

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2017

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Stanley Holz, John Tholl, and Peter Corey.

Sue Gradual, who is currently the senior recreation director, attended the meeting. She had a draft schedule for April. She has been doing this for about 2 ½ years. It basically consists of working with the seniors at CD McIntyre and some come from outside the building. They will do bingo, puzzles, cribbage, a number of activities to get people working together. Sue said she likes this job. She is getting old and needs to bow out. She is not ready to leave completely so she will stay on and volunteer. She is concerned at this time she has been receiving a stipend for \$200 a month and that helps pay for some things, but there is a person who is quite interested and may be other people who may be interested. Sue said that she feels the stipend is quite low. She is not sure if there is any more money available for that position, but she would like to offer that suggestion. She enjoyed it very much, and it got her up every morning. Patricia Mann is very interested and there may be others interested as well.

Peter said thank you for what you do and he knows people who participate and they enjoy it and get out of an isolated existence. Do you have a date certain? Sue said Monday. She has to go see her children in Texas. She can get people to come in while she is gone. Sue is not sure the proper way to submit her resignation. Peter said a simple letter of resignation or retirement with a date, which would give the Board an official date. If she is willing to assist after that with the transition that would be great. With respect to the stipend, Peter said we just finished the budget process, and there was not additional monies planned for it. It is not to say we can't find additional monies for it, but that means we take it from elsewhere in the budget. John said we will miss her, and he knows she does a good job there. Peter asked Sue to get the letter to Judy with the list of people who may be interested.

Monthly Department Head Meetings

Peter said once a month we ask the Department Heads to come in and give us a status of what is going on and gives us a chance to ask them any questions.

Peter said the first item is we would like to garner feedback from the Department Heads whether or not they think raising the purchase limit amount would assist them in the execution of their budget. They are all responsible for their budgets, and he hasn't seen anything to cause us alarm. The current limit is \$1000. Peter asked the Department Heads what they thought would be a reasonable figure. In this day and age \$1000 doesn't get you too far. Waiting for signatures can delay things a week or more.

Shawn thought the \$2000 number would be a good limit. Shawn thought it would be good to let the other departments work like the public works. He doesn't come to the board for salt, stone, sand, etc. Shawn said when it comes to maintenance issues they should have areas where they can get items they need. If Fred needs to get a hydrant, he shouldn't have to come to the Board.

Stanley asked about bidding procedures. Shawn said he has always argued against it. He likes the word proposal. If he put a bid out and then he got numbers back then we were locked in to the low bid. Shawn gets four companies with proposals and says sharpen your pencils.

Judy said when we were meeting with FEMA on the FEMA grant, Heidi Lawton gave us some sample procurement policies from other towns. Judy will get copies to the Board and we will discuss the bidding/proposal process at a future meeting.

Ed Samson said he thought \$2,000 was good, Josh Welch thought \$2,000 would be good unless there was an emergency. Fred said \$1,000 was working for him, and John Ross said \$1,000 was fine. Kelly still thought it was \$500.

John Tholl made a motion to approve the upgrade of the purchase order requirements for Board of Selectmen approval to \$2000, and exempts road maintenance materials and emergency repairs for departments. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

Shawn White – Public Works Department

Shawn White discussed with the Board the move of a replacement transformer from the Whitefield railway by the airport to the Littleton Substation on Foster Hill Road.

