

DRAFT

New Durham Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting ~ August 20, 2007
Town Hall

Members present: Peter Rhoades, David Bickford

Excused Absence: Ron Gehl ~ on vacation

Also present: Town Administrator April Whittaker, Road Agent Mark Fuller, Police Chief Shawn Bernier, Thomas Beeler, James Goodrich, Tom Goss, Stan Kuzia, Ed Neister, Cathy Orlowicz, Thomas Stringfellow, Diane Thayer, other members of the public

1. **Call to Order** – Selectman Peter Rhoades called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **Motion by Selectman David Bickford to appoint Selectman Rhoades as chairperson pro tempore for the evening due to Chair Gehl’s absence; second by Selectman Rhoades. The motion carried unanimously.**

Pro Tem Chair Rhoades led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Citizens’ Forum – Cathy Orlowicz provided the Board with a 1974 aerial photograph to confirm the tree area on the Shirley property, in reference to the proposed site for relocation of the Boodey House. She stated that the information came from Eloise Bickford’s personal papers. She also provided provisions of the Shirley will and a 1957 report of the Committee. The layout of the property identifies tree/wooded areas. She confirmed that the site is still marked with tape from the site walk. Selectman Bickford asked for a more specific designation of the proposed site on the materials. Town Administrator April Whittaker advised the Town tax maps could also be used to assist in the specific designation.

Diane Thayer announced an informational meeting regarding “Big Brothers Big Sisters” for a school program in New Durham Elementary School on August 23, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Library. Ms. Thayer indicated Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast area currently serves no families in town. She has met with Principal Barbara Reed of the New Durham Elementary School to establish a Saturday morning program in which high school students would mentor younger children. She said there are three students interested in serving.

The second program will be a mentoring program during lunch hours. Volunteers are needed who are available for a half hour to one hour one day a week to mentor youngsters who need extra assistance. Ms. Thayer said she has notified the police department, Parks and Recreation department, and TA Whittaker. She said it was a worthy concept to support for the community.

3. Department Reports

Highway – Road Agent Mark Fuller said the breach work was started on March’s Pond Dam today and is 99.99 per cent complete. He said tomorrow some cracks in the old dam will be faced up, but that the major work has been done on the interim fix. He said the water will be blocked off and will slowly rise. He anticipates a rise of three to four feet over time.

Regarding the FEMA Mitigation Review, RA Fuller said he told FEMA exactly what was given the Town for culverts, etc., and how much was spent to ensure that the mitigation repairs were correctly completed. He indicated some communities just put the FEMA funds into the General Fund without the necessary mitigation expectations. Chair Rhoades stated FEMA was impressed with the excellent results the Town had this spring, hence the report. TA Whittaker said the results of RA Fuller's program were an example of what good mitigation processes can accomplish and the department was to be commended for all their efforts.

Police – Police Chief Shawn Bernier reported that Officer Chris Chesley passed all the physical tests for the Police Academy, and will begin next Monday. He told the Board Officer Koch was out on paternity leave, as he has a new son. He then described two recent incidents involving assaults on an officer. Sgt. Lamontagne suffered a minor cut on the lip after being assaulted during the booking process. On another occasion, Sgt. Lamontagne answered a threatened suicide call, and the woman involved wrestled for his firearm. In both instances, the threat of taser use caused the assailants to stop.

Chair Rhoades asked about speeding on Merrymeeting Lake Road, reported to him by a resident. Chief Bernier said the resident has been contacted and indicated he was pleased with how the police were handling speeding. Chief Bernier said six directed patrols were conducted and no significant speeders were found. He said the road is checked two to three times a day.

4. Administrative Review

TA Whittaker presented a resignation letter received from Mary McHale due to health problems.

Motion by Chair Rhoades to accept the resignation of Mary McHale from the 1772 Meetinghouse Restoration Committee with regret; second by Selectman Bickford. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Rhoades said Ms. McHale has put a lot of effort into the committee and hoped that she will return in the future.

TA Whittaker indicated the vacancy on the Visiting Nurse Association Board of Directors for a New Durham representative still exists. Pro Tem Chair Rhoades said the post has been vacant since he gave it up two years ago to serve as a selectman. He said it would be beneficial to have a representative on the board as the Town supports the organization financially.

