

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
October 22, 2018

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, October 22, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Stanley Holz, Peter Corey, and John Tholl.

Maria Black attended the meeting to discuss when she was here last time she asked about getting a crosswalk put in on Greenwood Street going to the walkway. She was thinking of using the path. She was wondering if the crosswalk was possible. If not, can we move the sidewalk to the other side of the road? Cabot said the original response was safety-wise crossing right there would not be good. Cabot said putting the sidewalk on the other side of the road, you need to get easements from all those land owners and he is not sure there is enough room on that side of the road to even be able to do it. Cabot didn't think it was a feasible thing. Peter said he looked coming down that hill, the other and there is actually a crossing sign further up around that corner that there is a crossing there coming down Greenwood Street. It must have been put up years ago. Peter suspects that was the intent to use that path. Peter is not sure it meets safety requirement. There is no sight distance when you come down around that corner. It will be difficult to move the sidewalk, as we have to purchase easements and in one section it drops off steeply and someone has a garage right there. It would be fraught with challenges. If a citizen's group did up a warrant article to raise money for the project, it could be put on the warrant for a town vote at town meeting. We are not sure it meets the engineering standards for safety. It is located across from the Cormier residence, a little ways up. It has not been maintained very well, with the exception of it being mowed. Maria said when she met the school principal, Mr. Cronin, he seemed surprised that they were responsible for the lighting. He did say he wanted to be kept abreast and he was interested in the project and told them they would have to go to the school board. Peter says it is an unsuitable road for walking to school. We are talking about a comprehensive plan for a sidewalk to the school. Stanley said when the walking path was designed it was supposed to end at the school, but due to ledge the school was moved. The walking path is on school property. Peter said we are at a point, we really can't do anything. Tom Ladd asked if it is unsafe to use, should it be blocked off. Peter said it appears to be an unsafe crossing, but it is public road and people can do whatever they want. People are free to walk that road. Stanley said if anything is going to happen with the walking path it should originate with the school district and then they should approach the town.

Cabot Ronish and Fred Ingerson attended the meeting. Cabot said in reference to the old Whitefield Hardware water connection, nothing has been done there. He does not know what recourse should be taken to get that taken care of. The minutes from April 16<sup>th</sup> said it should be taken care of by winter. It has to be dug up and capped off at the owner's expense. It is his project. Peter said this has been an issue since he has been on the Board, before Fred started with the Water Department. For whatever reason, we can't make this happen. Each time it comes up the conversation is let's get with Mr. Scalley, the town and Mr. Scalley, and come up with a workable plan probably with a little bit of effort on both parts. Peter said normally when you buy a property, there is a shut-off, and we don't even know if there is a shut-off there or not. It is one of these unfortunate issues we inherited from poor installation and poor management. Errors in the past shouldn't stop us from moving forward and fixing it. Fred has tried that and it hasn't worked. Fred said that Mr. Scalley said the Selectmen told him it was the Highway and Water Department's problem. Peter asked Cabot and Fred to try talking to him again. By ordinance, it is his responsibility and he owns it. It has got to be disconnected. We do know that part of the water project, we are going to re-do that water line. Is there any way to properly secure the end of

that line until we rip up that road next year? Fred said no. Fred and Cabot need to get with Dave and discuss the technical responsibilities to get this taken care of. We would do the flagging and he could do the digging. We never said we were fully responsible.

The pump on Brown Street for the sewer was discussed. A motion was made by John Tholl to purchase a new pump for the sewer pump station on Brown Street for approximately \$14,000. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. All in favor 3-0, motion passed.

The issue at Grandma's was discussed. Cabot said that the plan is to go up tomorrow morning to go to different areas to try to flush to see if there is restriction in the line. There are a couple of covers to take off and run the sewer line up. There is also an air vent in our line that we can check as well. Peter said if this doesn't alleviate the condition, we have taken every possible measure to find the source of the smell, and have not been able to.

Two bids were received for demolition for 38 Brown Street. Cabot thought he was going to get a couple more bids. We will wait and see if anymore bids are received by November 5<sup>th</sup>, our next meeting, and award the bid that night. Peter said if that lot is it not going to be a house lot, you need to take the water and sewer curb stop out. Cabot is also contacting Eversource to get the electrical service disconnected.

The trees on the common will be down this week. The stumps will be ground next year. The new trees will be planted next year.

