

**08-06-07m**  
**New Durham Board of Selectmen**  
**Minutes of Meeting ~ August 6, 2007**  
**Town Hall**

**Members present:** Chairperson Ronald Gehl, Peter Rhoades, David Bickford

**Also present:** Town Administrator April Whittaker, Road Agent Mark Fuller, Police Chief Shawn Bernier, Interim Fire Chief Rod Nelson, Assistant Fire Chief Russ Sample, Captain Mike Davenport, Kevin Jenkes, Thomas Beeler, Elizabeth Castro, Marcia Clark, Sherry Cullimore, Crissa Evans, Skip Fadden, James Goodrich, Tom Goss, Barbara Hunter, Anthony Iuele, William Murtagh, Cathy Orlowicz, Casey Rhoades, Kevin Rhoades, Nancy Rhoades, Joanne Rodgers, Aaron Sanborn, Thomas Stringfellow, Diane Thayer, Mary Theberge, Norman Theberge, Betty Watson, Anthony Wyner, other members of the public

**1. Call to Order** – Chairperson Ron Gehl called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Citizens' Forum** – Nancy Rhoades remarked on speeding cars in the area of the Town Beach during swimming lessons, and inquired as to the whereabouts of the speed bump. Road Agent Mark Fuller said that the bump had not stayed in place. Chair Gehl clarified that due to a combination of vandalism and maintenance problems, the bump was not installed this year. RA Fuller said his department could put out Crosswalk Ahead signs. Police Chief Shawn Bernier recommended a “Slow Children” sign instead. Selectman David Bickford stated that chevrons catch drivers’ eyes and indicate to slow down. Chief Bernier said he had grant money for speed details and he will have an officer in that area during those times. RA Fuller said he would confer with Chief Bernier about signage. Town Administrator April Whittaker said she would have Recreation Director Jessica Bailey send Chief Bernier a swim lessons schedule.

Kevin Rhoades stated the skateboard park was closed a year ago, and wondered when it would reopen. Chair Gehl replied the Parks and Recreation Commission had seen the facility as a danger, rather than an asset. TA Whittaker said the Recreation Director had met with a group of young men who were interested in seeing the park re-open, and who it was suggested to, to organize for fund raising. She said she was hoping for a citizens’ initiative in this direction. She suggested young people could organize themselves with help from the Recreation Director. Selectman Peter Rhoades suggested the group could circulate a petition for the town meeting warrant for Town Meeting.

Cathy Orlowicz provided the Board with materials on the Town Hall doors. She suggested residents might have a close-up photo to afford more detail. Chair Gehl said the provided blueprints and information were clear.

### **3. Old Business**

March's Pond Dam update – Chair Gehl reported that the Board had a work session last Monday with Dam Bureau representative Jeff Blaney, and CMA engineers Bill Straub and Bob Grillo to hash out options regarding the lowered level of the pond and the seepage. The Dam Bureau had indicated, at an earlier meeting that the only acceptable move would be entire reconstruction of the dam. Chair Gehl said he spoke with Mr. Blaney the next day and with RA Fuller's help, an interim measure was suggested. He summarized the situation by saying a narrow spillway now exists, and due to increased seepage at the base of the dam, the level of March's Pond needed to be lowered. The creation of a new, alternate, spillway for the water to leave the pond has been proposed, along with taking apart some of the stone embankment. Engineers are to outline how it could be done. Chair Gehl said it would be cheaper and the work would not require a stamped plan, as the action can be taken under the existing permitting for the permanent improvements. The upstream elevation of this new discharge structure, to be determined, could increase the elevation in March's Pond by an estimated three to four feet. However, he cautioned that the interim plan still required State of NH approval.

Selectman Rhoades asked where the new discharge swale would be located, and RA Fuller replied toward Birch Hill Road. Chair Gehl said it would be close to the existing spillway. He said, since the action would be covered under permits already obtained, only notification to the state is required. He indicated Mr. Blaney is comfortable with only a simple representation by the engineers and the determination of the elevation of the spillway, and would be on site to evaluate approval. He added that work could commence soon if approval is immediate.

