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

Selectmen & School Board Joint Meeting, 7 PM

January 9, 2014

MINUTES

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

School Board: Kathy Garry, Gary Torressen, Celeste Burns, Bill Blackadar (absent with prior notice), Gerry Buteau (absent with prior notice).

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Joel called the meeting to Order at 7:00 P.M.
- II. Substance Abuse and Prevention Fund: Scott Kinmond, former Police Chief, spoke to the 2005/2006 establishment of the fund using monies received from drug and alcohol fines imposed by the Courts. Moultonborough Taking Action (MTA), which was made up of parents, police and school officials, was very active at the time to establish programs. Since then the grant funding for MTA has essentially "dried up". The idea of prom related activities (transportation) was to try to curtail some of the use of drugs and alcohol that occurs during such events. Chief Leonard Wetherbee told both boards that the contribution to the fund comes as part of his budget. He came to believe that he should try to have his programs for the coming year laid out as part of the normal budget function. He tried to do it this year, but was unable to and noted in his hearing that he'd be back in the spring. It is his hope that the expectations for this program can be better laid out. Scott commented that things went a bit smoother when they worked with the MTA. Russ asked if there is any form of the MTA still in existence. Academy Principal Andy Coppinger said that it is inactive without a coordinator. Superintendent Susan Noves reported that they had hoped for a grant, but it didn't come. Gary Torressen said Project Safeguard in Schools (grades 7 and 10) meets twice a year and the issue is how to measure its effectiveness and expand it to the Central School and grades 11 and 12.

Joel commented that the Selectmen are mandated to approve expenditures of the fund and the concern is that the money is being spent without providing the kids the educational/prevention portion. Chief Wetherbee said that from the Police Department's perspective, this isn't just a problem for the kids and schools, but it is a community wide problem. He said it is important to remember that grades 11 and 12 are out in the general population next year. Kathy Garry, agreed that it shouldn't be just for the kids, the problem is in the community at large, and the houses they live in. Chris asked what is the average the Town has spent annually and learned anywhere from \$1,500 to \$10,000 per year over the life of the program. Scott spoke to the need for a coordinator for the effort to really drive the programming and activities. Russ thought that it sounded like the MTA was the most effective and maybe we should go back to the idea of a coordinator. Andy Coppinger said that the salary was \$15,000 to \$20,000 +/-. Jon said that he thought Scott had hit on the issue, the need for a driving force. He added that there is a need for different approaches, as each kid reacts differently. Ed agreed, that it needs to be multi-faceted. He also thought that adults are as much of the problem as the kids, and the home setting creates the environment. The Chief said he would hate to lose the concept of this being a war on addiction (education and prevention) because if we can't beat that down, the Police Department ends up dealing with the results in criminal activities. Gary thought maybe a coordinator is

needed, but said the most effective tool is our students, having them as leaders and mentors, providing peer pressure. Chris asked and learned from Principal Coppinger that the Project Safeguard is coordinated through a committee made up of school counselors, teachers, the nurse and administrator. Chris asked if there was a way to build upon this program. Chief Wetherbee commented that there isn't a single "silver bullet" approach, but it needs to be more like "bird shot". He thought that they need to find different ways to reach all ages and types and look at it very broadly. Chris asked and learned that Project Safeguard programs run about \$5,000/day.

Chief Wetherbee spoke to the need for the community to understand the issue and become involved in working/planning on an approach, and it shouldn't just deal with spring-time activities, or just one request. Superintendent Noyes commented that she concurred with what she'd heard with respect to there being a problem that needed to be addressed and it was a community problem. Peter Jensen thought that one issue to be addressed is what "success" would look like.

Chris asked where they go from here. Chief Wetherbee suggested he get the small working group together yet again. After general discussion, Joel suggested another joint meeting as a public meeting, once the Chief's group has met a few more times and can report back. Celeste Burns commented that people in Town think we are in a cocoon and protected from this problem, but we aren't. Chief Wetherbee said that Moultonborough is like every other town and has this issue as well.

Russ gave a brief report on the Planning Board's discussion relative to the so-called "Village Question" issue.

III. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>: There being no further business the Chair adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Approved

Respectfully Submitted Date Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator