

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 26, 2018

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

Other people in attendance: John Ross, Jr., Fred Ingerson, Richard Wright, Melissa Farrow.

Melissa Farrow, Recreation Director, said basketball is underway. She said due to numbers we did not have a 5/6 team. We have a large 3/4 team and pretty good numbers for 1/2 and pre-K. Cannon Mountain got back to us and we will have ski sign-ups next week. Twin Mountain Recreation invited Melissa to their meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup> to see about working together on programs. Melissa said she has not heard from the Senior Recreation person. Stanley suggested reaching out to the Summit for senior programs. Stanley said local residents can participate. They do have a program they just started up a few weeks ago which is open for residents. Peter said there may be some conservation of resources.

Department Head Meeting:

Fred Ingerson, Water Department

Fred said that Cabot was supposed to send Judy a revised budget, which was not received. Peter said that we will schedule Fred & Cabot for our meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup> to review the revised water budget. Fred said that there was an issue with pumps over the weekend. Fred checked the booster station and it hadn't pumped anything and the tank level was the same, and it kicked the pump on manually and he checked out the Robinson well and on the chart recorder it flatlined so it was not reading at all. The Robinson wells were on so we pumped over 300,000 gallons of water into the ground up at the school, and the Bray Hill well was real low. Something was tripped off and the phone lines did not pick it up. You would only know something was wrong by looking at the chart recorder. Fred did get a call from a resident on Bray Hill Road who was having low pressure. Peter asked if when the pump stations are up and on line, will this all be all automated? The new system will send out alarms when there are problems. Some of the turning off and on of pumps will be automated so the system will know when there is a problem. Coleman was doing the last of their pressure testing on Mt. View Road today. They stopped putting the pipe in the ground. They got just off the golf course and towards the edge of the pavement. They stopped just short of Northwoods Estates. They will finish this up in the spring. They are still working on the road rehabilitation.

The Board discussed the Asset Management Grant Application for the Water Department. Fred said that DES has spoken to him about this and thought it would be a good idea to put an application in for it. Asset Management is a systematic process of operating, maintaining, upgrading, and disposing of assets cost-effectively while maintaining a level of service that is acceptable to the customers. It maps out a capital plan to be sure it gets maintained and replaced. It is an inventory of what you currently have and how you are going to maintain it so we don't get into to where we are today where everything is obsolete and needs to be replaced. It would be a tool for the CIP Committee. This is supposed to help us be more proactive.

Horizons Engineering is projecting the total project to cost \$36,800, \$18,050 would come from the grant and the town would match \$18,750, you can use local labor as a match.

A motion was made by John Tholl that we move forward with the Asset Management Grant Application for the Water Department. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. Roll call: Corey-Yes; Tholl-Yes; Holz-Yes. All in favor 3-0. Motion passed.

John Ross, Jr. Fire-Rescue

John Ross, Jr. had an application for a new member, which the Board approved.

John told the Board that last week the ambulance backed into the rescue truck. It dented the rescue truck's bumper. Appears to be minimal damage.

John Ross, Jr. said hopefully the end of March for the new truck to get here.

No Wastewater Treatment Plant, Public Works or Police reports tonight.

Cabot sent information to the Board regarding the new truck he would like to purchase. Cabot got two quotes to replace the existing 2009 Ford 550, one from Crosstown Motors and one from North Country Ford. The quote on the Dodge is \$533 cheaper, and it also comes with three years of tire rotations and oil changes included in the price. The extended warranty on each has a cost over and above the quote; Crosstown's price is \$3,700 and North Country Ford's price is \$3,900. Peter feels we should go with Cabot's recommendation and purchase the Dodge. Stan said he is more comfortable now that he has two bid, and there is more information than the first presentation. John said he feels comfortable with the Dodge. The current truck has cost over \$1000 just in the last week for repairs. Fred said that current truck needs oil changes very frequently because the diesel fuel mixes with the oil. This will be paid for out of the Highway Equipment Replacement Fund, which the Selectmen are agents to expend from. Peter said it was planned on to purchase this vehicle.

A motion was made by John Tholl that we approve the purchase of the Dodge truck for the Public Works Department. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. Roll call: Corey-Yes; Tholl-Yes; Holz-Yes. All in favor 3-0. Motion passed.

The Board reviewed the Pre-Application for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for the Wastewater Asset Management Program prepared by Wright-Pierce for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

A motion was made by Stanley Holz that we submit the Wastewater Asset Management Grant Application for the sewer treatment plant. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. Roll call: Corey-Yes; Tholl-Yes; Holz-Yes. All in favor 3-0. Motion passed.