Shawn said about 8 years ago they moved a transformer that was brought in to the rail yard by the airport. Shawn said it was done then at the end of the summer, early fall. It was a disaster. Shawn had recommended that it be brought in at the Pike yard in Twin Mountain. Shawn said this a 350,000 lb. piece of equipment. They use heavy hauler trucks, one truck pulls and two push. Last time they did it, they took out the drive train and had to park it there for a day. They got a specialized truck and a loader at the power plant to get them up the road. When they got to the crest of the road, it broke the trailer. They have the recommendation for the same plan this time. Shawn has expressed his concerns about Colby Road. They wanted to do it the first week of April, and Shawn had said no way with the road conditions. They now want to wait until the end of April/May. Shawn's recommendation is they find another place to take it to, not Hazen Road. Peter remembers in the past it going to Wing Road, and Shawn said that rail system is in such poor condition, they won't even put a rail on it. Peter asked about brining it down into town to the rail yard on Union Street. Shawn said possibly they could do that. Shawn said his recommendation to them is we need a \$200,000 bond and they would have to hire an engineering firm, they would have to plate the culverts like last time, and a minimum of \$200,000 bond that wouldn't be released until they paid the engineer. From the sounds of the e-mail, it sounds like they are telling us they are doing it. Shawn said the trucking company knows they have to abide by our rules if they are traveling on the roads. Colby Road is a banned road. Sondra Brekke asked where this is going and it is going down to Littleton. Rick Wright said another option is going up to Airport Road over to 115. Shawn doesn't remember the issue of getting it to Route 3. Shawn said we will try the Route 3 if it has to go on a town road the stipulations are \$200,000 bond and the town will hire an engineer to monitor the roads before and after. The last time when we did it the moving company balked at paying the engineering bill.

Peter said he will call our Eversource contact. Peter's concern is that some of the challenges to Northern Pass involved local control of town roads and towns were told that the rules didn't apply in this case. Peter wondered if the same ruling would apply to this or not.

Shawn said the winter is winding down. The guys have been spending quite a bit of money to put stone down on dirt roads. There has been a lot of praise for the crew. The six-wheeler is currently at Burt's and is undergoing the rebuilding of the engine. They are down a truck. Peter asked if they are starting

to plan for the summer work schedule. Shawn said not yet, usually in June, and hopefully by then we will have a replacement for him.

Shawn thanked Fred for last week spending some time pushing back snow with the grader.

Kelly Smith – Recreation Department

Baseball season/softball season sign-ups are happening. Basketball season is done. There was a little bit of conflict with a coach so Kelly finished out the season with that team. We had two 5/6 basketball teams, a ¾ team, a ½ team and kindergarten, pre-school team. Not a lot for baseball have signed up yet, but we will have a lot this week, as it is the last week. Kelly is working on the summer program. She is going to extend the program by 15 minutes to assist people with their work issues. Kelly said the parents just needed that extra 15 minutes so they decided to add it on. They are increasing the cost of the program. Kelly is not sure if Twin Mountain is having a program this summer or not.

Peter asked how the ski program went, and Kelly said it went well. The parents carpool to Cannon. We had to cancel one day because the school cancelled. They made it up. Downstairs is working out well. The sound down there at times gets loud. It is the space and it has an echo. Parents are very grateful for the many days that after school activities were cancelled and we still had the after-school program. They are beyond grateful. The only thing Kelly is dealing with is the bus. They have a longer bus route and the behaviors are not the best. The bus company is telling Kelly this is a courtesy stop. Ed said he uses the program. It has just recently become an issue with the bus. It is not large behavior issues or one individual kid who yells out. Ed feels the long bus ride contributes to it. The school continues not to be supportive of the program. The bus company follows the track of the school. Ed said it is a minor problem that has been blown up into a big issue.

Kelly said the Easter program was last weekend. We use the school for that. We have quite a few that come and the school is a good location for it. John was wondering about the Legion post for activities like that. We will use the school field for softball again. Kelly was wondering if the snack shack was done. He needs to get his stuff out of there. Opening day is May 5th. The Board should write a letter that his items need to be done a week and the items listed in the contract be done before that.

Shawn said before the next Department Head meeting he will have quotes for the skid steer at the transfer station. He is working with two vendors.

Ed Samson said the Whitefield PD has gone through some transitions. We had a new officer who started in February, Officer Max Hodgdon, who came certified from Belmont PD. Ryan Presby is leaving the end of May. We were fortunate to have a certified officer who will start Wednesday, Patrick Cunningham from Lisbon. He will have two months to train with Ryan Presby and hopefully transition to that position. It is expensive to replace an officer with equipment and uniforms. Ed said we continue to deal a lot with the opioid issues.

Josh Welch – Whitefield Sewer Treatment Plant

Josh said that he hasn't had any major break downs. Josh said we have been violating as far as e-coli and BOD's, which we always do when the weather gets cold. We always violate e-coli in the winter and Josh said he is not sure why. BOD's climb as well. We put oxygen in full strength and hopefully it will start turning around here. We report the violation when we do our monthly reports. That is all we have had

to do so far. They will send a letter if we need to address anything else. Josh thinks it will start turning around. Why does the cold weather increase the e-coli?

