

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2019

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, June 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. the following people were in attendance: John Tholl, Stanley Holz, and Peter Corey.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to enter into non-public session at 6:00 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. All in favor, 3-0.

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 6:28 p.m.

Chairman Tholl led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dennis & Linda Streeter of Grandma's Kitchen attended the meeting to discuss with the Board the smell from the pump station that has been going on. Dennis said that Josh came and changed out the filter on the vent and that solved some of the problem. Dennis said the Town did get a copy of a report from a site visit and smoke test that was done in November of 2017. They had recommended some steps to try to resolve the situation. Mr. Larson said the DPW is working on resolving the issue. The problem is where does that air go. We have the gravity and pressure and when the pressure releases it pushes too much gas through the system out the vent tubes. Grandma's is on the lowest end of the line. There are steps that will be taken to alleviate the smell. Dennis said he feels the smell is a public health concern that needs to be addressed. Mr. Corey said to look at the overall systemic issue, which would become an engineering issue. Mr. Larson said he is doing his homework, and we will work on doing what we can to alleviate the smell.

Bob Stiles asked whose responsibility it is for the water shut-offs. The Selectmen said it depends on when it was installed. If it was done before July, 2017, it is the homeowner's responsibility. Bob said he feels this is a hardship on the homeowners, and it should be changed so we are all in the same boat. John said we have been through this a couple of times. The homeowners, if the service was installed before July, 2017 are responsible to the main.

Bob Stiles & Bill Hill were in to discuss having to run their water because the water line on Maple Street Ext. freezes. Bob said he would like to propose put in a new water line from Spring Street. Peter said we talked about this a couple of years ago. The Town's water ordinance says if a line is under two inches it is a privately owned line and the line that runs up Maple Street Ext. is smaller than two inches. When Bob asked about running this line a couple of years ago, the Board did not allow for it a couple of reasons. Every street should have a proper water main running down the street. It is up to the Public Works Director to provide the Board with the priorities of work. We are not even sure where the water freezes on this line. Mr. Hill said he has been told that his line is 2 ½ inches down. Stan Holz said we have to figure out what we have up there. Mr. Larsen said he has drawings from Bob's original sub-division and some history of where things ended up. Rob believes the Town should extend the water line

from Maple Street up to Maple Street Ext. to meet standards. It would solve their issue because we would be below the frost level. The problem is he has not seen any documentation that discloses easements to go through people's property. They all become private systems without the easements. We have no right to do the work on the land without easements from the landowner. Peter said the question is "what are the priorities", as we have a lot of water projects going on currently. Rob said that he has to do some engineering, how much ledge is there, and look at the budgeting issues. It will not be done this summer because it won't be done in this budget season. Mr. Stiles said that there is nowhere to flush that line and Mr. Hill has terrible water. We have to look long-term to fix this to standard. There are no easements. Bob Stiles said he can get the easements we need. Rob said he feels that we have to abandon the old line and put in a new line. The Board suggested that Fred and Rob go out and take a look and see what our options are for Mr. Hill's water. Rob said we are going to be held to a reporting error of 15% or less in our total water volume so we can't allow water to just go running down the road. 47% of our water usage is not going through a meter. We are trying to get after some of these issues. It is a matter of money, time, priorities. Peter suggested that when we did the Dalton water line replacement some of those people were able to access USDA funds so that is may be something they can look into it. Bob Stiles said with the increase in water rates he feels they should get some type of abatement for having to run their water so their water doesn't freeze.

Mr. & Mrs. Ed Quigley attended the meeting to discuss the garden and fountain by the library. Mr. Larson said the land the water fountain is on is town property. Mrs. Quigley said that the fountain is owned by the town as well. Rob said that the repair and meter pits falls under the responsibility for the town. Mr. Larson said we also need to put backflow prevention in, which will also cover the water service for the library. Another option we could look at is we could have a circulating pump so they can have the effects of a fountain without using town water. Rob is concerned with the sanitation of a circular system. Mary Claire said the garden was put in in 1995, and the town was consulted before it was done. It is in memory of her sister. They were asked by the Town to put the garden in there around that fountain so they could refinish the fountain and start it up again. That is why they did it. The Board decided to put in a meter and the town will pay for the water.

Bob Stiles asked about the fountain in front of the grist mill. Marsha said there was rumor that we gave The Summit an abatement on their water bill. Marsha asked when the trees on the common will be going in. Mr. Larson said we are coordinating a delivery with trees going to Littleton. We are putting in four, maybe five trees.

Bill Everleth the Facilities Director for SAU 36 attended the meeting. He wanted to address the notes from the April 2nd Planning Board meeting where they discussed the pump house they put on up at WMRHS. He said he did not get a permit because he thought they were not required to get a permit pursuant to RSA 674:54. He does not understand why he needed a permit. He also found out that the state has a statute if your building is under 200 square foot it doesn't need a permit. Does the Town supersede that or not? Peter said he sits on the Planning Board and he does not know about that RSA. Peter said that our Development Code does supersede the state statute on building size.

Mr. Everleth said the other item that is new to the school district is that we are charging them for tent inspections, occupancy permits. They are just wondering about this, as the school does not charge the town for use of the building for recreation activities. They have expenses associated with that. Peter said those fees have just been instituted, and if the School District wants to charge the Town for use of the school then that is a decision the school board had to decide. Peter said we decided that there are certain services only certain users access and we wanted to shift that cost to them rather than making all the taxpayers pay for it. Mr. Everleth said the Town of Lancaster does not bill them for those services. Mr. Everleth said they are thinking about paving the driveway up to the elementary school and just wanted to check to see if any projects are planned that would impact that. Fred said there is a water project that may happen, but it would not impact their driveway.

