

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
Monday, June 24, 2019

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, June 24, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: John Tholl, Stanley Holz, and Peter Corey.

Chairman Tholl led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Matthew Kelly, Whitefield's representative to North Country Council attended the meeting to update the Board on the recent NCC meetings. He is still getting on board with how it works. The meeting in April covered the southern commission trying to close the gaps between young and older generations. They gave a presentation and explained the grant money they were able to get. There has been some minor grants that have come up. Matt said there are small grants that come up quick, and Matt is wondering how is the best way to get that information quicker to the Board. The Board suggested forwarding the information to Judy and she can get it to us. Another item they have been working on is doing a survey to see what things they can do in the area towns to bring the community together. Items that have come up with the survey is finding out what is going on and transportation were the two big ones. The older people have issues with the technology, using phones and internet access. Current grants discussed at the last meeting: economic development grant - \$3 million ceiling—the bottom is \$100,000 and the top is \$3 million. Housing and public facilities is due the end of July. Planning grant due the end of October. USDA still has funding available for drinking water and water supply source projects. If Whitefield has abandoned buildings, EPA provides money to remove those buildings. They have grant funds available to eliminate potential hazardous structures. Matt will get more information to the Board on those Brownfields grants. Edie asked about the parking lot next to Cumberland—there used to be a gas station there she was wondering if the gas tanks were removed. John said they were. Rob Larson was wondering if those Brownfields grants can be used for residential or are they just commercial buildings. North Country Council is looking to run in the positive for this budget year. They did a parking plan study for the Town of Littleton. Peter said about a year ago WEDC went through an inventory of what we have for parking and problems for parking. We got to a point where we could use external assistance, taking this data and coming up with policies and ordinances to maximize the parking and to improve the parking in the downtown. If NCC could partner with the community and WEDC and take the data and maybe come up with some suggestions, lease policies, ordinances, etc. it would be very helpful. In Littleton they are raising the parking fees. The next meeting is to update the transportation plan. The Board said that Route 3 is on the current plan, and we want to make sure that it doesn't fall off the plan would be a priority. They also offer speed counters for traffic counts if that is anything we would be interested in. Edie Worcester said by her house there are a lot of speeders. The Board suggested checking with the Police Chief to see if that is anything he would be interested in. There is a minor committee to bring fiber optic speeds to the north. Studies showing if the rural areas can get the higher speed internet would bring back the younger people. Big push to bring it back to the north country. It is most likely a project to do on their own. Rick Wright has a question in regards to the regional impact study. They were notified by Dalton that the landfill proposed is a regional impact so that involves all the local towns. Rick's understanding is the regional organization who does a regional impact study. John said until there is a declaration that it is a regional impact there is not much that can be done.

Peter has an issue he feels would be worth bringing up to NCC. The Town made an application to TAP for a grant last year that would create sidewalks from Weeks Medical Center down the hill to the sidewalks on Route 3 and would include a crossing at the Summit and proper crossings on Route 3. Since the Summit has increased their population he has encountered elderly people going up and down the side of the road. Maybe they could help us with a study or an engineering study. Peter thought it was a necessary need. Peter doesn't think they realize the necessity of this project. Stanley said this is becoming a hub with the town offices, ball field, Weeks Medical Center and now the Summit. If they could help us with something it would be very helpful. The shoulders are being used as walkways and are not safe. Matt said a couple of other items addressed at the last meeting was that NCC is going to write a letter to DOT to express their displeasure with the handling of the parking in the Notch. They feel it takes away from tourism. Their Annual Event is coming up in the fall. The board thanked Matt for his representation to NCC on behalf of the Town.

