

Selectmen's Meeting
January 27, 2003

The Chair, Jenifer Landman, called the scheduled public session to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Lloyd Sullivan, Allen Hines (selectmen) and Michael Pardue (Town Administrator) and members of the public.

Ms. Landman introduced NormaJean Fowler, the new Recording Secretary.

Ms. Landman then asked for questions and comments. There being none the board moved on to Agenda Item A.

Selectmen's Items

Agenda Item A. Mosquito Control.

Ms. Pat Moreinis Dodge addressed the board regarding the reconstitution of a Mosquito Control Commission. She stated that N.H. RSA 43-90 (1985) allowed for each community to have a commission to act for the community to address the issue of mosquito control. She stated that the commission is to be formed with 3 members, a liaison to the Board of Selectmen and Michael Pardue.

She went on to explain that Ted Dier (Environmental Planner for New Hampshire) had spoken regarding solutions to alleviate the problem and had discussed studies being conducted by U.N.H. Mr. Dier also discussed funding available to communities to work on solutions to the mosquito problem. Ms. Moreinis Dodge volunteered to be on the commission, and would be pleased to serve as chair.

She discussed that the formation of such a commission would benefit the community by making the community aware of the research and activities being done to address the problem of mosquito control.

She also discussed the reading of reports from 1985-1990 on how the community addressed the problem and what pesticides were being used and their effectiveness.

Ms. Joanne Lamprey spoke to the major mosquito problem last year and the problems being faced due to increase in the mosquito population faced by those living near the salt marsh. She spoke of the estimate of the mosquito population being doubled next year.

It is Ms. Lamprey's feeling that working together for the town wouldn't hurt and that the formation of a commission would benefit the community. She spoke to the fact that the situation last year was very bad with the saltmarsh mosquito problem and that it affected the quality of life of the community. She also spoke to how neighboring communities were dealing with the problem.

Ms. Lamprey also discussed how best to inform the community regarding spraying. She suggested that the information be posted on the marquee in front of the Town Offices.

Ms. Lamprey also volunteered to be on the commission.

Mr. Sullivan discussed the previous year's budget and the three year program which investigated the West Nile problem as well as the mapping of the salt marsh areas. He discussed the mosquito budget and that the previous year's budget encompassed hiring a professional and multiple larvicidings to control the fresh water mosquito problem addressing the threat of the West Nile Virus and spraying to reduce the saltmarsh mosquito problem.

He questioned what the commission could do that the expert hired during the previous year couldn't do. Mr. Sullivan felt that forming a volunteer commission would be another level of bureaucracy that would have to be dealt with. Mr. Sullivan questioned what the guidelines and scope of authority for such a commission would be. He also questioned how forming a mosquito commission would help to get a grant. Mr. Sullivan stated that he might support a volunteer committee but felt that there would need to be set parameters in place before the reformation of the commission.

Ms. Landman stated the salt marsh restoration caused an increase in the mosquito problem. She also said the Conservation Commission's contributed to Mr. Morrison missing the deadline for larviciding last year by one day. The continuous and extremely high temperatures caused the metabolism of the mosquito larvae to speed up hatching earlier. It was her feeling that if we had a separate mosquito commission that worked in conjunction with the Conservation Commission and Mike Morrison the community could benefit by conducting research and making sure that programs are implemented in a timely fashion.

Ms. Landman also discussed how best to get information out to the community and the formation of a method of receiving and dealing with complaints.

Mr. Hines discussed the actual need for such a commission and the availability for funding under N.H. law. He spoke to the proactive approach the board has taken on this issue and the proposal to double the funding for this program. He suggested that the board take the matter under advisement.

It was the request of the board that Ms. Moreinis Dodge and Ms. Lamprey get information from surrounding communities as to the formation and scope of authority of their mosquito control commissions and present it to the board at a future date.

Agenda Item B. Release Deed & Covenant-Cedar Road Bridge.

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to not take ownership. Mr. Hines seconded.

Mr. Pardue discussed the meeting of B&M Railroad and Durham scheduled for February 21st to discuss this issue.

Ms. Landman said that the State did not require the town take ownership of the bridge until approximately eight years from now, at which time it would be a forced ownership. She saw no advantage to taking ownership of it now. She also discussed the changes that would have to be made to the bridge in the event that the railroad was changed to handle passenger and double decker traffic.

Mr. Sullivan moved to reject ownership. Mr. Hines seconded. **Voted:** Unanimous to reject ownership.3-0

Agenda Item C. Storm Drain Report Requirement.

Mr. Pardue discussed the Board of Selectmen and Richard “Red” Mabey obtaining training on it at the end of March.

Ms. Landman questioned the availability of funds and the estimate.

Mr. Sullivan said that the funding was preliminary until July.

Agenda Item D. Assessment Certification-Update.

Mr. Pardue discussed the timeline and the meeting of guidelines to monitor and measure 750 properties annually. Ms. Landman asked if the requirement of 90-110% valuation was every 4 or 5 years. Mr. Pardue and Mr. Sullivan stated that it was actually a 4 year time period, with the 5th year for reporting and also the 1st year of the next 4 year cycle of valuation.

Agenda Item E. VISION Appraisal Technologies.

Mr. Pardue discussed the fact that the initial software conversion performed during the summer of 2002 was not satisfactorily completed by Vision. He stated that within the past few weeks Vision has been in and completed the conversion process and payment will be released within the next week.

Agenda Item F. New Town Web Site Update.

Mr. Pardue spoke to the hard work Denise has done to get this site up and running. He discussed the beta site which was sent to all members of the Board of Selectman and Robert Landman of the Technology Committee this past week and asked that they review it and make comments/suggestions. He would also like any suggestions on links which should be included. He talked about adding links that refer to the budget and line items. He spoke of the importance of having an up-to-date website as opposed to having an antiquated one. Mr. Pardue stated that the future maintenance of the site is a concern as staff resources are quite limited but indicated that staff members would work diligently in a best effort manner to keep the site content current.

Ms. Landman asked about “pings” that would notify subscribers that the website has been updated, which Mr. Pardue was unaware if that would be part of the website service. Mr. Hines spoke of the problem of the builder having to maintain the site content and the effective marketing of the website. Ms. Landman talked about the importance of presence on the web and who would be responsible for updating the site. She also suggested links to area businesses.

Agenda Item G. Deputy Tax Collector Appointment.

Mr. Sullivan spoke of a nomination to appoint Debra M. Chase to this position at a rate of \$15 per hour. The position would be part time on an “as needed” basis. Ms. Chase is a graduate of Whitmore Business School at U.N.H. He explained that the position was to fill in for Peggy and that it would be Peggy’s responsibility to train her for the position and determine her hours. Mr. Sullivan also spoke to the legal requirements that this position be filled and the wages of the Deputy to be funded from the Tax Collector’s salary.

Ms. Landman said that the deputy should become very familiar with the duties and with the routine in the event that she had to step in and run the operation in an emergency. She also asked that hours worked would be proportionate to those worked by Peggy.

Mr. Hines questioned if there were any other applicants for the position. Being none, Mr. Sullivan moved to appoint. Mr. Hines seconded. **Voted:** Unanimous to appoint Debra M. Chase to the position of Deputy Tax Collector effective immediately. 3-0

Agenda Item H. Health/Dental Insurance

Ms. Landman discussed the insurance company's requirement that all members in a classification be offered insurance and 75% of those eligible and not covered by other insurance be enrolled in the insurance plan. The class in this case includes Board of Selectman, Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Treasurer. There is no provision that the town pay but it must be offered as an option as part of a group plan. She questions the cost of the program and the enrollment period. She specifically would like information on the available dental plans. She suggested a form for acknowledgement of offering insurance, which would be filled out or signed off as declined coverage.

Mr. Sullivan questioned the number of individuals in the "group" that would be eligible. Mr. Pardue will obtain information regarding this matter.

Agenda Item I. Sexual Harassment Policy Review/Approval.

Mr. Pardue stated that all changes have been made. Mr. Sullivan motioned for approval and that all employees receive a copy and sign off on it. Mr. Hines seconded. **Voted:** Unanimous to approve Sexual Harassment Policy. 3-0

Agenda Item J. Deliberative Session Review/Topic Assignment.

Mr. Sullivan talked of the warrant articles being back from the DRA with a change to the order. The Citizens' Petitioned article on the study of the transfer station situation needs to have a vote. He discussed the warrant article being mutually exclusive and that the priority is to get a new highway department center. He stated that there were no plans to close the recycling center.

Ms. Landman stated that there was no vote taken at the last Board of Selectmen meeting because it wasn't on file until the day after and that she was in favor of a study to see if it was feasible. She spoke to the tonnage that went into the landfill in previous years was less than that after the curbside recycling program went into effect. She discussed the increased amount of recycling at the town's recycling center being done since the curbside recycling program. She also spoke to the importance of the recycling center for area businesses. She discussed the Rye Recycling Center which contains the recycling center, dumping site, transfer station, Public Works and swap shop on the same acreage as Cherry Road.

