

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

Selectmen's Meeting

March 3, 2011

MINUTES

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

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

III. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES: Betsey made the Motion to approve the Minutes of February 17, 2011. Ed Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously.

IV. NEW RESIDENTS: Richard G. Pike, Joseph D. Lowell, Cody M. Gordon, Thomas M. & Kim L. Hanks, Diane Y. & Michael J. Provencher.

V. PUBLIC MEETING:

Citizen Input: 1) Hollis Austin asked the Selectmen what the procedure is for an employee who feels they haven't been treated fairly. Karel replied that the Town's Employee handbook outlines the procedure, whereas a complaint form is completed and submitted either to the Town Administrator or the Selectmen and an investigation is completed, discussed usually in a non-public session, or if the employee requests, during a public session. 2) Peter Jensen asked and the Selectmen agreed that he should again do the tax impact presentation during Town Meeting. Ed said that he's had a request that it be done. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Jensen for offering his services. 3) Hollis Austin asked that the Town Administrator read his weekly update during the meeting. Karel replied that the weekly update is on the web for public viewing. She added that the report is for Carter and department heads to summarize their weekly activities to the Selectmen. Carter added that this week's update is four pages long. The Selectmen agreed that those interested can view the report on the web. Peter Jensen added that people can subscribe to the weekly update.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review: Department of Revenue Administration, 2010 Assessment Ratios: Carter reported that the most important ratio is the price related differential (PRD) which identifies the uniformity of assessing the highest and lowest valued properties. The 2009 PRD was at 1.07, higher than the .98 to 1.03 guidelines. For 2010 the Town's PRD is 1.0, which is right where it should be. Betsey added that the increase in waterfront properties was a needed correction and resulted in the improved PRD. She asked and Carter replied that the number of abatement applications received has increased from the 35 that the Assessor reported in the weekly update. The deadline was March 1st.
2. Review for Approval: Proposed Final Agreement – Stewart's Ambulance: Karel asked Carter to go over the highlights of the new agreement. He reported that the agreement is

now in a contract form, with the base year running from July 1st to June 30th, versus the April 1 to March 30th. This would accommodate a fiscal or calendar year budget. There is an increase in the number of ambulances staffed with paramedics for high volume weekends. The contract calls for Stewart's to carry a higher level of insurance which meets Primex' standards and to insure Town firefighters who drive/ride in the ambulance. The reset cost will be done in September so budgets could be prepared for either a calendar or fiscal year. There is a 4% cap on the annual increase in the contract and a fuel surcharge, which was important to Stewart's. If there is any transfer of Stewart's stock beyond 10%, it must be improved by the four towns. Carter recommended authorizing the Chair to sign the agreement upon his return from his vacation. He added that the proposed contract before them might need a few edits for typos, as it took a lot of work for all four towns to come to agreement. Jim Leiterman asked what the cost was. Karel explained that the contract serves Meredith, Center Harbor, Sandwich and Moultonborough and the cost is based on call volume. Carter reported that the Town's share from July 1st to June 30th is \$177,000, with the total cost being \$548,000. Betsey Made the Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Agreement for Ambulance Services with Stewart's Ambulance Service, Inc. Ed Seconded the Motion. Ed asked who is on the Intermunicipal Board. Carter replied that Chief Bengtson and Joel are the Town's members, a one year appointment which is due to expire after the election. The board meets twice a year. Mr. Leiterman asked if Moultonborough receives credit for housing the ambulance at the Public Safety Building. Karel replied that the Town's people wanted the ambulance housed here and the Selectmen agreed. Russ Wakefield stated that he felt this was a fair trade-off for having the ambulance in our Town, allowing a quicker response time for our residents. The Motion carried Unanimously.

3. Review for Approval: Personnel Announcement: Karel announced that the Selectmen have worked with Carter on his new three year contract. Betsey Made the Motion to approve the three year contract for the Town Administrator. Ed Seconded the Motion. Nancy Wright asked if this was a unanimous vote and Karel replied that it was. Steve Maguire asked if there is a salary increase in the contract. Carter replied that the contract calls for the standard step and grade and cost of living adjustment. Mr. Maguire then asked what he earns and if that is the highest position in Town. Carter replied that he earns approximately \$88,000 and there other positions that may be compensated at a higher pay, i.e., superintendent of schools, principals, police officers (with overtime). The Motion carried Unanimously.
4. Review for Approval: Request to Abate Interest: Karel reported that in her nine years as a Selectman she could not recall a time that they've abated interest. Property owners know when taxes are due and it is their responsibility to be sure their mailing address is correct. Betsey Made the Motion to deny the request to abate interest of \$10.44. Ed Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously.
5. Review for Approval: Request to Abate Interest: Betsey Made the Motion to deny the request to abate the interest of \$53.78. Ed Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously. Carter stated that he would notify both property owners of the Selectmen's decision.
6. Review for Approval: Launch Requests, NH Last Cast Club, Lee's Mills: Ed Made the Motion to approve NH Last Cast Club's Launch Request to use the Lee's Mills launch for May 12 and October 1-2, 2011. Betsey Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously.
7. Review for Approval: Launch Requests, NH Bass Casters, States Landing & Lee's Mills: Ed Made the Motion to approve the four Launch Requests from NH Bass Casters,

April 17, May 4, October 15, State's Landing, and August 27 for Lee's Mills. Betsey Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously. Peter Jensen asked if the Launch Request schedule could be forwarded to him for the Milfoil Committee. Hope responded that it is early in the season, but she will forward it when it gets closer to the warmer weather.

8. Review for Approval: MPD's NH Highway Safety Grant – Tire Deflation Devices: Karel reported that the Police Department has applied for a \$500 grant to purchase tire deflation devices. Betsey Made the Motion to authorize the Vice Chair to sign the grant application. Ed Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously.
9. Review for Approval: RSA 231:191(I) Maximum Weight Limits, March 7, 2011: Karel reported that the Highway Agent is requesting that the Selectmen post the Town roads for Monday, March 7, 2011. All class V and VI roads, except Ossipee Park Road will be posted with a 6 ton limit. Ed Made the Motion to approve posting class V and VI Town roads, except for Ossipee Park Road, March 7, 2011 as outlined in the Highway Agent's memo. Betsey Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously.
10. Review: Time Warner Cable Franchise Fee: Karel reported that Time Warner has paid the yearly franchise fee of \$28,932. Carter reported that Mike Edgecombe is scheduled to appear before the Selectmen at their next scheduled meeting, March 17th.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

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

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Legislative Update: Betsey reported that the House and Senate have agreed upon a Constitutional Amendment regarding the definition of the cost of an adequate education. The Governor can't veto it if both House and Senate have a majority. The constitutional amendment would be voted upon at the next general election, 2012. Many fees are being repealed, but will be tabled until they have a better idea of revenues and the budget. The pole tax bill would put back in place an exemption from property tax thus eliminating the tax they had to pay to municipalities. Betsey felt that Senator Jeb Bradley's meeting went well and where he presented his retirement bill. She felt that her bill allowing property owners to protect their property by brandishing a weapon would be passed. The bill also eliminates mandatory sentencing, which would have been helpful in Ward Bird's situation. Peter Jensen asked if the state will be reducing spending. Betsey replied that it's too early to tell.
2. Planning Board Update: Ed reported that they approved the new subdivision on Sheridan Road. He added that the Planning Board is doing a lot of good work and looking ahead.
3. Administration Update: Carter reported that he had three items that he wanted to bring to the Selectmen's attention which could result in an unexpected cost of \$150,000. He reminded the Selectmen that some time ago, the state agreed to pay a portion of Police and Fire retirement and over the years that portion has been reduced to 25%. It is proposed that the state will eliminate payment altogether. If this were to occur the cost for this year would be \$38,000 and next year \$80,000. Betsey expressed her belief that it won't be passed. Carter further explained that if SB133 passes and the exemption is put back in place, the tax on telephone poles will be again removed. He estimated a revenue

loss of \$20,000 +/- and asked that the Selectmen authorize him to write Senator Bradley requesting that he vote against SB133. He said NH is one of two states left that exempts this equipment. Betsey suggested that he also write a letter opposing the down shifting of the retirement cost to the towns. HB457 is a bill to reduce the interest rate for delinquent taxes and liens from 12% to 6%. Susette estimates a loss of \$50,000 plus more as 6% interest would increase the number of delinquent tax payments. If passed this would start April 1, 2011. Carter asked to be authorized to write a letter opposing HB457. Betsey said that this bill has come up yearly and each time killed. She felt that it wasn't fair to expect everyone else to pick up delinquent tax payers' tabs. Approved by Consensus.

4. Milfoil Committee Minutes, February 4 & 15, 2011: Acknowledged.
5. ABC Minutes, February 8, 2011: Acknowledged.
6. Blue Ribbon Commission Minutes, February 10 & 17, 2011: Acknowledged.
7. Zoning Board of Adjustment Minutes, February 16, 2011: Acknowledged.
8. Planning Board Minutes, February 23, 2011: Acknowledged.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Time Warner Cable, February 22, 2011, Possible Program Changes: This is their standard letter describing possible programming changes due to negotiations.

X. CITIZEN INPUT: 1) Hollis Austin asked each Selectman to explain their philosophy on how they represent the Town's citizens. Betsey stated she listens to the majority as that is what she was elected to do. Ed stated that he looks at what is good for the whole community. He first listens and then debates the issue, adding that politics is the art of compromise. Ed felt that people know where he stands on issues. Karel responded that anyone who runs for office must represent the Town and community. In her nine years as a Selectman that's what she's tried to do, adding that you can't please everyone. Betsey thanked Karel for her nine years of service as Selectman and the audience applauded her.

XI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Ed Made the Motion for the Selectmen to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (a), (b), and (c). Ed Seconded the Motion. A roll call was taken: Betsey – Aye; Ed – Aye; Karel – Aye. The Selectmen went into Non-Public Session at 7:52 p.m.

The Board exited Non-Public Session at 8:27 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 reputation of any person other than a member of the public body itself, until - in the opinion of a majority of the members - the aforesaid circumstances no longer apply.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: Ed Made the Motion to Adjourn. Betsey Seconded the Motion. Motion Carried Unanimously.
Karel adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Approved

Date
Respectfully Submitted
Hope K. Kokas, Administrative Assistant