

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JANUARY 27, 2009

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.

Present: Neal Huntoon, John Chiarella, Don Hill

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Sanborn Hill Road – property discussion:

Richard Fraser, from One Source Properties and Permitting LLC., met with the Board relative to the availability of the Al Lindquist (formerly Abbondanza) property on Sanborn Hill Road, for purchase. Brad Butcher, Road Agent, was also in attendance at this meeting and recently visited the site with Mr. Fraser. Mr. Fraser's presentation included a description of the 31± acres, 14 of which is graded, flat, open area. A detention basin was established on the property under a site specific permit granted to Continental Paving when the property was used as a staging area during improvement on Interstate 89. The property has the potential for providing aggregate materials to the town over the course of many years. It also would provide an opportunity from the prospective of housing and operation of the highway department from that site, and other municipal functions as might be required in the future.

The Selectmen discussed the limitations of the current highway site. The idea of maintaining the concept of a town center was discussed. The aggregate would be of great benefit to the town. Relocation of the highway department would be a viable possibility and would enable future expansion for the fire department at the current site when needed. Site work on the property would be minimal and would provide a practical way to fulfill several needs of the town.

The Selectmen and Brad felt the proposal was definitely an idea worth looking into. The Selectmen indicated that they will review the information presented and consider the proposal in future planning. The Board thanked Mr. Fraser for his presentation.

Highway Department:

Brad reported that the black truck has been repaired and is back in service.

Brad reported that there have been problems with the furnaces at the garage. He had Mason look at them and Mason thinks he can keep them working through the winter. Mason has recommended that a chimney be built and all four units replaced. Neal stated he had hoped the furnaces could be replaced with a chip boiler, but this may not be an option due to the urgency to replace the units that are there. The Selectmen agreed to list furnace replacement as a priority on their project list.

Star Lake Properties:

Todd Richardson from Star Lake Properties, and Pierre Bedard, Surveyor, met with the Board. Pierre presented the Board with an extract of data he has acquired researching the status of a portion of Stryker Road. Records show that a portion of the road was discontinued by a vote at town meeting in 1859 from the house that still exists on the property, (formerly owned by Blood), to the existing cemetery. Star Lake Properties is in the process of preparing a conservation easement to be held by Ausbon Sargent Land Trust, and the status of the boundary in question needs to be clarified for the easement. The Selectmen reviewed the documentation prepared by Pierre and agreed the information does support the discontinuance. The Board discussed the process for road discontinuance and would like to have legal counsel take a look at the documents and make a recommendation. The Selectmen agreed to place an article on this year's warrant if additional action is necessary.

Minutes: The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 13, 15, & 19, 2009.

Board and Department Updates:

John reported on the meeting he attended in Concord with Congressman Hodes regarding the proposed economic stimulus package. 90% of the money received will be controlled by the State. Priority will be given based on the state's red list of projects. Money may be available to towns, but the state has control. Municipalities could also receive something for hazard mitigation. Projects must be shovel ready. Neal discussed the safety problems at the intersection of George Hill and Route 114 and felt this should be listed as a possible mitigation project. The Selectmen will start thinking about other possible projects. Qualifications for projects will go out to municipalities in early February.

WCNH:

The Selectmen discussed the inter-municipal agreement with towns participating in WCNH regarding developing a broadband communications network. Neal made a motion to enter into an inter-municipal agreement by and among the towns of Orford, Lyme, Hanover, Enfield, Springfield, Newbury, New London, and Sunapee to establish a consortium to share in the construction, operation, and use of a broadband communications network, in accordance with RSA 53.A. The motion was seconded by John and unanimously approved. An article will be on the town warrant as was previously recommended by the Selectmen.

Intent to Cut:

The Selectmen reviewed a report of timber being cut on Philbrick Hill Road. There is no Intent to Cut on file. A letter was drafted and will be sent to the owner.

RFP:

The Board reviewed the draft letter to be sent regarding proposals for the statistical update required by the NH Department of Revenue in 2010.

Planning revolving fund:

The Board reviewed RSA 673:16 regarding revolving funds for planning and zoning fees. The board agreed to table further discussion of the RSA until their next meeting.

KRSD Lease agreement:

The Board reviewed RSA 41:11 and recommendations made by legal counsel. The Selectmen will place an article on the warrant that will authorize them to enter into a long-term lease agreement with the KRSD, to begin in 2010 if the school district is agreeable.

Special Duty Wages:

Costs associated with special duty wages were reviewed. Don moved to increase the town's withholding from special duty wages to 15% versus 10%. Fees for the services of an officer will increase to \$45.00 per hour, and cruiser fees will increase to \$12.00 per hour. The motion was seconded by John and unanimously approved. An article to amend the amount to be deposited in the revolving fund will be included on the town warrant.

Correspondence:

The Board reviewed a letter regarding pricing for possible purchase of property by the Town. The Board will discuss the offer with the Budget Committee.

Exemptions:

The Board received a request to increase elderly exemption amounts. A review of income and asset limits and exemption amounts prepared by the Department of Revenue was reviewed and discussed. The Selectmen agreed everyone is feeling the burden of property taxes. The majority of the town tax base is residential use, and the town does not have the benefit of revenue from businesses that many other towns have, which would help offset taxes of residential owners. After review, the Board agreed the town's limits and exemptions appear to be in line with other towns and are not recommending a change at this time.

Fire Truck:

The Board agreed to pursue advertising for the sale of the fire truck. The Selectmen will retain the right to refuse any and all offers.

Reverse 911:

The Selectmen reviewed information from Jessie Levine regarding participation in Code Red, a reverse 911 provider. The Board agreed to participate in the agreement.

Signatures:

The contract with the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Region Planning Commission for a circuit rider for the Planning Board was approved and signed.

Purchase orders were signed for the highway department.

Information from Clayton Platt regarding The Royal Arch and Society Lots, and Dutchman Road was received. Board members will review the information. Discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

The Board voted to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant