

TOWN OF NOTTINGHAM
Selectmen's Meeting
March 14, 2011

6:30 PM, Acting Chair Anderson opened the meeting and asked all those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Gary Anderson, Mary Bonser, Hal Rafter

Guest:

Others: Charles Brown, Town Administrator; Traci Chauvey, Recording Secretary; Chris Mills; Gail Mills; John Morin;

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Motion: Bonser, second Rafter to nominate Mr. Anderson as Chairman.

Vote: All in favor. Motion passed: 3-0.

There was a brief discussion around outstanding minutes. Approval of minutes was postponed until next meeting. Ms. Chauvey is to follow up on all outstanding minutes.

Chair Anderson welcomed Mr. Rafter.

A memo was received from the Tax Collector asking the selectmen to reappoint Elizabeth Warrington as the Deputy Tax Collector for the next three years. Her term expires the end of this month.

Motion: Bonser, second Rafter to appoint Elizabeth Warrington as Deputy Tax Collector for a three year period ending in 2014.

Vote: All in favor. Motion passed: 3-0

Mr. Brown asked the selectmen to review committee assignments for discussion at the next meeting. There was a brief discussion around committee assignments for the benefit of the new selectmen, Mr. Rafter. Ms. Mills inquired about voting rights of the selectmen when sitting on other committees. She was informed they do have voting rights; however, Mr. Anderson noted that during his first year in term he served on the Conservation Commission and was not given voting rights. Ms. Chauvey will forward committee assignment list to all selectmen.

Mr. Brown raised the issue of a public hearing for the cable franchise. He informed the selectmen he does not believe Comcast will grant the broadcasting ability (point of origin) at the fire station that was requested during negotiations. Mr. Rafter inquired as to whether the Cable Franchise Renewal Advisory Committee should review the final contract. Mr. Brown explained the committee handed things off to the selectmen and was disbanded in November but Mr. Brown indicated he believes it would be good to have Mr. Stucker, who was chairman of the committee, review the contract to be sure nothing has been dropped or missed. Mr. Brown will contact Mr. Stucker. There was a brief discussion around the passage of the new fund for half of the cable franchise fees and when monies will be placed in the account. Mr. Brown will follow

up on this. There was a brief discussion around increases in cable bills. The selectmen and Mr. Brown noted the town has no say or control over pricing or line-up. We will make tentative plans for a public hearing on April 11, 2011.

There was a brief discussion around Town Meeting. The selectmen feel the meeting went well and the Moderator did a fine job, overall.

Mr. Brown reported he has requested quotes to get the monitor on the fuel system at the old garage back up and running. He has received one proposal leading him to believe this project will be expensive. There was a brief discussion around fuel usage. At this time, we have already used 30% of the fuel budget. The company that hauls our clean wood from the recycling center is adding a fuel surcharge of 4.2% to their billing. Chair Anderson is hopeful the new piece of equipment (Versahandler), which was approved at Town Meeting, will reduce the number of hauls. Mr. Brown will check on cash flow with the treasurer. He indicated new equipment is not usually purchased until May, allowing for tax bills to go out and money to start coming in.

The selectmen reviewed mail and manifests. They signed the MS-2, new signature cards for the bank, and certificates of authority. There was some discussion around processes for the benefit of Mr. Rafter.

Chair Anderson informed all there will be a Building Committee meeting on Monday, March 21, at 7PM in Conference Room #1. They will be discussing details of a new highway garage. Chair Anderson indicated there is much regulation surrounding this project. Mr. Rafter suggested the committee broadcast their meeting as this issue is of interest to the residents.

Chair Anderson informed the public that all articles on the warrant, with the exception of two, passed. The town voted not to change the distribution of the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT), and they voted not to support the petition article pertaining to entrance onto private property.

Ms. Bonser informed all she had reviewed the minutes of the April 26, 2010 meeting, noting that the selectmen have not made a final commitment to the Danais easement at 3 Ledge Farm Road.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Rafter discussed office orientation. Mr. Rafter will come in this Friday, between 8:00 and 9:00 AM, to orient with Mr. Brown. Chair Anderson noted that sometimes there are scheduling difficulties/conflicts for the selectmen when trying to carry out all their liaison/representative duties. Mr. Rafter briefly discussed some areas where he is interested in obtaining information. He is very interested in communications and would like to have a better understanding of the website and Channel 22. He would like to discuss putting e-mail contacts on the website. There was a brief discussion around equipment, the new contract, the new fund for franchise fees, and the future. Ms. Chauvey encouraged the selectmen to move forward and appoint a committee or commission to oversee operations and maintenance of the communications systems.

Mr. Brown reported that Chief Foss is not planning to hire a new officer until such time as the current cadet graduates from the academy and gets up to speed with the department.

Ms. Bonser informed Chair Anderson she has a scheduling conflict for the next scheduled meeting on March 28. There was discussion around topics of the meeting. Ms. Bonser will not be attending.

Acknowledged by Chair Anderson, Mr. Mills informed the selectmen that the motion which was made at the Selectmen's Workshop held on Thursday, March 10, is flawed, as written. He read a prepared statement. He wants to be sure that the last sentence is not part of the motion in the official file as Mr. Bock took the vote prior to reading the last sentence. Mr. Mills, also, Googled the term nunc pro tunc and read some of the definitions he found. He feels the road list which was made part of the motion includes two roads (Snow Lane and Union St.) that were not included on the hearing notice from 1995. He feels these should be removed and put on another list. He advised the selectmen to seek legal advice on this motion. Acknowledged by Chair Anderson, Ms. Chauvey clarified that the motion made on March 10 was not done under nunc pro tunc, this was simply a conversation between Ms. Bonser and Mr. Brown during the motion. There was discussion around the hearing, the history of these two roads being maintained prior to and since the hearing. There was talk about the process of making and approving motions.

Acknowledged by Chair Anderson, Mr. Morin informed the selectmen he is looking to volunteer time on Town boards. He came to follow up on the elections as he is aware he received some votes. He was advised to see the Town Clerk.

Having no further business,

Motion: Rafter, second Bonser to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: All in favor. Motion passed 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Traci Chauvey

Recording Secretary