After reviewing the Landfill and Septage Lagoons quarterly monitoring report, Pro Tem Chair Rhoades said the Town was where it should be.

Regarding the coding costs for the voting machine reported on by memo from Town Clerk Carole Ingham, TA Whittaker said the state pays for the reproduction of ballots, but not the associated software coding costs. Selectman Bickford asked for the statute regarding the States's responsibilities for State and federal elections. Mrs. Whittaker will follow up.

She also said the state imposed dam costs will increase, as March's Pond Dam is classed as a high hazardous dam in its current condition. The price will rise from \$250 to \$1,500.

5. Public Hearing

Motion by Chair Rhoades at 7:34 p.m. to open a public hearing pursuant to RSA 91-A and Article 10 of the 2001 Town Meeting for the purpose of receiving public comment concerning the withdrawal and expenditure of \$3,000 from the Dry Hydrant Capital Reserve Fund for approximately 50% payment costs

associated with the installation and materials of a dry hydrant on Merrymeeting Lake; second by Selectman Bickford. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Rhoades indicated the wisdom of installing the dry hydrant now while the New Hampshire Fish and Game department is installing a water line and given the high density of homes in the area. RA Fuller said all the work except the hydrant installation is now done. Stan Kuzia asked how the hydrant worked. RA Fuller said the hydrant is piped out into the lake and the fire department is able to hook onto it to draft water.

Selectman Bickford said \$3,000 is not 50 per cent of the total cost, which is \$6,670. TA Whittaker said there was not quite enough in the capital reserve fund, the balance of \$3670 will come from the town's operating budget.

Chair Rhoades closed the public hearing at 7:42 PM.

Motion by Chair Rhoades to authorize the withdrawal of \$3,000 from the Dry Hydrant Capital Reserve Fund, with the Board of Selectmen designated as agents to expend per Article 10 of the 2001 Town Meeting, for payment of the dry hydrant on Merrymeeting Lake; second by Selectman Bickford. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board signed the letter to the Trustees of the Trust Funds to release the money to the Town.

6. Schedule Next Meeting

The Board scheduled the next meeting for September 10, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

7. Old Business

Milfoil Committee Charge and Committee Appointments – Selectman Bickford said he forwarded the draft charge to Ed Neister, who suggested deleting the last sentence of the preamble, which reads: "Thereinafter, following eradication, the committee shall meet once or twice a year for review and survey work." Selectman Bickford said he would also like to see the next to last sentence removed, which reads: "Estimated timeline of the committee is anticipated to be involved in a very active time period from September 2007 through to summer of 2008." He said the committee's work could be ongoing, so there would be no need to restrict further work.

Chair Rhoades indicated that Mr. Neister had explained earlier that the committee would have to hit the ground running throughout this fall, due to close deadlines. TA Whittaker said it was important for the committee members to understand there will be a great deal of work at first, and then it will be a matter of keeping a watchful eye on the situation thereafter should the first remedial application be successful. She requested the Board to contact the eight volunteers for their continued expressions of interest, so the appointment forms could be drawn up. Chair Rhoades asked Selectman Bickford to pull the volunteers together and schedule an organizational committee meeting. Selectman Bickford said he and Mr. Neister could go over the charge. Mr. Neister pointed out that time was of the essence, and requested the committee formation as soon as possible. He then listed the various deadlines, saying the committee would have to have something to present to the DES by the end of September and that the full plan must be in by the end of December. He stated the Town would have to pay approximately \$12,000 toward the treatment as a portion of any grant availability. He again, suggested organizing a meeting as soon as possible. Chair Rhoades stated Selectman Bickford would arrange the meeting. He asked that the Board be kept informed, as the process needs to be done correctly. TA Whittaker asked to know the meeting date, so she could post the meeting. Mr. Neister asked why Mr. Craycraft was listed as an expert in the informational section of the Committee Charge.

TA Whittaker explained Mr. Craycraft was a limnologist, and had offered help. Mr. Neister said he was not a milfoil expert. Chair Rhoades pointed out that Mr. Craycraft's background as a fresh water scientist would be more helpful than an accountant's. Mr. Neister said eradicating milfoil will take at least five years.