Mr. Sullivan motioned that they not recommend the closing petition. Mr. Hines seconded. **Voted:** 2 for/1 Against. Ms. Landman disagreed.

Review of warrant articles for deliberative session assigned to Ms. Landman and Mr. Hines and Mr. Sullivan for review.

Agenda Item K. Other.

Mr. Pardue had a number of items regarding hardships and abatements.

Ms. Landman questioned Bob Strout from Highway Department regarding a complaint by Marge McComb regarding curbing at Blake's Auto on Cedar Road. Is the curbing in the right of way?

Bob Strout indicated that Blake's Auto mentioned it. His interpretation is that the curbing is too far into the road and that it is 3 feet into the right of way. He stated that the Planning Board overlooked it. The plans were seen by him but showed no curbing. Mr. Blake was approached and stated that it would be brought back in the spring.

Ms. Landman questioned State Representative Gilbert, in the audience, regarding the statewide property tax. She informed him that many people were bothered by it and that the state mandated all homes were to be assessed every 4 years on an equal basis or towns would be taxed in an unfair manner.

Mr. Hines spoke regarding unfunded mandates.

Representative Gilbert stated that DRA is undergoing a change of leadership and that it was in disarray. He also stated that it was difficult to predict revenue until corporate tax returns were filed at the end of March.

Mr. Sullivan discussed the need for notification of major incidences to the Chair of the board. He specifically mentioned the school bus crash of the other day and the importance of town leaders knowing of incidences which they may be questioned on.

Ms. Landman and Mr. Hines were in agreement as to the importance of notification.

It was suggested that Mr. Pardue be the first in the chain of command and that he should report any incidences to the Chair.

Administration/Business

Agenda Item A. Approval of Minutes.

It was voted to approve the Minutes of the meetings from January 8, 2003 and January 13, 2003.

Voted: Unanimous to accept Minutes. 3-0

Agenda Item B. Payroll.

Payroll was reviewed and signed off on.

Agenda Item C. Manifest.

Agenda Item D. Appointments.

There was discussion on the appointment of Ben King to the Heritage Commission. It was agreed that there needs to be a written request from the Planning Board in order to vote on this appointment.

Agenda Item E. Abatements.

Mr. Pardue presented requests for abatements which the board reviewed and signed off on.

Agenda Item F. Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Pardue discussed DOT Sagamore Golf. He stated that Richard "Red" Mabey sent an inquiry to Attorney Ryan regarding the drop off. Mr. Mabey to call Richard Luff to discuss the feasibility of the contractor installing a guard rail. The project is in violation of encroachment of the bank. He stated that this issue may have to be revisited in the event that there is no guard rail installed.

Mr. Pardue discussed a request from Tom Lambert to add an antique fire truck owned by the North Hampton Fireman's Association to the town's insurance policy at a cost of \$342.00.

Ms. Landman questioned if the truck was owned by the town and questioned the town's "insurable interest" in the truck.

Mr. Hines questioned the town's insurable interest due to the town logo being on the truck.

Mr. Sullivan motioned for approval.

Mr. Hines seconded.

Voted: Unanimous to approve adding antique fire truck to town's insurance policy provided the insurance company agreed that the Town of North Hampton had an insurable interest in this vehicle. 3-0

Ms. Landman requested that RPC be added to the Agenda for the February 10th meeting.

There was discussion regarding the installation of a cell phone tower behind Lamprey Oil. It was discussed that Joanne Lamprey planned to install a Verizon cell phone tower on land owned by her. According to Verizon's lawyers our ordinance does not prohibit "all" structures.

Ms. Landman does not feel that the ordinance allows for letting anyone with the land put up a cell phone tower. She feels that the ordinance should be reviewed by the town's lawyers for interpretation of "alternative structures".

Mr. Hines talked about neighbor's reactions and the position that the tower needs to go where the company needs it to provide unbroken coverage. He stated that the National Telecommunications Act gives people the right to put up towers. He mentioned that it was to be an "alternative structure".

Ms. Landman had questions regarding receiving a report from the Building Inspector regarding issues to be updated.

Mr. Hines moved to adjourn.

Mr. Sullivan seconded.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

NormaJean Fowler
Recording Secretary