TA Whittaker said funds for the project would come from an emergency appropriation, which goes the Budget Committee under RSA 32:11. Chair Gehl said the expense for labor and materials would not be too high. The Highway department and a subcontract excavator will do the work. RA Fuller estimated the cost at approximately \$1,000. Selectman Rhoades indicated satisfaction that the level of the pond would be up for the summer if approval is given, and Chair Gehl agreed it would be a step in the right direction from the residents' perspective.

Anthony Iuele asked about using federal monies, and Chair Gehl explained that the Town has exhausted those possibilities. He said Hurricane Katrina and NH flooding diverted the money that would have been available. Mr. Iuele asked about the impact on Chalk Pond. Chair Gehl said culverts have been blocked to minimize water loss from Chalk Pond. Selectman David Bickford pointed out if the total project did not pass at Town Meeting, the dam would be left open and there may be a need to draw down Chalk Pond. Chair Gehl said there should not be a reason to draw down Chalk Pond. He said this interim measure is building up a safety factor, and the creation of a new spillway would allow moving a lot of water in a storm event, which appears to make the Dam Bureau comfortable. He said this interim spillway would be in place until the complete reconstruction of the dam. He added that Chalk Pond has a spillway, also.

Kevin Jenckes said he was in the Army Engineers reserve unit and they do free work. Chair Gehl said action needed to be taken at once on the interim spillway. Elizabeth Castro asked if the dam reconstruction would stay on the same schedule. Chair Gehl indicated the reconstruction is to be done next year, and the appropriation would come at Town Meeting. Tom Stringfellow brought up stagnant water in the area although admitting that evaporation was occurring, and suggested that work on the berm at the southeast end of the pond be channeled through to prevent it. Chair Gehl said that might be outside of Town jurisdiction and would require more permitting from the Wetlands Bureau. He said bringing the water level up could eliminate the situation. Selectman Rhoades read the letter Mr. Stringfellow wrote to the state and asked if the citizens Mr. Stringfellow referred to would prefer the berm work or the water elevation. He said permitting takes time. Mr. Stringfellow agreed that an increase of two feet would alleviate the situation. Ms. Castro asked if the pond would be lowered for reconstruction and Chair Gehl answered not necessarily.

Bill Murtagh asked what would transpire if the town voted down the money for the reconstruction plan. Chair Gehl remarked that was a possibility, but there were compelling arguments to complete the project. He said the pond was a resource for the entire town to enjoy, and that the adjustment of property values if the pond ceased to exist would be a burden on all taxpayers. He said the residents around the pond seemed to be banding together to explain the situation at Town Meeting. He said the cost of the project was estimated two years ago at \$350,000. The Board would go out to bid before Town Meeting.

Selectman Bickford stated that if the proposal failed, there would be other avenues. He said residents around the pond could form a "district" and tax themselves; the Town could sell the pond; or it could be turned over to the Conservation Commission and that body's money could be used. Mr. Murtagh said he had a gut feeling that the residents would get the pond back. Chair Gehl agreed. However, he pointed out that the Town cannot sell the pond as this is owned by the State of NH, and that a separate taxing district would be a financial burden on pond residents. He said he would be pushing for reconstruction at Town expense, as any options other than reconstruction would involve significant costs and further delay of the inevitable. He stated the state says the dam must be replaced. TA Whittaker told Mr. Murtagh he could get information on normal high and low levels of the dam from the Dam Bureau and he could check with her.

Barbara Hunter emphasized what an asset the pond is to the community, stating many residents use the area and appreciate the resource. Betty Watson asked if beavers could have caused the dam failure. Chair Gehl said the cause has not yet been pinpointed.