March's Pond Dam Update – TA Whittaker said the water in the middle and outer limits of the lowered pond was tested for e-coli, together with stagnant water areas. Limits for safe swimming are 60 parts per 100 ml, and the water tested 2 -7 parts per 100 ml, thereby making it very safe for swimming, however, the ideal for drinking water being 0 parts per 100 ml thereby cautioning those folks who may be drawing drinking water from the pond. Tom Stringfellow noted the stagnant water at the southeast end of the pond was prime for breeding mosquitoes. Chair Rhoades said the interim breach was finished today and the spillway will be blocked tomorrow. He said the water level should rise with the fall rains. The Board read the response Mr. Stringfellow received from the governor.

Richard Goodrich asked about the culvert. RA Fuller replied that they will try to leave Chalk Pond the way it is. Mr. Goodrich wondered if the pond would be lowered if the full reconstruction project does not pass at Town Meeting. Chair Rhoades said he was approaching the situation optimistically. He said he couldn't imagine the residents not realizing the reconstruction is a good idea. He said voting for it would keep taxes down for all in the long run. Chair Rhoades noted that the culvert is to be left the way it is until spring, when the situation will be re-evaluated. He added that the intent is to leave Chalk Pond the way it is.

Review of draft financial policies – The Board is to take the drafts under advisement until Selectman Ron Gehl's return.

Two-week vetting policy for new appointments – Chair Rhoades said he was uncomfortable with a waiting period when the candidate is known, but said such a policy could have value in some cases. Selectman Bickford said an appointment could go forward in an emergency, and that the policy could always be changed. The Board agreed to discuss it at the next meeting.

8. Approval of Minutes

The Board agreed to table approval of the minutes of August 6, 2007 until the next meeting.

9. Any Other Business

Chair Rhoades advised the painting of Town Hall is nearly complete and the cost so far is a little over \$35,000. He said he recommended using infrared stripping on the back of the building and a second topcoat on the eastern side, which receives the most wear.

Motion by Chair Rhoades to increase the approval of Town Hall painting funding to \$41,000 to include finishing the back of the building with infrared stripping and painting, and two top coats applied on the eastern side; second by Selectman Bickford. Chair Rhoades said some clapboards and trim boards have been replaced, and bead board by the clock has been caulked. He said with that extra work, the Board would have anticipated more than \$35,000 for the project when first authorizing the amount. Discussion then ensued regarding work done last year and possible moisture problems. Chair Rhoades said he would document all work done. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Selectman Bickford indicated he would attend a Budget Finance Workshop as proposed and presented by the Local Government Center, said workshop to take place in Bedford and Lincoln.

10. Public Input

Mr. Neister noted the last set of draft minutes, and questioned what the purpose was of the proposed fire station addition. Chair Rhoades suggested he stop by the fire department meeting, being held simultaneously with the Selectmen's meeting, for a more complete answers. He indicated that the officers, in particular Assistant Russ Sample would be helpful, and has plans currently on show in the firehouse. Mr. Neister asked if the Board had an opinion on the addition. Selectman Bickford said Interim Fire Chief Rod Nelson conveyed his department's needs at the last meeting, and said meeting, training, and office space was needed. Mr. Neister suggested with the limitations the existing building has, it is not worth putting money into. He said the church across the street could be purchased to handle space needs. He pointed out that new equipment is for 14-foot doors, and the doors on the station are 12 feet high. He said it would cost money to alter any new equipment to fit in the existing station. He brought up looking at using the station for a community center, with parking space in the back. He said the station was built in 1982 with a life expectancy of 25 years. Chair Rhoades advised that the officers are aware of limitations and work accordingly to solve problems.

Chair Rhoades cited the failure at Town Meeting of the article calling for a new station, and said this was forward motion on what, he felt, the voters wanted and would support. Mr. Neister suggested keeping the space behind the station free for a new station when the time comes. Chair Rhoades said he could suggest that at the fire department when he meets with them.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Chair Rhoades at 8:28 p.m. to adjourn; second by Selectman Bickford. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy L. Allyn

A video recording of this meeting is on file with the Office of Town Clerk, is available for public viewing during normal business hours, and will be retained in accordance with the New Hampshire Municipal Records Board rules established under RSA 33-A: 4, or for a minimum of 24 months.