

# FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

MINUTES

September 20, 2010

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

The Board met for a non-public meeting on fee waivers at 6:45pm. Ms. Gilman then reconvened the Board in the Nowak Room of the Town Office Building at 7:00 pm. Other members of the Board present were: Mr. Bobby Aldrich, Mr. Matt Quandt, Mr. Bill Campbell, Mr. Don Clement and Town Manager, Russ Dean.

**2. Public Comment** – Anne Surman came before the Board with concerns about comments that Ms. Gilman made at the deliberative session. Ms. Surman said that there is a certain process that needs to be followed and that hiring a new staff accountant would be a contradiction. She also said that voters should be given more credit.

James Knight came before the Board with a concern about hiring the staff accountant when it was already decided in last years budget to not hire anyone. He said that it is confusing and discouraging. He believes that this would be circumventing the budget process and that there should be a vote on the hiring of this position. Mr. Knight recommended that the Board reconsider and suspend the hiring so the Budget Committee can review this.

Gerry Hamel came before the Board with the same concerns. He also stated his concerns about the Town not using the lock boxes and the letters from the Water/Sewer Department about shutting off water to get people to pay their bills. He believes there needs to be some reorganization.

Jay Childs came before the Board with concerns on the new position. He said that the budget was voted on keeping new positions out and asked for a specific walk through on how this new position would be paid for.

Alan Bailey came before the Board stating that the new staff accountant spot was confusing. He asked where the accountant would fit in, why they can't use a consultant and if there would be job losses. Mr. Dean stated that it was costing the Town \$85/hour to pay the consultant. Ms. Gilman stated that no one would loose their job, there would be retraining of staff.

Mr. Knight came back up to the Board and asked if there could be a time set that Mr. Dean could explain where the money would come from to pay for the new position. Mr. Dean agreed to this. Deb Johnson then came before the Board and stated that she also read the recent article in the newspaper with interest. She believes that hiring this accountant would be 'cheating the process'. She asked if Mr. Brabant's comment about being caught up was correct. Mr. Dean confirmed this and said this is possible through the use of consultants. Ms. Johnson continued to say that the problems are based on government and on spoken and unspoken laws of trust. She said that this is corruption of the process to go against what people want and that this position is ill timed. She hoped the Board would reconsider the hiring of the new position.

Mr. Quandt said that this was a long debate and that it was a 3/2 vote. He also said that he would make the motion to reconsider the staff position but he could not do so since he already voted against it.

Anthony Zwaan disagreed with the other speakers. He stated that the Board members are elected officials and that he trusts that they take their responsibilities very seriously. He also said that the Budget Committee is an advisory committee. Mr. Zwaan noted that there are winners and losers and that he will respect the final decision.

# FINAL MINUTES

Anne Surman returned to the microphone to say that Mr. Zwaan's comments were white noise and that the voters voted on this already and the Board can't change this. She believes that people's jobs will be lost.

Mr. Aldrich stated that the Board's number one concern is the water/sewer issue that has the most time and money invested and that the new position is overall a much smaller portion of the budget. He believes that since the voters passed the budget, it is up to the Board to spend that money and it is within their right to do so.

**Mr. Aldrich moved to reconsider the staff accountant position. No second. Motion failed.**

Bob Eastman then came before the Board to ask why Mr. Quandt or Mr. Campbell can not second the motion. Mr. Quandt responded by saying that it is procedure that they can not vote or second on a motion that they already voted against.

### 3. Minutes and Proclamations

#### a. Regular Session: September 13, 2010

Mr. Campbell noted that he was not the person to move the vote under the discussion about the Town Office Operations. Mr. Clement stated that he was the one who moved it.

**Mr. Campbell moved to approve the regular session minutes of September 13, 2010 as amended. Mr. Aldrich seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

### 4. Appointments – Exeter Development Commission, ZBA

**Mr. Clement moved to appoint Barry Sandberg to the EDC with a term ending March 2013. Mr. Aldrich seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

**Mr. Clement moved to appoint Patrick Driscoll as an alternate member to the ZBA with a term ending April 30, 2011. Mr. Aldrich seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

### 5. Department Reports – Assessing, DPW

Town Assessor, John Devittori was in attendance to give the Assessing Department report. The Assessment software update is going well. The majority of property values are down this year. There are some questions and concerns from residents about the assessments that are being cleared up. Out of the 61,000 assessment letters sent out, only 223 had concerns. The values will be finalized by the end of the week. Mr. Devittori gave a handout to the Board and broke down the tax base which has gone down 3% at 1.6 billion dollars. By mid October the new tax rate will be set. If taxpayers believe there is a discrepancy, they can apply for a local abatement at the Assessing office. Mr. Quandt suggested using a more "user friendly" company for the tax payers next time because he heard many complaints about unanswered questions and concerns. Mr. Campbell questioned the acreage amounts for condos because there was a big difference in the '09 acreage. Mr. Devittori said he would look into it.