Tom Goss said he was involved with getting a group together to attend Town Meeting and speak to the situation. He said his address was 396 Birch Hill Road and people could drop by to discuss it with him. James Goodrich said he was glad to hear the plan to raise the pond level. He said he was concerned for people with dug wells on the Chalk Pond side. Chair Gehl said they had to move quickly to preserve Chalk Pond. Ms. Hunter wondered if there was a way to keep people informed. Chair Gehl said the updated information on the situation is on page one of the Town website. Tony Wyner said people with dug wells would

be affected. He indicated that he did not know where a drilled well could go on his property. Chair Gehl said the full-scale plans call for the elimination of the Chalk Pond spillway. Mr. Wyner said he had heard that Chalk Pond will be dropped three to five feet. Chair Gehl pointed out that rumors such as those are one reason to attend a meeting to hear the truth. He said the Dam Bureau recommends a single controllable point to establish an elevation and control during a flood event. Engineers would determine all of this. RA Fuller added that the size of the culvert crossing the road would be increased and control would be from one side.

**Motion by Chair Gehl to authorize CMA Engineers, Inc. to determine with the DES Dam Bureau the configuration and elevation of an interim spillway, and to authorize Road Agent Mark Fuller to coordinate with CMA and the Dam Bureau to complete the work as soon as possible; second by Selectman Bickford.** Selectman Rhoades asked for clarification that work could begin as soon as in two weeks, and was told the Town was ready to go as soon as it receives word. **The motion carried unanimously.**

TA Whittaker said an emergency appropriation would need to be authorized, based on the estimates provided by CMA Engineers, Inc. Chair Gehl said those were \$10,800 for implementing the temporary stabilization and engineering work already completed, and an additional \$8,000-\$10,000 for bidding the full reconstruction project, preparing for Town Meeting, setting final budgets, and associated work.

**Motion by Chair Gehl to initiate emergency appropriation procedures before DRA, said emergency appropriation not to exceed \$25,000 to cover engineering costs and implementation costs of the controlled breach; second by Selectman Rhoades. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board recessed briefly and reconvened at 8:06 p.m.

#### **4. Department Reports**

Fire Department – Captain Mike Davenport advised the Board of an erroneous letter printed in the “Letters to the Editor” section of The Baysider regarding an ambulance call out situation. He described the department as having fallen victim to this letter that made unfounded allegations. Although an explanation was provided in writing to the Board, Captain Davenport said the department would not engage in a letter battle. He explained that two simultaneous calls within one minute apart, resulted in the Farmington Ambulance responding to one. He said he wanted to state in a public forum that everything is fine within the department, and added that he served under the past administration also. He said last year 2006, the department did not respond to 25% of calls due to staffing issues, and this year 2007 that percentage has now dropped to 6%. Chair Gehl reiterated that the percentage of calls not staffed have dropped dramatically. Captain Davenport said an inaccurate picture had been painted for the public. Chair Gehl said the proper way to deal with a problem, either real or perceived, is to come to the Board. Captain Davenport added that the department members need to do their jobs, not have to go out and defend themselves. Within the body of the written explanation, the department stated New Durham’s recruitment rate was the topic of envy at a Lakes Region Mutual Aid Association

meeting earlier this year. The two concluding paragraphs asked that members of the public not engage in actions that unfairly undermine the efforts of the volunteers to provide the best possible emergency services, and that department members not be subjected to inaccurate allegations by misinformed people who appear to have ulterior motives. Firefighters stated they did not feel they could remain silent and allow the public to be confused or concerned.

Lt. Kevin Jenkes reviewed the statistics of responses to calls again. Captain Davenport said it was not a slam against any prior administration, since making 75% of calls as a volunteer force was okay. But he added that making 94 per cent is unheard of, which the current volunteers are achieving. Selectman Rhoades asked if residents could drop by the station and Captain Davenport replied yes, and suggested bringing the family. Lt. Jenkes said the department offers paramedic level service. He said he, as one of the available paramedics, has been on one-third of this year's calls. He said the department under Interim Fire Chief Rod Nelson started with three EMS personnel, and there are now 13. He cited a new EMT and two others at advanced level, summing up that the department has made progress.

