in place. She has put in a bill for the adjusting the 1st half tax if needed for the donor town. She has also submitted a bill to define criminal threatening when protecting ones property. She is also examining the pardon process for Ward Bird, which will depend on the Governor and his council. Betsey expressed her hope that this will be resolved quickly.
2. Planning Board Update: Ed reported that there wasn't any meeting this week.
3. Administration Update: Carter reminded everyone that the Selectmen's Budget Work Session will start at 9 a.m. He brought to the Selectmen's attention that at their November 4th meeting they approved the Moultonborough Snowmobile Club's request for option #3 for their trail crossing on Playground Drive, however it turned out that this option was not feasible and they went back to option #2, as it required much less fill. Carter wanted the Selectmen to be aware of this change. The Selectmen gave their approval of option #2 by Consensus for the Moultonborough Snowmobile Club's request for their trail to cross Playground Drive. Upon Joel's request for Carter to update them on Fox Hollow, he told them that 3 months ago they were told that they needed to do an archaeological and historical survey. Most recently 2 houses have been determined eligible to be on the National Historical Registry. This means we have to go to the DHR to see if we can overturn this, or work within their minimum impact requirements. Carter told the Selectmen that he went before the Heritage Commission seeking their support to identify better examples. The designed has been revised on the northern side and they

need to come to agreement regarding retaining walls versus slope easements. Peter Jensen asked what was the impact to those properties determined eligible and learned that anything that could be viewed from the property. Al Hume asked about the cost and learned that it was \$1.08 million, partially funded by the Town, state and federal government.

4. Milfoil Committee Minutes, November 16, 2010: Acknowledged.
5. Zoning Board Minutes, November 17, 2010: Acknowledged.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Time Warner Cable, November 5, 2010 – Program Changes: Joel reported that this was their usual letter. Carter asked and the Selectmen confirmed that they had reviewed his email to Mike Edgecombe about Channel 13.
2. Julia Velie, November 15, 2010 – Holland Hill Street Light Reductions: Carter reported that Police Sgt. Canfield would be addressing this tomorrow at the Selectmen’s Budget Work Session. Carter is now recommending that one light on Holland Hill be retained and so far 4 lights have been adopted.
3. Chief Adam L. Thompson, Tuftonboro Fire Rescue – Red Hill Fire Tower: Joel reported that Chief Thompson is writing in support of maintaining the Red Hill Fire Tower position. Joel asked that a letter be drafted to those towns in opposition to this position being cut, explaining the cost and asking them to share the burden more equitably.

XI. CITIZEN INPUT: 1) Hollis Austin stated that he felt the cost of the new roof on Town Hall could have been better spent to fund the cut position. He asked the Selectmen why the Town is spending \$3,000 for bottled water. Carter replied that the water supply at the Town Hall and Recreation do not meet the public water test. Mr. Austin said that at the last budget work session he heard that lead was one component and asked where it was coming from and if the Library had the same problem. Carter replied that the Library is on its own water system and as they act somewhat independently from the Town Hall, they haven’t asked to have it tested, so he couldn’t comment about their water. Lead, arsenic and sodium are all natural components and the source can’t be identified. Ed commented that this has been a long standing problem, stating that when he lived at the parsonage, this problem was in existence. Mr. Austin asked which buildings had the problem and Carter replied he couldn’t recollect each, but at least 3 out of 5 have failed. Mr. Austin then asked about the LighTec recommendation and how much could be saved. Joel replied that this will be addressed at tomorrow’s Selectmen Budget Work Session.

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 8:33 p.m.

Approved

Date
Respectfully Submitted
Hope K. Kokas, Administrative Assistant