Anne Patterson thanked the Board for letting her come back again. She was here last year to meet with us. She said that back in April she got her water bill and she said it seemed very high. She had the water turned off and there were only two people at the house before the water was turned off completely. It was turned off at the curb so there wasn't any water coming to the house. She thought it was worth bringing up. The Board said the majority of her bill was for the base rate to have water, which was \$135 of the \$200.50 bill. Anne said she did not realize the base rate had increased. John Tholl said we have come across large water bill that had leaks or issues with toilets running, etc. Anne's next issue is last year three supervisors from Coleman met with her because she felt that the lot they are using on Jefferson Road to do staging for the water project was on her property. They all went out and staked it and measured it. This year Anne has noticed visually that it is her belief it is once again on her property. There are huge piles of debris and rubble on her property. Stanley said there is a construction meeting on Wednesday morning and he will bring it up at the meeting. Stanley suggested monitoring future water bills, and she thinks now with the new meters it should be more accurate.

Robert Savard who was on the agenda and did not attend the meeting spoke with Stanley today. There is a new curb stop in so he can have his water shut off, but now he can't get anyone to fix his pipe. Stanley suggested he contact Judy at the town office and she can put him in touch with Fred for suggestions.

Reg Welcome attended the meeting in reference to the letter we sent him in reference to the items at this business at 183 Littleton Road that may constitute a junk yard. He is wondering if we can clarify what the offending items are. Peter said the law basically addresses salvage items, cars, lawn mowers. The intent is to be sure the items are maintained. It is not to force you to get rid of everything, but we need to be sure the stuff you have is maintained according to state law and rules governing those things. Reg said he is working on getting things cleaned up and getting rid of things that are not going to be fixed or sold. All he wants to do is fix usable stuff. There is stuff up in back that is going to be cleaned up as well. He was asking about what we had received for complaints, and Stanley said most of the complaints we get is what people see when they ride by. It would probably be better if the presentation could be neat or clean. The machines across the lot are customer machines. Stanley suggested a vegetative buffer, which may be better than a privacy fence. Vegetative buffers are a standard planning technique. Stanley said if he has a plan to give to us that would be helpful. Stanley said we don't want to put him out of business. We want to work with you. Mr. Welcome said he does not dump fuel or oils or any hazardous materials, etc. A time frame was discussed and it was decided that by August 15<sup>th</sup> – he

will have things cleaned up and the Board will decide if we will have DES for an inspection. Marsha Lombardi said she does not think it is an eyesore. It is a small business, and an asset to the community. She hates to see everyone come down on him. Peter said we have to respect other people's opinions, who do think it is looks bad.

Brian Fogg of George E. Sansoucy's office attended the meeting. We are looking for analysis of the two solar proposals we have received. Brian said he will do us up a memo in the next week or so that would give us the ins and outs of the proposals. Brian said in looking at these proposals quickly they both are relatively in the ball park. They present the information differently, lease payment vs. pilot payment. You are looking at a total dollar amount per MGW. One of the proposals, the Oak Square proposal, has done more due diligence on the acreage. They get compensated differently on the renewable energy credit. Look at the per megawatt basis they are both coming in about the same. It is not far off from what you would normally see. Brian said if you look at the Oak Square market value of \$10 to \$13 million and just apply the property tax rate—it won't happen—they would not get financing. Renewable pilot programs allow you to make accommodations for renewable energy and to encourage long term financing and accommodate services they might require from the community. Better use of the land is to lease it rather than to sell it. Both developers are taking on the responsibility of the risk. There is a question in Brian's mind if the interconnect is available. It probably would be worthwhile to get them both back in here and negotiate with them. Brian said it would be beneficial to ask them both to provide some information of what they are actually paying in other communities to what they estimated.

Edie asked if this solar is definitely going through? John said that we are still negotiating. It depends on the acreage available. They stay out of the wetlands. There is room for the wildlife. John said personally he would rather the town own it rather than lease it and have someone develop something there is a little less offensive to the area. Edie asked if we are selling the property at the industrial park. Stanley said it would have to be a business that would generate jobs. We haven't listed the property at all. Marsha asked if they are responsible to remove the solar panels at the end of the 24 years. She heard those are very toxic. Stanley said we would have to sign a contract that covers the removal of the equipment. We can't leave the panels there. Peter said the ordinance we adopted at town meeting specifies they have to have a bond for decommissioning.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2019. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.