He then explained to the Board about expanding the Junior Firefighter program for 16-18 year-olds into an Explorer Scout program for 14-20 year-olds fully insured by the Boy Scouts of America. He said the junior program has been a good recruiting tool, and added that two members will attend the Academy this year. He projected 15-20 members in an Explorer post. Selectman Rhoades asked if girls could participate. Lt. Jenkes said girls were welcome, as well as any young people in a 20-mile radius of New Durham.

Chief Nelson said the forestry vehicle's battery charger burned up and is leaking fluid, so it may not be back in service. The town mechanic was to make that determination. He reported a structure fire on the Ridge, 500 feet off the road, which the ladder truck could not access. Alton's truck could not, either, so Alton's forestry vehicle was used. The campfire is under investigation.

He also reported that there is no engine truck in town because the pump is leaking and the truck has rust issues. When it comes back from repairs, it will need to last 10 years. His point was that the Town needs to think about equipment, since now it only has a ladder truck, a forestry vehicle in tough shape, and a tanker that is 27 years old. He was inclined not to wait until Town Meeting despite attesting to the legalities required. He said one combined pumper and rescue vehicle would make the difference for the department. Chair Gehl commented that large expenditures must go through a capital program, and if leased, required town meeting vote. He noted an upcoming meeting of the fire department with the CIP Committee regarding vehicles. Chief Nelson said he had not expected the equipment to be in such bad shape when he came in as Interim Fire Chief. Chair Gehl explained that, as a municipality, the Town is constrained by the process set out by the DRA and statutes. Chief Nelson suggested the state might approve emergency funding. Selectman Bickford asked if Chief Nelson was trying to convey that an emergency exists. Chief Nelson replied that the department deals with life and needs proper equipment. He said it was a matter of need. Selectman Rhoades said that should be made clear to the CIP

Committee. Chief Nelson said he did not understand how a price could be put on life. He stated the equipment is old and needs to be in good working order to answer calls. He expressed his frustration at the situation.

Assistant Chief Russ Sample said some stress would be relieved when Engine 1 is back in service in two to three weeks. He agreed that the forestry vehicle needs have to be addressed. He said a new truck would take the pressure off. Chief Nelson said he was working on a grant.

Assistant Fire Chief Sample next addressed building needs at the Fire Station and provided the Board with proposed plans for a 28' x 58' addition to the fire station, which would carry the same roofline as the police station. Also included is a 24' x 20' L that attaches to the addition. A vestibule in the L would serve as the main entrance. The proposal is ADA compliant and would include a bathroom and shower. Asst. Chief Sample said the department was looking at stick built or a modular, with the available funds. Used modulars are in the \$55,000 range. Chair Gehl said the department presented the Board with a concept that is to be fleshed out.

Chief Nelson provided the Board with a new compensation plan that operates on the basis of payment for hours served. TA Whittaker said previously, paying a stipend provided no impetus to attend training or clean up detail. Chief Nelson advised that all members are in agreement that this is a fairer policy especially to the taxpayers. Captains' Davenport and Leon Smith, along with Lt. Tom Swett, developed the plan. Selectman Bickford said that earlier, Capt. Davenport indicated the department would not respond in the newspaper, and asked if that was department policy. Interim Chief Nelson indicated that was his personal policy by responding, "No Sir, that's my policy." He went on to say that he preferred people would have the guts to come talk to him, but noted to Mr. Bickford that Lt. Swett is IPO (Information Press Officer) of the department. He further commented that Lt. Swett is doing an excellent job in the IPO position.

Police – Chief Bernier provided the July activity report, noting that the K-9 assisted in investigating a bank robbery in Farmington. He also said other towns responded to New Durham 11 times. He reported that new Officer Chris Chessley started today, and that one of the automatic emergency defibrillators went out and he had to get it back on-line. Chair Gehl said to see TA Whittaker about how to pay for them.