Cabot has spoken with the contractor for the roof at the town garage, and he has ordered the parts.

Melissa Farrow of the Recreation Department reviewed the 2019 recreation department budget request. The request for 2019 is \$69,200, an increase of \$7,905. She is proposing to increase the program salaries by \$3,000 as the actual salary amounts so far is just under the \$30,000 we have budgeted so we are going to go over that this year. Melissa is having an issue finding help. She has to find someone for the after-school program. She put money in for advertising, at Stan's suggestion. She added \$4,500 for the senior program expenses, and we have not really budgeted for that in the past. She spent \$1100 of the leftover from the baseball to do some upgrades to the Legion field. Melissa also discussed getting some playground equipment, like swings, a slide, and a basketball hoop for out back for the after-school program. The Board was o.k. with using the money in the after-school program account to purchase this equipment.

Police Chief, Edward Samson, attended the meeting to review his 2019 budget request for the police department. He explained that the largest increase is the school resource officer for the elementary school. Jen Lemoine will be starting next Monday, October 29, 2018. He said for salary increases, he did a .75 cent an hour increase for the officers, rather than a percentage increase. They discussed the special revenue fund and we have requested information from DRA to get the details of this. The 2019 PD budget request is \$595,519, an increase of \$64,179. 1,440 hours of the salary for the new school resource officer will be reimbursed to the Town by the School District.

John Tholl made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2018 Selectmen's Meeting Minutes, the motion was seconded by Stanley Holz, all in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

## Selectmen Committee Reports:

### Stanley Holz – WEDC

Stanley said the WEDC did not meet last month, as Gerry Pons has been ill and has been hospitalized. They meet again on Wednesday. Mike Scala of CEDC will be here on Wednesday for updates on the housing project for Whitefield.

### John Tholl – Airport

He was not at the last meeting so he does not have an update.

### Peter Corey – Planning Board

Peter said that the Planning Board continues to work on additions to the work to address the campers, we are also in the process of developing a revised demolition permit to include hazardous materials. We are looking at other town's permits to see what they have. Peter said he and Scott went to a training on Saturday provided by NH Municipal Association, which included sessions on how to properly read a plan or plat, planning board right to know laws, and the third session dealt with solar installations. Peter said that the price of solar is dropping to the point installations are exploding. There are companies doing acres and acres of solar installations. He said they actually gave them a sample or draft ordinance that we can adopt for our own use and modify for our own community. We will be looking at that. At the last planning board meeting, we were made aware of two parcels where someone had been approached by someone wanting to do a large solar array installation. We need to get something in place to be ready for that.

Peter said the Planning Board was also approached by a company that wants to put a car wash in up by the liquor store. It was just a conceptual they are thinking about. Some of the things we need to be concerned about are water, sewer, road access. We provided them information, and we hope they are continuing to do their due diligence and work with the town departments and engineering firms. We hope we get an application for a car wash in town.

The Board reviewed the proposals for health insurance for the town employees for 2019. The rates are increasing 10.50% for 2019. The Health Trust also gave us an alternative benefit option which is less of an increase. The health benefits are the same, but the prescription benefits are a six tier plan rather than the current three tier plan. The generic cost will remain the same, \$10 for retail and mail service. The retail pharmacy cost for tier two drugs will increase from \$20 to \$25 and the mail order will increase from \$20 to \$40. The tier three drugs for retail will increase from \$40 to \$45 and for mail order \$45 to \$70. Peter said he was in favor of the six-tier plan for what you can manage your prescriptions for. Stanley said most of the prescriptions are generic and there is no change in that. The board reviewed the current employee contribution to the health insurance plan as well as the pay out for employees who are not on the health insurance. We currently have eight employees who are not on the town's health insurance plan. Stanley says he feels the current employee contribution is fairly significant and wouldn't want to see that increase. A motion was made by John Tholl to go with the alternative benefit option that includes the six-tier prescription plan and to keep the employee contribution and employee payout for not taking the town's health insurance the same. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. All in favor, 3-0, motion passed.

A motion was made by Stanley Holz to enter into non-public session at 8:00 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a) the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. Roll call to enter non-public session: Corey-Yes; Tholl-Yes; Holz-Yes.

The Board asked Judy to put a notice in the newspaper looking for town representatives to the North Country Council.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.