Josh said that the state says it has nothing to do with the UV system. Josh has done the test back to back and it will be through the roof one day and the next day it is fine. Once fall hits they start getting high numbers. Hopefully with the new plant it will take care of this. There is a new UV system in Bethlehem and it makes a big difference.

Peter asked Josh if he has been doing any tests for Wright-Pierce, and Josh said he has been doing two days a week Mondays and Tuesday running a composite sample for the influent for Wright Pierce and sending it to the lab. It is a five-day test so the latest we can drop off is on Wednesday. Josh said he would like to test during the busy times at Mt. View to see if it changes anything. That is all he has been in touch with Josh on so far. He wants to come up at some point and see what we would like for equipment and pumps, etc.

Rick Wright asked if the UV unit is calibrated frequently and at different temperature levels. Josh said that you don't really calibrate it. We replace the bulbs in it once a year. Usually if we get higher e-coli counts we pull the bulbs out and wipe them down. There is no specific testing of that unit. It is a big fluorescent light fixture.

Peter asked where are we with the pump station up by Grandma's? The filter has not been put on in it, but we do have it. Josh will put that on and then we have done everything we can do. He will get that done right off.

Fred Ingerson – Water Department

Fred said that there have not been any big emergencies. He started reading meters today. The water line from Colby Road to Colby tank he was able to cut out with a chain saw and mark it out. Cleaning up some old paper work in the office. He sent in a back-flow report to the state. They had another meter presentation today, which was a radio drive-by system.

Steve Lafrance asked the Board if it is ok to switch the existing easement to a new proposed easement for Kevin Camm at the Bray Hill site. The Board said they are fine with it as long as the Board has legal authority to sign the easement.

Shawn asked Fred when he expects Ethan to come back? Fred is thinking he is using him this week for meter reading. Shawn is thinking April 1st, unless we get a big storm.

As soon as weather allows, we will start hydrant flushing. Peter asked about the hydrant at the end of the paving on Jefferson Road. Fred said the valve is buried under the road. Ed said he noticed that one of the cannon balls has rolled off. One of the balls has been stolen. The Board should consider removing that monument. It is scheduled to be removed in the 10-year plan. Shawn thinks it should be moved over by the war memorial. There is a plaque next to it.

John Ross, Jr. – Fire Rescue

John Ross, Jr., Fire Chief, said the fire alarm is up and running at the fire station. We are in for a record year with the EMS calls at the rate we are going, and the Summit has not even opened yet. We have a lot of per diems out of town. Most people work two to three different towns.

The Board signed the paperwork for the municipal note with Passumpsic Savings Bank for the purchase of the fire truck. John will order the truck tomorrow. The 9-1-1 sign program is going well. We are starting a new program to get alarms and CO detectors for homes with people over 60 and children under 6. They are all new state of the art detectors, all blue toothed. It is a Federally funded program through the state, they supply all the detectors, training, publications and the Fire Department will volunteer their time to install them in the houses.

Rick Wright asked John if when the Summit opens, do you anticipate having to hire more people? John said it will be a bigger load. You are talking at least 120 people so it will increase the load. Dalton helps out immensely. It was asked if they have a lot of calls from Morrison, and John said it is hit or miss.

John Tholl made a motion to approve the March 12, 2018 Selectmen's Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. Stanley abstained from voting as he was not in attendance at the meeting. 2-0 in favor. Motion passed.

John Tholl made a motion to approve the March 20, 2018 Selectmen's Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. All in favor 3-0. Motion passed.

The Board had a discussion about the Selectmen committee assignments, and no decisions were made at this time.

A motion was made by John Tholl, seconded by Stanley Holz, to enter into non-public session at 7:55 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(b) the hiring of any person as a public employee. Roll Call to enter non-public session: Tholl – Yes; Holz – Yes; Corey – Yes. The Board adjourned from non-public session at 8:50 p.m.

A motion was made by John Tholl, seconded by Stanley Holz, to enter into non-public session at 8:50 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. The Board adjourned from non-public session at 9:10 p.m.

The Selectmen's meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.