

Minutes
Nottingham Selectmen's Meeting
February 11, 2013

6:34 PM Chair Bonser opened the meeting and asked all those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Mary Bonser, Hal Rafter and Mark Carpenter.

Others: Charles A. Brown, Town Administrator, Dawn Wirkkala, Secretary, Susan Mooney, Sandra Vilchok, Jaye Vilchok, Celia Abrams, Sam Demeritt, Raelene Shipee-Rice, Kristen Lamb, and others from the Conservation Commission

OUTSTANDING MINUTES:

Motion: by Mr. Rafter, second by Mr. Carpenter to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2013 meeting as amended.

Vote: 3 - 0 in favor.

Motion: Motion by Mr. Rafter, second by Mr. Carpenter to approve the non-public minutes of the January 28, 2013 meeting as amended.

Vote: 3 - 0 in favor.

MANIFEST SIGNATURE:

Motion: Motion by Mr. Carpenter, second by Mr. Rafter to approve the 2/11/13 manifest.

Vote: 3 - 0 in favor.

General Business and Department Reports:

Recycling: It was stated the new sign has been ordered. It will show the new hours, for both Summer and Winter hours.

Pawtuckaway Test Pulse Result Meeting: Chair Bonser reported it was one of the better and more productive meetings with NHDES. Some interesting information was provided and it would be made available on the Town website. Ms. Kelly provided a summary of the meeting: Mr. Diers suggested that there is some "tolerance" in the in-stream management plan that would allow for a withholding of water pulses from Pawtuckaway in the summer if there had been prolonged and repeated drought conditions in two consecutive years or on some other kind of frequent basis within a ten year interval. Ms. Kelly stated if knowing this kind of flexibility is possible, why couldn't the plan "tolerate" one drought event during the winter without a water pulse relief so long as the following years allow for winter pulses according to the original plan. At least two factors argue in favor of this approach: 1. The evidence of need for pulse releases in winter is far less compelling, than in summer and 2. In the winter, implementing the plan requires a change to Pawtuckaway that has real potential for damage in advance of and irrespective of the actual need for extra water to be impounded. Every year damage may occur without the need for any pulse release to actually occur. The questions regarding the issue are why can't implementation of the winter plan be delayed until there is an actual need for pulse releases is demonstrated through measured drought conditions over specified periods and why can't implementation be done gradually over the course of a few years, as suggested by Mr. Diers, to allow residents time to prepare for the change and guard against damage.

Chair Bonser reported the actual plan would be available from NHDES within a couple of months and there is hope the Town will receive the opportunity for a review of the plan prior to being released to the public. Mr. Carpenter stated he would like to have the report two weeks prior to release for review and comment.

Mr. Carpenter asked if people were working better together and Chair Bonser stated it appears to be more of a partnership.

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Chair Bonser asked to have the recorded meeting re-aired on Saturday and Ms. Wirkkala would put the program on the schedule.

Fire Department: Chief Vilchuck presented forms for new deputy fire wardens, Christopher Robinson and Daniel Brothwell, and also the Chief's annual review from the Fire Marshall's office.

Motion: by Mr. Rafter, seconded by Mr. Carpenter to approve the appointment of Christopher Robinson and Daniel Brothwell as Deputy Fire Wardens.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Chair Bonser asked about the department's storm related activities with the weekend storm. Chief stated there were approximately five calls and full weekend coverage was provided with full time and volunteer staff.

Chief Vilchuck stated an offer has been presented to Daniel Brothwell to become a full time Fire Department employee and Mr. Brothwell accepted the offer. All Board members and Mr. Brown stated Mr. Brothwell is a great choice.

Mr. Brown stated the Rymes letter from the Fire Chief has been received and will be sent to town council for review. Chair Bonser stated if there are any additional questions another meeting should be held between the Selectmen and the Chief regarding the letter.

Mr. Rafter asked how long it would take to get an answer from town counsel regarding the Fire Chief's letter regarding the Fernald/Rymes issue and if the next step would be for the Building Inspector to deny the building permit. Mr. Brown didn't know how long the review would take. Mr. Carpenter asked if the Building Inspector should write his letter in conjunction with the Chief's letter and there was agreement. General discussion took place about the possibility of legal action on the matter and the attorney's opinion regarding possible outcome.

Police Department: Mr. Brown provided the Selectmen the summer Pawtuckaway Lake service detail agreement for Nottingham Police to provide security at Pawtuckaway State Park.

Motion: by Chair Bonser, second by Mr. Carpenter to authorize the Chief of Police to act as an authorized agent to sign the agreement with the State of New Hampshire to provide detail services at Pawtuckaway Park during the summer season, no more than 120 hours should be provided.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Highway Department: Mr. Brown reported there was only one small accident with a plow truck during the weekend storm and there were no injuries.

APPOINTMENTS: 7:00 pm: Conservation Commission, 7:15 pm: None, 7:30 pm: None

7:00 pm: Mr. Demeritt presented a letter to the Selectmen requesting a possible change in the amount of salt the Highway Department applies during the winter season. Ms. Mooney stated the issue has been brought forward with concern about the appearance of excessive use of salt during a minor storm early in the winter and additional questions about the best uses of sand and salt use during the winter. Ms. Mooney stated the intent of changes would be a possible consideration of finding alternatives to use on the roads, reducing or eliminating the use of salt. There are classes at UNH that the Road Agent and Highway staff could take to review best practice plowing procedures and possible alternatives to salt. Given that Nottingham residents all have private wells, alternatives should be considered.

Discussion took place about the availability of classes and it was stated the classes were typically held during the fall.

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Mr. Carpenter asked what salt alternatives were available and where was the problem found. It was stated they were Town Roads and not state maintained roads. Ms. Mooney stated she didn't know of the alternatives, but other alternatives may be better. A recent study has indicated the salt levels are above the EPA recommendations; with a major source coming from road salt.

Ms. Smith stated there is a liquid solution that is better and more effective than regular road salt; the same product the state is using on the main highways. It was stated additional or new equipment would be needed. Chair Bonser asked to determine where exactly the state is using the liquid product.

Mr. Rafter asked about the cost of the classes and it was stated the typical cost of a class is approximately \$40.00; and it was decided more than one person could attend. Mr. Rafter stated he also saw areas with heavy salt use, including at the Town Offices and it might be possible the existing equipment might need to be recalibrated or maybe new equipment is needed.

Ms. Abrams stated the salt is harming native vegetation and killing the pine trees at the Library due to an excess of the salt coming from the road and parking lots.

The decision was made to have the Conservation Commission come back and meet with the Selectmen and Road Agent to discuss the matter again on March 25 at 7:00 pm.

School Channel: Chair Bonser asked about the disputed Access AV bill and Ms. Wirkkala stated they haven't been called yet. Mr. Carpenter stated the school is missing a fiber cable inside the school. Mr. Brown reported cable has been ordered and the school will seek re-imbursement from the Cable Franchise account. Mr. Carpenter stated Comcast has finally provided a diagram of connections.

Budget Review: Chair Bonser stated there appears to be no questions regarding the Warrant and the MS-7 form is fine.

Mr. Carpenter asked if the salary amount for the Recycle Center has been increased with the possibility of adding an extra person to their Friday Schedule, as indicated at previous meetings.

Mr. Brown reported he has not increased the amount and Mr. Carpenter asked if the existing amount would be enough to cover an additional person.

Mr. Rafter asked if there could be a shift of people for the Thursday and Friday schedules. Mr. Brown stated Thursday's have always had four people to deal with the increase of people delivering construction and debris and the selling of stickers and fewer people on Friday's.

Chair Bonser asked about additional funds being placed into the budget with the recent roof shoveling expenses. Mr. Brown stated he would review the amounts and make changes.

Mr. Rafter asked if the Recycle Center amount could be amended at the budget hearing or at Town Meeting and it was stated it could change at the budget hearing or Town Meeting.

Mr. Brown reported an additional \$10,000.00 to the legal account with the possibility of more legal expenses and reviewed the other minor changes made to the budget.

Chair Bonser asked about the Strafford Regional Planning amount and Mr. Brown reported after review with the LGC, the Town can make the decision to not pay but they will no longer be a voting member. It was stated the Planning Board Chair agrees with the decision and there was agreement to leave some funds in the account to pay for any needed services on an hourly basis.

Motion: by Chair Bonser, second by Mr. Carpenter to reduce the Strafford Regional Planning Commission amount to \$2,500.00.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

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129 Mr. Rafter asked about any potential power savings with the changes of power supplier. Mr. Brown
130 stated he would not change the budget, because the electric bills have been too unpredictable;
131 higher than normal at the Fire House but lower than typical at Town Offices.

132 Mr. Brown reported the warrant articles have been sent to the DRA and town council for their
133 review and comment.

134 Mr. Carpenter asked about the MS-7 total, as the amounts presented at the last Budget Committee
135 meeting indicated a possible decrease, but it now looks like there will be a slight increase in the
136 budget. Mr. Brown reported the amounts listed show amounts that have already been raised; it is an
137 accounting procedure for the form and there will be additional revenues that aren't listed on the
138 MS-7. Mr. Brown stated he would review the estimated tax impact of the proposed operating
139 budget and reported the estimated town tax rate might be lower than the 2012.

140 **ADJOURNMENT**: Having no further business,

141 7:53 PM **Motion**: Rafter, second Carpenter to adjourn.

142 **Vote**: 3 - 0 in favor.

143 Respectfully Submitted,

144 Dawn Wirkkala