Director of Public Works, Jennifer Perry was in attendance to give the DPW report. Ms. Perry started her report with a few announcements. There will be a nation wide prescription medication take back at the Police Department on Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 2:00pm where

# FINAL MINUTES

these medications will be properly disposed of. It is free and anonymous. Household Hazardous Waste day will be October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:30am – 11:30am at the DPW. There will be a community discussion on water and waste water systems for the future on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm – 8:30pm at the Co Op School at 100 Academic Way. The DPW has been busy with construction and preparations for winter. September 29<sup>th</sup> will be an in house training day. The final application was been submitted for the Gilman/Stadium well. Smoke testing for the sewers started today and will be going on for the next few weeks. This is non toxic smoke and if any residents should find the smoke in there home, they should contact the DPW. There has been a request for proposals on water/sewer improvements. Maintenance has been working on the Town Hall cupola and security at the Town Offices. Ms. Perry recognized DPW employees for the great work; Matt Berube for his 10 years of service, Steve Toll was voted employee of the quarter, and Dan Morrow for achieving Road Scholar level 2 and Master Road Scholar. Mr. Alan Bailey came before the Board to ask about the cost of Gilman Park and the water rights. Mr. Dean stated that the Charitable Trust is working on this and the easement over the property is being negotiated. The water rights are in the easement. The amount is not yet known.

## 6. Discussion/Action Items

### a. New Business

#### i. FY11 Budget Overview

Mr. Dean gave an overview of the preliminary version of the 2011 budget to the Board. The budget represents a “level service” budget. Mr. Dean outlined the changes to the budget and the basic assumptions used to develop the budget. He also spoke about the warrant article list. The Board spoke about the CIP projects. Mr. Aldrich suggested that the storm drain cleaning, the master plan overview, sidewalk hazard repair, and the rider land purchase be moved to the budget. Mr. Campbell stated that the Raynes Farm project is for improvements not fire protection. Mr. Clement said that he is disappointed in the level service budget. Mr. Aldrich noted that there will be 2 more meetings to make a motion to move the budget to the Budget Recommendations Committee. Ms. Gilman asked that the Board get their comments to Mr. Dean and the budget will be discussed again.

#### ii. CIP Subcommittee Presentation

The presentation was postponed until October 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### iii. Raynes Farm Lease

The Conservation Commission has completed the Raynes Farm lease with a proposed 5 year term. Mr. Aldrich stated that all parties are satisfied with the language. Mr. Dean noted that council looked at the lease and had a couple subtle changes.

**Mr. Aldrich moved the Board to approve the Raynes Farm lease for a 5 year term with amendments commencing from the date of execution of the parties. Mr. Campbell seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

#### iv. Little River Deed Acceptance

Mr. Aldrich said that the Conservation Commission has been working on the Little River deed and is now ready for the Boards approval. The deed will also be signed by the School District.

# FINAL MINUTES

**Mr. Aldrich moved the Board to accept the quitclaim deed and authorize the Chairwomen to sign on the Board's behalf. Mr. Campbell seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

**b. Old Business –**

**i. Municipal Offices Security Policy**

Mr. Dean noted one change under section 4.5 and that he his meeting with department heads. Town Clerk, Linda Hartson came before the Board to say that she needs to have certain people, such as funeral directors and the mothers and infants of home births, in her office for business transactions because of confidentiality and needing the use of her computer. Mr. Dean stated that he would take care of the language to allow her requests.

**ii. Front Street Generator Bid**

Water/Sewer Managing Engineer, Michael Jeffers came before the Board to explain the recent bid for the Front Street generator and what the next step is. He stated that there is no back up generator at the Front Street location and that is why the bid went out. Mr. Jeffers recommended going with the low bidder after seeking information from 2 consultants. The low bidder came back with a recommendation to go with a larger 125 kilowatt generator at a higher price. Mr. Jeffers would like to re-bid the project with a budget of \$53,000 with line filters.

**Mr. Aldrich move to reject all former bids and give the authority to the DPW to re-bid out the Front Street generator. Mr. Quandt seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

**7. Regular Business**

**a. Bid Openings - none**

**b. Accounts Payable and Payroll Manifests**

**Mr. Clement moved to approve the regular weekly payroll warrant for the week ending 9/12/10 in the amount of \$155,214.20. Mr. Aldrich seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

**Mr. Clement moved to approve the accounts payable warrant for the week ending 9/17/10 in the amount of \$465,062.86 Mr. Aldrich seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

**c. Budget Updates – none**

**d. Tax Abatements and Exemptions - none**

**e. Water/Sewer Abatements - none**

**f. Permits**

1. A request for permit for the use of the Town Hall Main Floor for the District 13 State Representative Forum on October 21, 2010 from 6:00 – 9:00pm.
2. A request for permit for the use of the Town Hall Main Floor with stage use for the Seacoast Wind Ensemble on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 1:00 – 5:00pm.

# FINAL MINUTES

**Mr. Campbell moved to approve the permits as presented. Mr. Aldrich seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Mr. Quandt abstained.**

**g. Town Manager's Report** – Information on the administrative service has been circulated. Other communities are being interviewed. Maintenance will be coming up with an estimated cost for the renovation of the lower level of the Town Hall. There are ongoing logistics meetings and Mr. Dean will be coming back with more information for the Board.

**h. Legislative Updates** – Mr. Quandt noted that veto day is October 13<sup>th</sup>.

**i. Selectmen's Committee Reports**

**Mr. Campbell** – The Planning Board met last week.

**Mr. Aldrich** – The Budget Recommendation Committee met last week and set their schedule. The Arts Committee met last week and the Conservation Commission met for a work session.

**Ms. Gilman** – The Historic District Commission met Thursday.

**Mr. Quandt** – There was a River Study meeting last week. There is an Information Technology Committee meeting and Cable Committee meeting next week.

**Mr. Clement** – There was a Heritage Committee meeting last week.

**j. Correspondence** – none

**8. Review Board Calendar** – The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting will take place on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**9. Adjournment**

**Mr. Aldrich moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. Mr. Quandt seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Caruso  
Recording Secretary