

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

Selectmen Work Session, 4 PM

October 24, 2013

MINUTES

Selectmen: Joel R. Mudgett, Chair, Jonathan W. Tolman, Edward J. Charest, Christopher P. Shipp, Russell C. Wakefield; Town Administrator, Carter Terenzini.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Joel called the meeting to Order at 4:00 P.M.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

III. REVIEW OF PAYROLL MANIFEST & SIGNATURE FILE:

| DATE | DOCUMENT | MAP/LOT# |
|----------|--|----------|
| 10/24/13 | Personnel Matter | N/A |
| 10/24/13 | 2013 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate | N/A |
| 10/24/13 | Payroll/Payables Manifest & Signature File, \$675,601.01 | N/A |

Joel read the Payroll/Payables Manifest and Signature File as listed above. Russ made the Motion to approve the Payroll Manifest & Signature File for October 24, 2013. Ed Seconded. The Motion carried Unanimously.

IV. SELECTMEN'S WORK SESSION CHECKLIST:

1. FY 2013 Q3 Financials: Heidi provided the third quarter financial report. Carter requested that the Selectmen forward any questions to him so that they could respond at the next budget work session of November 15th.
2. Update on VNS Service Expansion/Cost Reduction Exploration: Carter gave an overview of the challenges facing the Visiting Nurse Service and our effort to increase revenues, reduce costs, and reduce the deficit. VNS Director Debra Peaslee provided the Selectmen with a brief PowerPoint history of the Town's nursing service, the challenges they were facing, and the results of meetings they held with two other entities; Visiting Nurses of Meredith and Center Harbor, and Visiting Nurse Home Care & Hospice of Carroll County. Unfortunately there are no opportunities to collaborate for revenues/savings. However, there was an opportunity with the Visiting Nurses of Meredith & Center Harbor by which the current full-time nursing staff of the MVNS would be folded into the VNMCH, a collaborative partnership would be funded, and the new partnership would be renamed to reflect the addition of the Town of Moultonborough. They have proposed that:
 - 1) They bring our staff nurse onto their staff at their full expense;
 - 2) They bring Debbie Peaslee onto their staff to:
 - a) Be their "Clinical Director";
 - b) Provide a liaison between us and them during the transition by splitting her time between here and Meredith;
 - 3) Service all clients in Moultonborough;
 - 4) They be allowed the use of space here for a period of time to be determined;

- 5) Receive a contribution toward half of Debbie's costs (for 3+/- years @ \$45k+/-) and costs they would have to write off in serving Moultonborough clients (\$15k+/-/year);
- 6) Consider a name change to reflect the new service area.

We believe this is a unique opportunity to:

- 1) Protect current full time nursing staff who have given such dedicated service to the community;
- 2) Provide them with an exciting new professional challenge we cannot;
- 3) Provide continuity between MVNS clients and current staffing;
- 4) Ensure near term alignment with an entity that shares our philosophy and culture of service; and
- 5) Provide taxpayers with substantial cost savings (\$100k+/- in Year 1, \$125k+/- in Years 2 & 3; and \$175k+/- in the out years.)

Russ asked if the Town would continue to have a VNS Board of Directors, and does the VNS of Meredith and Center Harbor have a Board of Directors. Debbie replied that they do, adding that they will need to explore how that involvement would be structured. Chris commented, that based on Deb's statement of the loss of identity as being the only minus to the change, he said he wanted to see some measure of control and input maintained. Ed said that this may be the best way, and it is a plan to make sure we can continue to provide a needed service to our community. Jon commended Deb and Jeri for taking a hard look at the situation, which took a lot of intestinal fortitude. Possibly it is a good situation for staff and the community. Joel said that it seems like the Town has always had the program, but the census is down and it is only likely to get worse. If we don't deal with the situation now we could lose control of how a change might happen. Russ asked if the Town will continue to have space in Moultonborough's Town Hall. Deb replied that they will which is very generous of them to maintain our identity, but over time it probably won't be needed. Eventually, it will be a different phone number and location. She believed that overall, this is a good thing. Al Hume asked if the Town can try it for a year. Ed replied that there are too many issues with Medicare and others, and it is unlikely to re-start once it is given up. Peter Jensen asked if it was possible that Moultonborough could be a satellite office. Carter replied that, as a branch, there will be some use of one of the offices, but it will taper down, and eventually fade out. Meredith uses a different business model of more direct visits from nurses to patient and less time in the office. Jean Beadle, Chair of the ABC, commented that these situations are always very hard and it is a testament to this staff that the surviving agency wants to bring them on. Joel asked where we go from here. Bud Heinrich asked how this will affect the budget and what the savings would be. Carter replied that the VNS's expenses are approximately \$400,000, with revenues of \$190,000+/-, resulting in a \$200,000+/- deficit. For the first year, the Town would see a savings of approximately \$100,000, second and third year, \$125,000, fourth year \$175,000. Joel felt that if they don't act now, they could be faced with the problem of others coming in and taking a client share and we could be left with nothing. Jon agreed, saying that we have an opportunity to make this transition and yet keep our people. Jeri King, RN said that one of the best things of her job is that she gets to still live and work in her community and see her people. Jon said that Chris' point is important. Debbie said that things they want to accomplish are not attainable as they are just too small. Joel asked where we go from

here. Carter said he would bring a request for a vote to negotiate an MOU and develop a transition plan for the next BoS meeting.

- V. **NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** Ed Made the Motion for the Selectmen to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II. (a) & (e) and to reconvene only to adjourn. A roll call was taken: Jon – Aye; Chris – Aye; Ed – Aye; Russ – Aye; Joel – Aye. The Selectmen went into Non-Public Session at 4:58 p.m.

The Board exited Non-Public Session at 6:06 p.m. having voted by a vote of 2/3 or greater of the members present to seal the minutes, as (a) divulgence of the information discussed likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the public body itself and (e) render the action ineffective, until - in the opinion of a majority of the members - the aforesaid circumstances no longer apply.

- VI. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business the Chair adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Approved

Respectfully Submitted
Carter Terenzini

Date