

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
September 24, 2018

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, September 24, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., the following people were in attendance: Stanley Holz, John Tholl, and Peter Corey.

The Board of Selectmen placed a conference call to Tim Vadney at Wright-Pierce for a quick update on the project. He said they continue to move forward with the site plan, site piping, and tankage layout for the PDR. Josh Welch has been helpful with the testing. They had an engineer at the plant last Friday. They continue to work with the Sequence Batching Differentials, they plan to issue a pre-selection for that component of the project. They are continuing to get prices together for the different components of the project. As we discussed previously, the Town will need to decide if they want to pursue additional funding at the March, 2019 town meeting. They are still on track to have the PDR to the Board for review for October 19<sup>th</sup>. Tim said the numbers are a bit better, but we are not going to get the recommended project for \$700,000. We still have multipliers for contingencies, and we may be comfortable to bring those down as we get further along in the process. We will need to have this discussion. Our expectation is you are not going to hit the dollar figure we have available to us at this time. The baseline project will cost you more in the long run. As soon as we know the number, we will do our best to chase additional funds. Tim said they have been looking into that as well. We are working with SRF and Rural Development. They are not willing to commit until they get better numbers from the PDR.

A motion was made by John Tholl to approve the minutes of September 10, 2018 Selectmen's Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

Sam Chase and Duane Hall are our current representatives for the Town of Whitefield to North Country Council. Peter said we don't have to decide tonight. We should try to come up with some names before the 10/22 meeting. Sondra Brekke asked what the representatives do. Peter said that the representatives act as liaisons between North Country Council and the Town so that NCC can provide effective assistance and enhanced considerations in regional and local planning activities. The representative would provide vital updates about their community while also working in concert with other member communities in order to govern how NCC staff carry out activities and respond to issues on a local and regional level. Tom Ladd said it would be good to know when their meetings are held.

Maria Black attended the meeting. She is proposing a walking project and coming here tonight looking for input, support, and to see where it comes from—who has what. She said they investigated the walking trail at the elementary school that goes off Greenwood Street. There are seven lights along there, the trees are covering the lights and some are broken. It doesn't look like the lights work. She wanted to point that out that those are some of the obstacles. The bush has grown up and blocked the path. They want to try to create a walking Wednesday, like Littleton has, meet the kids on the common, and have some crossing guards. She has talked with parents, who seem interested. She spoke with Bea Harden about getting involved. Bea has been involved with the school in creating walking trails—there are about a mile of trails around the school they have fixed up. Who maintains the trail? Stanley said he was on the school board when the school was built, and he was under the impression that once you are off the street it is all school property. She was told that the town would maintain the road going up and the path was supposed to be taken over by the town. Stanley said the reason that path fell into disrepair, the site was moved further up and the path where it came out it didn't actually come up to the

school at this time. The Town has nothing to do with the path. It is school property—it was supposed to be a school-maintained walking path. Stanley said that you won't find an agreement with the Town and School about that because there wasn't one. Mrs. Black said that the kids would like the opportunity to walk to school. She said it is really not a safe choice for kids to walk at this point with the condition of the path. The road and the crossings, are the Town's responsibility. She said they talked about meeting with the police chief and training crossing guards and painting sidewalks where kids will enter the path. She is talking about one day a week doing this. We would like a safe environment for kids to walk. Peter said he has lived here since the school was built and the Town has never been responsible for maintaining that trail. Peter is pretty sure that is the case. The best approach would be to go to the school, trim the trees back, and see if the lights are functional or not. The whole part of pedestrian traffic to the school is difficult. It is extremely complex. It is not to say you can't do what you want to do with a little bit of effort and cleaning up things. Maria said they will approach the school board. She would like to increase walking overall in town.

Mrs. Black said they own buildings on Route 3, and it is her understanding that some of the pipes will be replaced and new sidewalks will be installed. Selectman Corey said that is on the DOT Ten Year Plan. Peter said he would encourage her and any other interested residents to show up at these public hearings on the 10-year plan and speak out in support of this project. It is on the 10-year plan, but sadly it is not scheduled until 2027. John Tholl said that this is not unusual. The projects get juggled yearly. Mrs. Black said since Dollar General opened there is increased foot traffic on that road, and she is afraid of people going up and down that road. The foot traffic has increased tremendously.