TA Whittaker advised that the Town insurance company will not insure the Animal Control Officer in his own vehicle. Solution options would be to have the ACO use a cruiser, or obtain his own insurance, which the Town would cover. Selectman Rhoades believed obtaining personal insurance would be preferable. Chief Bernier said the blue lights would need to be removed from the cruiser, if used by the ACO. Chair Gehl said the issue would be considered in the next budgeting process.

**Motion by Selectman Rhoades to authorize expenditure up to \$500 to assist the Animal Control Officer in obtaining individual insurance to provide coverage while**

**acting in his role as ACO; second by Selectman Bickford. The motion carried unanimously.**

Highway – RA Fuller noted residents’ concerns regarding moving rocks at Owl’s Head. He said rocks are coming down, but noted failure, in the past, to support tax dollars by the town in this area.

## **5. Return to Old Business**

Boodey House Committee – Chair Gehl stated Selectman Rhoades has looked at the proposed site of the Boodey House relocation on Shirley property.

**Motion by Chair Gehl to approve the location outlined at the corner of Stockbridge Corner and Ridge Roads as the potential reconstruction site of the Boodey House, with the condition of provided back-up documentation that the area is not and has not been used for Sylvie culture.** Selectman Rhoades brought up an amendment that it be withdrawn after 10 years. Selectman Bickford said no contract was being entered into, and Selectman Rhoades withdrew his amendment. Selectman Bickford said the reason for using the Shirley lot was because the Meetinghouse land, referred to in the contract, was not available due to the fact that such a situation of the Boodey House would have impacted the historic integrity of the Meetinghouse site. **Second by Selectman Bickford. The motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Gehl said that Town Counsel has not yet provided written feedback in relation to setting up a trust fund, but rather had spoken to the Town administrator on the telephone. TA Whittaker said Attorney Teague’s input was that establishing a trust fund must go before Town Meeting. Cathy Orlowicz said that the Board can establish trust funds for gifts, and the monies in question are gifts. Chair Gehl said it was a question of whether acceptance of gifts and establishment of trust funds are linked. Ms. Orlowicz said the Board could determine how gifts are held. Chair Gehl again, stated the Board cannot create a trust fund – Town Meeting vote does that. The Board can accept gifts and then put them in an established trust fund.

TA Whittaker compared the situation to the chicken/egg conundrum. Chair Gehl pointed out that the Board could hold the gifts and transfer them to a trust fund established by Town Meeting vote. Ms. Orlowicz was concerned about the mixture of public and private funds. TA Whittaker explained a method of handling that. Ms. Orlowicz clarified that in the process of fundraising then, money could be made out to the Boodey House account. Chair Gehl said he, personally, would want to see a substantial amount of money raised before putting the trust fund on the warrant. In regards to that, Crissa Evans said the location was only received tonight. TA Whittaker stated that under 31:95-b, which has been adopted in New Durham at the 1994 Town Meeting, a town could accept gifts. The committee would simply have to keep track of donors and hold a public hearing for expenditures. She said she was checking with DRA to see if the interest could be protected with that method. If so, that would be the simplest way to go. Ms. Orlowicz said now with an approved location for reconstruction, the committee could begin solicitation of funds.

Generator Acquisition – RA Fuller reported that two 200-amp transfer switches are needed for a total of \$9,000. He estimated hook-up price to be \$4,000, and the concrete pad to be \$1,000. Selectman Rhoades recommended going with a more powerful generator for an additional small amount of money to handle greater demand. RA Fuller said the 25 KW should handle the fire station, even with the addition, and next year another generator could be purchased for the police station and Town Hall. TA Whittaker said there is \$32,000 in the general fund account. Selectman Rhoades suggested the larger generator could also supply the police station. Chair Gehl pointed out much more expensive electrical costs to feed the police station from the fire station. Selectman Rhoades indicated that work gets sidetracked during the budget process, and expressed his fear that a second generator might not be purchased. He felt the larger generator could handle both facilities. He stated next year money to run the line could be budgeted for. Selectman Bickford said if another generator did not have to be purchased, then the only cost left would be the conduit, as there is enough money for another transfer switch. Selectman Rhoades termed the \$2,500 for the upgrade to a 45 KW generator as cheap insurance.

