

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 12, 2018

At the Selectmen's meeting held on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: John Tholl, Wendy Hersom, and Peter Corey.

The following members of the public were in attendance: Sondra Brekke and Tom Ladd.

Pursuant to N.H. RSA 41:14-a, the Whitefield Board of Selectmen held a public hearing at the Whitefield Town Offices to accept public input on the acceptance of the following two pieces of property by the Town:

A 3.71 acre parcel of land shown on a Plan entitled "Boundary Line Adjustment Involving Lands of Town of Whitefield and Alan D. McIntyre, Bray Hill Road, Whitefield, N.H." (Map 214, Lots 4 & 6)

Lot 1 (.27 of an acre) as shown on a Plan entitled "Town of Whitefield Water System Improvements Contract No. 2 – Pump Stations Bray Hill, Dodge and Route 116 Whitefield, N.H., Subdivision Plan" Record Owner: Robert & Nancy Comeau (Tax Map 104, Lot 63)

Wendy explained that we are looking to acquire these two properties as part of the water system upgrade project that is going forward and as part of the statute we are required to hold public hearings when the Town takes ownership of the property.

Sondra Brekke asked if the Town was purchasing the property and the Board said they were.

Peter Corey made a motion to approve the February 26, 2018 Selectmen's Meeting Minutes and the March 1, 2018 Public Hearing Minutes. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. Wendy Hersom abstained from the vote on the March 1, 2018 Public Hearing Minutes. All in favor 3-0. Motion passed.

Ed Samson, Police Chief, was in attendance at the meeting. He said he did give a conditional offer of employment to the certified police officer candidate. Ed said we did go through the application and interview process. His tentative start date is the last day of the month. He is full-time certified. None of the other candidates were certified, but they were good.

Sondra asked how many officers are hired by the town, and Ed said that there are 5 officers and that includes one school resource officer. There is a full-time police officer at the high school. Ed said the schools in the district are taking a proactive approach to safety.

Mark Lufkin was wondering if the Board had time to sign his junk yard permit yet. John said that they have not. John said Peter has been gone for a week. Peter said that he has asked for some additional information from the state to see if we are obligated to renew the permit. Mark asked if he could record the meeting. Peter said some of us have concerns about the way Mark is maintaining the properties downtown and it is a point of continuous complaints that Peter personally receives from a lot of people. Peter said that before he signs a document that says he is in full compliance with the laws for operating junk yards he wants to be sure he is. Peter said he is not convinced that he is in compliance.

He does not have a problem with Mark operating a salvage operation. The way he maintains the properties in the center of town and the way that salvage materials and vehicles appear on those properties and remain on the properties is what Peter said he has issues with. Peter said that he works with a professional engineer who left the town because of the unsightly appearance of the town and one of the properties he mentioned was the garage downtown.

Mark said he is not being a smart alex, but who is Peter to say any of those vehicles are junk. Mark said if you are going to go after him they should go after the other businesses with the same issues. Mark said that when he was approved for the junkyard, the agreement with the Town Planning Board was that before the vehicles were brought to the salvage yard they needed to be drained at the shop. Mark said there is also a repair shop and a dealership there. Mark said they are putting a dismantling pad at the junk yard, and the draining of the vehicles will start occurring at the salvage yard. He asked the Board to sign a document this summer in support of that and the Board decided not to sign it, and he said it was signed by the Planning Board. That is going in in the spring. Mark said they have had some unfortunate events that happened in July, and they are fixing that up and going to town on that. He doesn't quite understand how Peter can say something is junk and it may not be junk to someone else. Mark said that he can't control the amount of vehicles that come in and out. He has 160 days to get rid of a vehicle once it's deemed not fit for the road.

Peter said Mark has pushed the limits to the extreme. The cars don't come on the property get emptied then leave. Peter said he counted 6 un-plated vehicles at the dairy bar, which is not even approved as a storage lot. Mark said he has to pay taxes the six months out of the year the dairy bar is not open. If he wants to park a vehicle in his parking lot he should be able to do. Peter said when he parks a bunch of junk vehicles in the center of town and leaves them there for a period of time to a lot of people it is junk. They have laws so they are not within the public view. His property downtown falls within that. A heck of a lot of stuff show up there like washers, motors, etc. and stays there for prolonged periods of time.

Mark said he feels if they are going to question Mark's business, then he should go after everyone else.

Peter said Mark is licensed to operate a salvage yard at 51 Twin Mountain Road, and he appears to be operating a salvage yard in the center of town. Peter said he is not going to talk about those other people right now. Mark said he is not aware of any complaints about 51 Twin Mountain Road.

Peter said for him personally he is not ready to sign the document tonight. He wants to get more information and we have until April 1<sup>st</sup> to sign it.

John said from his reading of it, it basically says if there hasn't been any violation on that particular property it has to be approved. That is his reading of the junk yard statute. John said that he has been approached by a lot of people about the vehicles at the dairy bar and the ones parked on the state property behind the dairy bar. John said he has no issue with the junk yard itself.

Wendy said is the municipal association's read that if the licensed junkyard has complied with the previous license conditions for the location in question (not taking into consideration other locations that are not the subject of the junkyard permit) and the licensed junkyard has not become a public nuisance, and the applicant has not been convicted of larceny or receiving stolen goods, and the applicant certifies he is operating his junkyard in compliance with the best management practices

established by the N.H. Department of Environmental Services, then the renewal of the junkyard license must be approved.

Peter said he has nothing against Mark's business. Peter said he would just like to see the areas downtown more presentable, just as a lot of residents do. Peter said that Mark knows there is things he can do.

Dick asked how the two different locations were connected. John said there was an agreement between the planning board and the junk yard permit to drain the vehicles downtown and then they would be moved to the licensed junk yard. John said his read of the statute is the license has to be approved. If there were complaints and there were violations with the junk yard then there would be an issue with renewing the license. John said he has no objections to the junk yard on Route 3. It has to be approved based on his reading of the statute. John is not objecting to signing it up on Route 3. Wendy said she has signed the application.

We could take action not to allow the recycling to take part in the downtown area. Mark said originally it was set up for the draining to be done at the garage for less chance of ground contamination. Since there has been programs for cement pads and catch rings, Mark is putting a pad in. Mark said because he knows some of it is an eyesore, and he can't control how many vehicles come there, as he has vehicles come there when they are not there. Mark said once the other pad comes in the vehicles will no longer be landing in town. Mark does tow vehicles that have been accidents. Cars that look like junk do end up at this shop until the insurance company or owners come.

Mr. Lee, President of Weeks Medical Center, is coming tonight to talk about a program they are going to begin at the clinic a MAT program, Medically Assistant Treatment. It is a substance abuse program so we can assist them with managing their addiction, an opioid addiction. Back a few years ago it was the culture that no one needs to live in pain and prescriptions were going out right and left. There is a large group of people addicted to prescription pain medication. A large number of people became addicted to opioids due to prescriptions. New Hampshire is the #2 state in the country with substance abuse. Weeks decided to do a pilot program to get a suboxone program, which was driven by behavioral health. People are evaluated by their willingness to get give up their addiction. They have licensed drug and alcohol counselors who work with them. They have to sign contracts, get intensive therapy, get medication in short supply, observed urine collection and over time that lightens up and instead of coming in three days a week they come two days a week. The goal is to get people off the program. The first year is the critical part of the program to do the monitoring and prescriptions. Mr. Lee said they started the program in Lancaster and have had 35 people in the program to date. One person graduated and wants to stop using the suboxone completely. One of the providers is in Whitefield, Chris Laurent, will start seeing his patients in Whitefield. Dr. Nielsen will be taking up the patient population in Lancaster. Weeks took the manual developed by the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services and revised it for what would work for them. Mr. Lee said they have a newly-hired Psychiatric nurse practitioner. Selectman Tholl said that Suboxone is the number 1 substance getting smuggled in the prisons. It still is a controlled substance you don't want to get out there.

Peter Corey asked where the patients come from? They are Weeks patient in primary care. We will also be getting patients referred from Ammonoosuc Community Health Services as well. Weeks Medical Center is providing oversight, is there anyone else controlling it? CMS is the licensing body and the Department of Health for N.H. They have been up multiple times on it. Marty Ball is the governor

advisor on substance abuse and he was just up last week. There is not a separate licensing body. It is outpatient so it is in their license. The drugs are not on hand at the clinic.

Tom Ladd asked where in the building it will take place, and Mr. Lee said the program is all done upstairs in the medical area. People can get over their addiction more quickly than their behaviors.

Chief Samson said he met with Mr. Lee and a board member to discuss this program coming to Whitefield and the questions Ed had answered and Ed let the Board know about the program as well. They are estimating about 30 in each of the two clinics. It won't be huge numbers. It has not started in Whitefield yet, hopefully by the end of the week. The Board appreciated the information from Mr. Lee.

Moderator Kenneth Russell, Jr. attended the meeting to review with the Board the Town Meeting Warrant. The Board asked Judy to speak with the town attorney re: the petition article for taking over Northwoods Estates Drive.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.