Mr. Diego of the Mt. View Grand attended the meeting to discuss the water backflow preventer for the Mt. View Grand. Mr. Diego said when the hotel was renovated there were two improvements that were done through economic development, lift station for the sewer, which there is an easement for the Mt. View, and it is owned by the town. There is also a similar situation with the sewer for the club house and the fire suppression equipment. There is a reservoir line up to the tank that is owned by North Country until September 30, 2020 then it reverts to the hotel. This summer when a town water line broke and water was turned off but water continued gushing, Dean and Allyn, the hotel's fire suppression company came in and determined that there was gray valve that is there but there is no backflow preventer between the reservoir and the main line. The original plan done in 2002 didn't have a backflow preventer designed into it. Typically it is required. That is the existing situation and Mr. Diego talked to Dean and Allyn and Steve Lafrance and it seems like the best route to go is to have a new above-ground structure to house a backflow preventer and altitude valve. Mr. Diego asked Steve Lafrance, could it be included in this water project and he checked with Rural Development and if the town took ownership and maintenance of it then it could be included in the water project. Peter said the long-term issue for the Town is the long-term ownership of it. Peter can see how we got into this, and Peter said he feels that we are willing to work with you on this. Peter said that we certainly have responsibility on how we got into this predicament so we share some of the burden to get out of this predicament. Without a final design, how does Mr. Diego feel about the hotel having ownership of the structure? The backflow preventer has to be installed. If it was included in the current water project, based on Steve's email, the Town would have to accept ownership and maintenance of it. If that was done and a condition for it to be done, another way of doing it is an arrangement between the Town and the hotel, and to create some type of fee that is accrued. Can the hotel pay for the annual maintenance of it? Peter said potentially we could collaborate to do this outside of the RD project so it is not encumbered by the RD

requirements. Peter has a problem with the Town having ownership of the backflow preventer and the building. Fred said he asked DES and they have never heard of that happening before, and they suggested working with the hotel to come up with some sort of solution. The Board said they want to work something out. It is there because of what the town agreed to in the past. Mr. Diego said he can ask his general contractor to take a look at it and see what the cost might be. He said that he can come back and share with us and work out something that is fair. Fred said that DES is looking for a date when this will be worked out by and they didn't give an exact time frame. If they didn't find out a solution fairly soon, they would be getting involved. Let's come up with a proposal that works functionally, financially and aesthetically and see how soon we can get it done. The Town will check with Steve Lafrance to see if there is limitation on how long the town would have to be responsible for it if we go with RD funds. Stanley said he is willing to come up with a plan, as long as the Town doesn't end up with the bill for the yearly maintenance.

Mrs. Black had a concern with the safety of the water. Mr. Corey explained that the water quality is monitored by the Town and at this time the main valve to the tank is shut off so it won't be a problem. The water system is monitored every month so water quality is continuously monitored. We are working on fixing the problem.

Josh Welch spoke to Mr. Diego about the grease from the grease traps. Josh said that they definitely need to be cleaned out more often. Mr. Diego said that they have changed the pumping to every quarter. For 11 years it wasn't pumped and was in rough shape. They go through a lot of grease, and the stewards who run the dish machine, are critical to be sure the least amount of grease gets in there. They are constantly retraining their staff. Josh also discussed redirecting those pipes directly into the tank. If we have to take those fence downs, it won't be a problem.

#### Department Head Meeting

##### Melissa Farrow – Recreation Department

Lisa McCann came to discuss a minor issue. She was late signing up her son soccer, as she was not aware of the deadlines being changed. She said she called some of the board members with her concerns. She said her son did show up and he is playing, but because he didn't sign up on time he can't play in games, can't get a t-shirt or medal. She is fine with not getting a t-shirt or medal, but not playing in the games is causing a big issue. She said he truly wants to play soccer. She said that she is willing to pay double so he can be able to play.

Peter said the Board didn't have any idea there was a deadline for soccer sign-up. It didn't come from the Board that he is aware of. Melissa said because she came in before sign-ups ended, she was told that this is deadline, this is what we set, this is what we follow. Melissa didn't start this season. Melissa's biggest thing is if we do it for one and there are seven other children we need to bend it for as well. Melissa didn't make the deadline. Melissa said we are half-way through the season now.

Peter said that Melissa is the Recreation Department Director, and we are not going to tell her that she has to have a deadline or not. It is her decision to make. Melissa feels if she lets this happen then there is going to be other people who are not happy with the decision so she will have to do it for everyone. That just entails ordering more t-shirts and medals. Peter said in the spirit of the confusion that occurred, nobody's fault, either accept none or all—Peter understands that. Peter said it seems

reasonable to allow them to come in, pay a little more money, etc. Gerry Pons said kids ought to be able to play. Every effort should be made to allow the kids to play. We are a moving society, someone moved in after school then what happens. Melissa said she was told this was deadline and she was doing what she had been told. The whole point of the recreation program is to make it as inclusive as possible.

Melissa said that she is learning the financial part of it as well. We can't let every kid play because we can't afford to let every kid play. Melissa said she doesn't have a problem with letting those kids play.