**Motion by Selectman Rhoades to expend up to \$29,000 to acquire a 45 KW generator to be hooked up with two transfer switches as discussed, with possible use for the police station; second by Selectman Bickford for discussion.** Selectman Bickford asked if a motion needed to be made tonight, and RA Fuller opined that the issue has been going on for years. Selectman Bickford said the larger generator would cost more to run, but it shouldn't be used much. Chief Bernier said it was cheap money for something that could run another building. Chair Gehl said the implementation costs could be dealt with in the future, and that it could not hurt to have excess capacity. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Dry Hydrant – TA Whittaker said the hydrant reserve money could be used for the labor and materials to install the dry hydrant at Merrymeeting Lake. Chair Gehl said that at one time it was implied that labor would be free. Mrs. Whittaker referred to past e-mails from Dan Lynch indicating that labor and materials would have to be fully funded by the town. RA Fuller said the dry hydrant would be going onto state property but the Town has the right to maintain it. Mrs. Whittaker confirmed that a memorandum of understanding would be composed outlining maintenance responsibilities by both the Town and State.

**Motion by Chair Gehl to approve an expenditure of \$6,670 for the installation of a dry hydrant at the Merrymeeting Lake site, and to approve the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the state; second by Selectman Bickford. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **6. Administrative Review**

**Motion by Selectman Rhoades to authorize the chairperson to sign for a pole license on Nipmuck Trail; second by Selectman Bickford. The motion carried unanimously.**

TA Whittaker provided draft copies of the Code of Ethics as amended by Town Counsel for the Ethics Committee's review.

TA Whittaker informed the Board that according to the report from Cartographic Associates, Inc., the tax-mapping project is continuing at a good pace.

TA Whittaker said she received the minutes of the Farmington Fish and Game Club's Board of Directors, indicating permission for the Town to adjust the level of the pond by controlling the dam. Said minutes to be held by the Town Road Agent, Town Clerk and in the Map & lot files for future reference purposes.

She said she, RA Fuller and David Allen will review plans of a two-lot subdivision proposal in Alton that is located along the New Durham boundary to ensure no impact that may be detrimental to New Durham during the planning process.

Mrs. Whittaker presented costs associated with the acquisition of the voting machine. Chair Gehl was concerned with nebulous coding charges related to the Accuvote Optical Scan ballot tabulating system approved by the state. Charges would increase with the number of candidates on a ballot, resulting in possible charges over \$1,000 in elections. Mrs. Whittaker pointed out that the state elections would be fully funded by the State of New Hampshire and that town costs are largely associated with how long the town ballot could be i.e. number of zoning amendments etc. He asked if Town Clerk Carole Ingham could obtain more certainty on how the coding charges are determined.

As informational items, TA Whittaker provided the Board with the minutes of the Joint Loss Management Committee and an email from a resident commending Recreation Director Bailey regarding the 2007 swim program.

TA Whittaker advised that the staff has had no sexual harassment training, which she had been advised of by the Personnel Committee. The board approved her attendance at an insurance sponsored training seminar.

The Town received a request to paint a centerline on Merrymeeting Lake Road. She suggested leaving it to RA Fuller to determine how much to do. The work is generally contracted out.

The Board took a recess at 10:15 p.m. and reconvened at 10:20 p.m.

### **7. Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for August 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Chair Gehl reported his absence for this meeting as he will be on a family vacation.

### **8. Return to Old Business**

TA Whittaker reported Cynthia and Fred Quimby are willing to serve on the Milfoil Committee, bringing membership up to six. She said she had no response from the advertisement run in The Baysider. She will put the committee's charge together over the next two weeks.