Judy Gessner said she is here representing the Whitefield Common Committee. She said they were here to ask a question about allowing posters and signs to be placed on the gazebo. As far as they can remember, we have not allowed that to happen. Recently there have been items placed on the gazebo and town sign. They are wondering if we could come to some sort of consensus that it is better to not do that. They also were wondering if some sort of structure could be put up here at the new town office out front so that those sort of items could be attached to it. After discussion, the Board decided that it would be helpful if they could put together a suggested policy that would give the Board something to work with.

Department Head Meeting:

John Ross, Jr. – Fire Chief

Board signed a MOA for the radio programming.

Alan and John Ross, Jr. will be doing the final acceptance on the truck on Wednesday.

Employee Security agreement – Stanley suggested adding after Town and/or appropriate Department Head. Chief Samson suggested instead of rekeying everything, we consider electronic locks which are much cheaper and easier to change passcodes than to change all the locks.

Ed Samson – Police Chief

SRO Program at the Elementary School has gone well this past school year.

We are fully staffed going into summer; will work on succession plans into the future which will help with retention.

The new cruiser is up and running. Mr. Larson has the old cruiser to use.

Positive feedback on the speed enforcement.

Fred Ingerson – Water Department

Coleman is trying to get back up and running, but they are having a hard time getting people to work.

The pump station project is pretty much done. There is still some work to finish up at the Robinson well site.

The meter project has about 80 meters left to be installed.

Will be starting hydrant flushing.

There was a large sink hole on Route 116 by Knot Hole Road where a boring was done. It was a large hole—it took 12 tons of gravel to fill it. Mr. Larson said Coleman is aware. DOT did the repairs. Rob is going to investigate the equipment that would be required to do sink hole investigations.

Josh Welch – Treatment Plant

--There was an issue with flooding at the UV building.

--Mr. Larson said he and Josh looked at the Summit and their disposal into the sewer system here by the fire station. They are sending down their toilets full sheets and pillow cases along with towels. The issue now is where does it end up. Rob said he did notify the Summit—they are discussing putting in a grinder pump so they can guarantee us it will not happen again. Rob said he and Josh are going to monitor this. If this is going to continue, they will have some responsibility. Josh said it clearly backed up from Jiffy to up here. Peter said if we have to service the sewer again then we should bill them. The house across the street was plugged and Rob said he cannot guarantee they are related.

Melissa Farrow – Recreation Department

Summer program starting

Would like to change key codes

Sewer pipe in the snack bar at the baseball field. There was a plan at one time to put in toilet facilities.

Summer trash issue – build a unit like at Col Town.

Stanley said the Board would like to suggest that the Department Heads get together amongst themselves maybe weekly or as needed. It would be good to talk about things going on the departments so everyone is aware of what is happening. Ed said he did not feel weekly was necessary. Ed will coordinate these meetings.

Rob Larson – Public Works Department

Had one bidder for the Old Kodak dump truck

Reviewed a letter re: the Catholic Church cemetery meter pit – It may be best to reword it that they contact the DOT so we wouldn't be in the middle of it.

Land sale listing at Industrial Park with Peabody & Smith – they are saying \$150,000 market value

Set up a work session to review solar proposals

Building Demolition Projects – Estimates are coming in very high for Elm Street & North Street properties – Rob is thinking he will end up being the general contractor and Normandeau can ship the demolition because they have a contract with Mt. Carberry. He is still working on details and figures. Hopes to have something for next meeting. Union Street is under contract and there is one company that has agreed to do the abatement for \$8,000. We have been holding off for the grant money with NCC so we have to move forward with that contract, which is \$10,000-\$12,000 and \$8,000 for abatement. Peter said just get that one done. John said he feels the one on Elm Street needs to be the first one we do after Union Street.

Rick Wright showed the Board a kiosk he is working on for Forest Lake State Park. That might be a good communication vehicle for the Town to use. He will share with the Common Committee.

A motion was made by Stanley Holz to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2019 and May 14, 2019 and the minutes of the non-public session of May 22, 2019 and May 29, 2019. The motion was seconded by Peter Corey. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed

The Board reviewed the information on the Right of Way Deed/Easement for public access over a portion of the DWP property to the Mt. Washington Regional Airport. This will be referred to our Town Attorney.

Selectmen Committee Reports:

Stanley Holz – EDC update

Issue with EDC initial paperwork for incorporation, possible fine. An attorney did that initial paperwork back when EDC was established. We are working with IRS on this issue.

John Tholl – Airport

Have had to replace several taxiway lights that were damaged during snow removal season

The air show plans are coming along well

Hazard tree removal is coming along well

Airport is wondering about a break on the plowing for this past winter, as Littleton is not funding their share of the IMA.

Sondra Brekke asked about an update on the National Guard – John said the Army is waiting on funding. We don't have an agreement.

Peter Corey – Planning Board

A lot of activity with building permits & septic permits.

Quite a few people are building new homes.

Peter & Tim O'Neil attended the semi-annual conference on planning and zoning in Concord, a lot of discussion on Air BnB's.

The Board is starting to look at set-backs and frontage in the village center, which would both require a town meeting vote.

A motion was made by Peter Corey and seconded by Stanley Holz to approve the proposed Rules of Procedure for the Board of Selectmen. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.