Selectmen Committee Reports:

Stanley said he the EDC did not meet this month because of the holiday but they are meeting this Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Airport – John said they met last week, and had a public hearing on the budget, at which time no public appeared. There were a couple of minor changes to the published budget. They are going to use a separate attorney rather than using Wendy as the attorney. They are talking to two attorneys in Lancaster. John said we had a routine meeting. John's understanding is that they will be requesting \$9,000 again for 2019. They have had some complaints from Dave Bicknell about plowing and not having a copy of the budget and not having a copy of the minutes. The minutes are available on the website and the budget is easy to get to come to the budget hearing. He has not requested a copy of the budget. John said that they are not really a town department so if they have a request they should be going to the Commission. The first storm we got the airport runways cleared but we had problems with the taxiways getting cleared. The highway department had a truck down, and then they got another complaint about the taxiway in front of his hanger and John went out. The taxiway has been plowed. There is a big hump in the middle of the taxiway that needs to be repaired before it can be plowed. The airport plows the taxiways but not in front of the doors. It is very narrow and very old piece of pavement. Once you plow it, you can't sand it. You can't salt it either. They need to keep it plowed and swept the best they can.

Planning Board: Peter Corey said that within the last month they continue to get a fair number of development permits. It is surprising the number of folks from outside the area developing second homes or improving homes for a second home or vacation home. They have a subdivision request at Mirror Lakes Estate – Penny Murray is asking to subdivide one parcel into two parcels. There is a lot of wetlands area. We tabled this while we wait to hear from DES. They are continuing to work on the code for RV's, and have sent a draft to the attorney. We are also drafting some solar installation rules that were provided by the NHMA to get ahead of some of these solar installations cropping up. They also created a demolition permit. The Planning Board found that we need to make sure the water, sewer, and other departments knows a structure is being demolished and also the property owner does their due diligence in respect to hazardous materials. Once those are in a final form, they have a public hearing and they will be on the ballot during the day for voting on town meeting day.

A motion was made by Stanley Holz to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded by Peter Corey. John Tholl abstained as he was not in attendance at the meeting. Roll Call: Stanley-Yes; Peter-Yes. Motion passed 2-0.

There is a gentleman who is interested in serving on the North Country Council and we will invite him to our next meeting so we can meet him and discuss the position.

Chairman Corey said we have a request for a water/sewer bill abatement from Joanne Jacaruso at the Inn at Whitefield. Last August, her backflow protector blew off on a Saturday night and it was several hours that it ran into the cellar. Her plumber was able to stop the water and she had to have her backflow protector replaced. She was told there was a lot of debris in the line and felt that contributed to the failure. \$208.65 would be the refund amount for the sewer portion as that did not go into the sewer system. Do we wish to abate any of the water portion or just the sewer portion? Fred Ingerson said that they have a testable device, they own and maintain it and are responsible for the testing of it. As far as stuff being in the backflow preventer, he does not

know how there should be debris in the line. Peter explained that the ordinance reads any water that goes through the meter is billed for. Peter said we have not abated the water portion in the past, but we have abated the sewer portion that did not go through the sewer, as this appears to be the case. A motion was made by Stanley Holz that we abate the sewer portion of the bill in the amount of \$208.65. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. Roll call: Corey-Yes; Tholl-Yes; Holz-Yes. All in favor 3-0. Motion passed.

The Board signed the appointment form for Kathleen Kopp for Library Trustee. She is appointed until March, at which time she will run for the position.

Mr. Ed Shanshala, Chief Executive Officer of Ammonoosuc Community Health Services called and spoke with Judy recently. They recently purchased the building at 14 King Square from Littleton Hospital. He said that they do not make payments in lieu of taxes, but would be willing to sponsor events for Whitefield residents, i.e. rink flooding, summer band concert series. The Board thought this sounded like a good idea and will draft a letter to Mr. Shanshala.

The Board discussed the 2019 budget. John Tholl mentioned the outside agency requests. He was wondering if we should just include them in our budget. Judy spoke with Lancaster and they include them in their budget and they may amend some amounts. They may have some petition as well. Peter said he has a personal feeling that we should not be telling people how to spend their charitable dollars. Peter is not sure if those are good purposes or not. Peter said we spend \$70,000 to \$90,000 on charity and people will come argue about \$10,000. After discussion, the Board decided we will continue to have the outside agencies submit petition warrant articles.

Stanley Holz said he would like the Police Chief to provide us an accounting of what services are provided by the Prosecutor for the Police Department. Peter said we should have a contract of some kind. The Board asked Chief Samson to provide them with a draft contract for the P.D. prosecutor of what they provide to the Town, what services are provided and how they are reimbursed.

Peter said he would like to put something together in the form of a warrant article to see if the voters would want to pay off some of our loans early. We cannot pay off the Bond Bank ones early. Peter thought it might be worth considering saving on the long-term interest payments.

The Board reviewed the Invitation to Bid to sell some tax deeded properties. They added a minimum bid for each of the three parcels.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.