

New Durham Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting ~ November 16, 2009
Town Hall

Members Present: Ron Gehl, David Bickford, Theresa Jarvis

Others Present: Town Administrator (TA) April Whittaker, Road Agent (RA) Mark Fuller, Police Chief Shawn Bernier, Skip Fadden, Cathy Orlowicz, Ryan Noonan, Gigi Giambanco

1. Call to Order --Chairperson Ron Gehl called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He indicated the Board and TA April Whittaker had been in budget review sessions all day.

2. Citizens' Forum - There was no public input.

3. Department Reports

Highway - Road Agent Mark Fuller reported the base of the box culvert is in place, as part of the Davis Crossing Road project. He said the rest of it should be set on Wednesday. Paving is expected to be completed at the end of Thanksgiving, but the road will still be closed as there is other work to be done.

Police - Police Chief Shawn Bernier told the Board that an arrestee on Thursday attempted to kick out the rear window, but the equipment mechanic repaired the damage.

He asked about the E-9-1-1 paperwork designation, and Chair Gehl said he had signed it.

Town Historian - Town Historian Cathy Orlowicz noted both the Boodey House and 1772 Meetinghouse Restoration Committees have works-in-process.

4. Administrative Review

Strafford Regional Technical Advisory Committee Representative - TA Whittaker indicated the Town needed a representative on the Technical Advisory Committee of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, and that Land Use Administrative Assistant David Allen had expressed interest and volunteered. She said the meetings are once a month, on a Friday at 9:00 a.m. in Dover. Chair Gehl said when he was on the Commission, there was little focus on the northern part of the county, but now the Commission is making more of an effort to get that area regularly involved. He said being more active might leverage some outside funding.

Selectman David Bickford said he hesitated sending Mr. Allen, as he was not keeping up with things in his department. Chair Gehl noted the meetings are only a couple of hours. TA Whittaker said Mr. Allen could get out the Planning Board packets on Thursdays. She said the representative on the TAC needed some planning acumen and the ability to politicize.

Motion by Chair Gehl to appoint David Allen to the Transportation Advisory Committee; second by Selectman Terry Jarvis. The motion carried unanimously.

Interview Panel - TA Whittaker requested Board representation for the interview panel for the part-time Recreation Director's position. Selectman Jarvis volunteered and Selectman Bickford said he would try to be available.

Invoice Issue - TA Whittaker requested a non-public session later regarding an invoice.

Cocheco River Local Advisory Committee - TA Whittaker announced that Mike Gelinas has been accepted onto the Cocheco River Local Advisory Committee.

Next Board Business Meeting - The Board scheduled its next meeting for **December 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall**. Chair Gehl noted a workshop budget review meeting next Monday, November 23rd, 2009.

5. Old Business

Taxes - Selectman Bickford asked about delinquent taxes and TA Whittaker said the Town was set with payment schedules.

Tax Maps - Selectman Jarvis asked about the next step in the process of digitizing the tax maps. TA Whittaker said the Town has the draft maps and the preliminary maps are next. She said then any unresolved problems would be sorted out hopefully with the help of individuals who produce their surveys, which had not been recorded at the Registry of Deeds. Chair Gehl asked if there had been input from the public. TA Whittaker said there had been a high volume, due to individual mailings. She said most towns don't mail to each household.

Selectman Bickford said he received 17 notices. He felt the standardized letter didn't make things clear, so that it might have looked like land was being taken away from people. He said many residents didn't understand. He explained that the notices indicated what the tax officials' feel you own, which does not make that your property, especially if you have a survey that says otherwise. TA Whittaker explained that any survey on your property, by statute, needs to be recorded at the Registry. She noted South Shore Road as an area that had many surveys, but apparently had failed to register their new surveys. She stated the digitized tax maps are the Town's assessing maps, not a legal document as to define acreage. Selectman Bickford said the letter from Cartographic Associates did not explain that point well. TA Whittaker said he could let the company know that, but added that sometimes too much explanation is cumbersome and contains technical jargon. The main purpose of the notice was to get people to come into the public hearings as conducted by the cartographers.

The discussion moved to Current Use value in light of the new maps. TA Whittaker advised that an owner should submit a new map and refile the current use state form, if they have acquired extra acreage to their already recorded current use acreage so as to avoid ad valorem values being placed upon new acreage not previously recorded with a

current use lien. She said the Town's tax maps and current use documentation must match, as the Department of Revenue Administration now audits it. Chair Gehl said having the tax maps created has brought forth a variety of issues, and has been educational. TA Whittaker said people are passionate about their property.

October 19, 2009 minutes - Recorder Cathy Allyn indicated that the figure 1,100 in conjunction with the forestry vehicle discussion was changed to 11,000 at the last meeting, but a review of the notes indicated 1,100 was the figure mentioned. Chair Gehl said he would review that section and possibly shed some light on the situation.

Fire Department - In response to Selectman Jarvis' question regarding fire truck drivers outlined in the Fire Department's Rules and Regulations, TA Whittaker said Fire Chief Peter Varney was being responsive to questions asked previously. She said Chief Varney wished to update all SOGs, Rules and Regulations, and SOPs. Chair Gehl said it was discussed during budget review that it would require more administrative time to update them.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Selectman Jarvis to accept the minutes of the business meeting of November 2, 2009, as amended; second by Selectman Bickford. Gehl - abstain, Bickford - aye, Jarvis - aye. The motion carried.

Motion by Selectman Jarvis that the budget workshop public minutes of November 9, 2009 be approved, as amended; second by Selectman Bickford. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Non-public Session

Chair Gehl noted that no other agenda items would be acted upon following the non-public session.

Motion by Chair Gehl at 7:50 p.m. to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c); second by Selectman Bickford. A roll call was taken. Gehl - aye, Bickford - aye, Jarvis - aye. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned from Non Public Session at 9:50 PM noting no decisions had been made in Non Public session.

Motion Bickford, second Jarvis to approve the Non Public Minutes of November 9th, 2009, vote 2 - 0, Gehl abstaining due to absence from the meeting.

8. Adjournment

Motion Jarvis, second Bickford to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 PM, vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy L. Allyn

APPROVED New Durham Board of Selectmen minutes 11/16/09

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.