Melissa said in reference to the deadline for sign-ups, which people are angry about it. Is there truly a deadline? Peter said that this Board has never set a deadline. We have department managers to manage departments and make those decisions. The Board didn't know what the dates even are. What if someone moves in past the deadline? The recreation program is meant to be inclusive. Melissa said she didn't take the job with the intention to not let kids play.

Melissa asked if we have ever charged late fees for balances due? We still have parents who owe from the after-school program from two years ago. Melissa said we do have the scholarship account that can assist people. Melissa asked about people making donations. Mr. Pons said that the Lion's Club is willing to donate funds for uniforms and Mr. Tholl said that the Legion is as well. She said she has parents who are interested in doing some fundraising.

Melissa spoke with Mr. Tholl about parking issues on Saturdays at the Legion Field with the flea market going on. John said he would take care of it.

Josh Welch – Wastewater Treatment Plant

Josh said he is going to do another purchase order to have Hartigan come back and finish up the pump stations. We didn't get them all done when they here last. Josh said he thinks it is worth to pump the manholes out up there by The Inn. The pipe was clogged up there by the Inn at Whitefield. Grandma's is still calling that they still have the smell on occasions.

One of the pumps at Brown Street is burnt up. It is \$14,000 to replace it. That pump has been there a long time. Stanley asked about buying a rebuilt pump? Josh said he would check and see. When does it need to be replaced? The other pump is working fine, but we need to have a back-up pump on hand. Josh will call them tomorrow and see if they can get a remanufactured one. It is six to eight weeks before you can get a new one.

Peter said he does not know the cost of the Brown Street pump station as part of the treatment plant upgrade project, but possibly could we do that out of the treatment plant funds. We don't have to decide tonight but it is something to consider and think about. Mr. Corey asked Josh do we know that the pumps in that line at the Mountain View will sustain all of those solids going up? Josh said he believes so because those pumps are made for pumping solids. In terms of redirecting that, do we need an engineering design? We might be able to connect so it runs right through the pumps.

Fred Ingerson – Water Department

Fred said that he has started the fall flushing of the hydrants. He has been working on some of the hydrants doing general maintenance. He has been bouncing back between the contractors. Peter said it looks that the gate valve is leaking again past Dunkin Donuts. Fred said he will check on it again. Peter said the water department looks live they will be over by the end of year. The Route 142 project ate a lot

of the water budget. Enterprise funds go year to year, different than the general fund. New buildings for the pump stations are coming along well.

Cabot Ronish – Public Works Department

The asbestos removal was supposed to start at 38 Brown Street today. Once they are completed we can start on getting someone in there to turn that building down.

On Gould Road, Central Paving supposed to fine grade everything and he is going to start paving a week from today.

Roadside mowing is done. Started getting winter sand today.

Cabot was approached about putting yield signs up on Gould Road and Kimball Hill Roads. John suggested a stop sign on Kimball Hill Road. Stop Kimball Hill coming out, because Gould is basically the through street. Chief Samson thinks a stop sign on Kimball Hill would be good.

Melissa is wondering about the yield sign on Hazen Road can it be moved so it is visible and not behind the rail road sign. Cabot said he will take care of it.

Cabot said that he would like to award the bids for the two roofs to Mooney Carpentry. He wants materials and half his labor up front. The Board said before any money is paid out, we need a signed contract along with proof of his insurance.

He is trying to get the ball rolling on a one-ton. He doesn't know his next step in purchasing the one-ton truck. Peter said he will need to get different price quotations together and come back to the Board with a recommendation.

The Selectmen received a letter from Mike Monahan about some concerns about KayBee Drive. Peter suggested that Cabot talk with him and see what his issues are. If it is an issue, bring it back to the Board.

The two large maples across from the Medical Center on King Square need to come down. There is a lot of branches and portions of the tree falling down in the road. Peter's recommendation to the Board is to take those two maples down, but we have to replant quickly. There is a right way to replant and the right way to do it. It might be worthwhile reaching out to a professional tree service to do the replacement.

Peter noticed that Parks & Playgrounds we have 75% of that line item left and we can use that money to pay for the tree removal. Peter said he believes the Summit had developed a landscaping plan from a professional company.

Cabot and John Ross, Jr. went to 211 Lancaster Road and all the issues have been addressed.

Gerry Pons said the Lions Club may be interested in donating a tree for the common.

Fire Chief John Ross and Police Chief Edward Samson had personnel issues to discuss in non-public session with the Board of Selectmen.

A motion was made by Stanley Holz to enter non-public session at 8:20 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(b), the hiring of any person as a public employee. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. Roll call to enter non-public session: Corey-Yes; Tholl-Yes; Holz-Yes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.