The Board reviewed the draft financial policies. Chair Gehl said the Board is awaiting feedback from department heads following Mrs. Whittaker's departmental meeting.

**Motion by Chair Gehl to appoint Sgt. Jason Lamontagne as emergency management director for a term to expire April 1, 2008, effective immediately; second by Selectman Rhoades.** Chair Gehl said the appointment form for this year for the director was never taken up. He said Sgt. Lamontagne would be in town, available immediately, and already part of emergency services in the event of an emergency. Selectman Bickford said he was uncomfortable voting for someone without bringing in the current acting Director. Selectman Rhoades expressed that it was appropriate to send her a letter of thanks and gratitude. Chair Gehl said it is necessary to move to a point where the director works in-house, and that Sgt. Lamontagne was eager to take on the challenge, especially since he'd served in this capacity in another community. Selectman Rhoades asked what would be accomplished by bringing in the acting Director. Selectman Bickford said it would be cleaner to ask someone to step aside. Chair Gehl said the Board had spoken to Sgt. Lamontagne about this, and he was under the impression that the entire Board was on the same page. Selectman Bickford said the Board should not move when the person involved is not in front of them. He said it was not an issue of Sgt. Lamontagne, but a question of the former party. Chair Gehl said the appointment to the position was lapsed, and called for a vote. **Gehl – aye, Rhoades – aye, Bickford – nay. The motion carried.** Chair Gehl said the Town appreciated Ms. Jarvis' services through the years and thanked her.

Chair Gehl thanked everyone who participated in Meetinghouse-LCHIP Day, singling out Cathy Allyn for her organization of the theatrical events. He thanked all who attended, adding it was a great day. Skip Fadden said a lot of talent was displayed. He mentioned the free concert at the ball field this Saturday. Chair Gehl said all summer events have been posted at Town Hall.

Selectman Bickford submitted a vetting policy that would require a two-week period before appointing candidates to positions. Selectman Rhoades expressed concerns that it could be embarrassing if a well-known candidate were asked to wait. Selectman Bickford said it would be policy. The Board took the suggested policy under advisement.

## **9. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Selectman Rhoades to approve the minutes of July 9, 2007 as amended; second by Chair Gehl. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Selectman Rhoades to approve the minutes of July 18, 2007; second by Selectman Bickford. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Chair Gehl to approve the minutes of July 23, 2007 as amended; second by Selectman Bickford. Gehl – aye, Bickford – aye, Rhoades – abstained. The motion carried.**

**Motion by Chair Gehl to approve the minutes of July 30, 2007 as amended; second by Selectman Rhoades. The motion carried unanimously.**

TA Whittaker expressed public thanks to Mr. Blaney of the Dam Bureau for his willingness to reconsider his opinion about March's Pond Dam, and for going out of his way to assist the Board and the townspeople. Chair Gehl agreed Mr. Blaney has been helpful. Selectman Rhoades said the residents of the pond are appreciative.

#### **10. Non-public Session**

**Motion by Selectman Rhoades at 11:10 p.m. to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:2 c for a discussion that may affect the reputation of someone other than a Board member, and to reconvene in public session only to adjourn; second by Chair Gehl.** Selectman Bickford said he did not know whom the discussion was to be about. Chair Gehl said he did not, either, but he deferred to Selectman Rhoades' opinion that there was a reputation issue at stake, and hence the question of not citing a name or company.

**A roll call was taken:~ Gehl – aye, Rhoades – aye, Bickford – aye. Vote unanimous to enter into non-public session.**

The Board discussed the painting account of the town hall, and use of existing funds to further the project.

The board voted to come out of non-public session at 11:30 PM; vote unanimous, and voted unanimously to authorize Mr. Rhoades to not exceed \$38,000 to complete the town hall painting project.

#### **11. Adjournment**

**Motion Rhoades, second Bickford to adjourn, vote 3 – 0. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 PM.**

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.