

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 11, 2016

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, April 11, 2016 at the Whitefield Town Office at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Mark Lufkin, Peter Corey, Wendy Hersom, members of the Board of Selectmen. There were approximately 80 to 90 people in attendance for the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing Notice

The Whitefield Board of Selectmen held a Public Hearing to solicit public input and comments on the proposal from the N.H. Army National Guard to perform site improvements and construct a 15,000± square foot aviation operations building consisting of a hanger for one Blackhawk helicopter plus support facilities (flight operations center, latrines, crew rest quarters) to support high altitude aviation training in the White Mountain National Forest. Anticipated use could be up to 6 to 8 weekends per calendar year plus additional weekday flights throughout the year. Site would accommodate two black hawk helicopters and up to 12 to 15 people at a time. Hangar use would be limited to minor maintenance repair activities for maintaining flight operations. All members of the public are encouraged to attend.

1LT Braden Hunter, pilot; COL David J. Mikolaities, P.E. Construction & Facilities Management Officer; Warrant Officer, Jeremy Gray, who resides in Groveton were in attendance to present the concept. Why are we here? Col. Mikolaities said that first and foremost they have a training requirement to keep our Blackhawk helicopter crews proficient in their activities. They come up to the National Forest to fly. They wish to develop a training facility to allow the crews to operate one weekend a month to conduct flight operations. The White Mountain National Forest is an outstanding training opportunity. 1LT Hunter and Officer Gray have been to Iraq for missions. The presence of this facility offers them the maximum performance. The National Guard has an armory in Lancaster, but there is no airport there. They want to develop the Lancaster Armory to increase their presence in the North Country and increase their ability to train. The facility would be used from Friday night through Sunday six to eight weekends a year. A noise study was completed for the Lancaster armory. Their crews would come up on Friday evening and start up on Saturday and Sunday during the day, from 8am to 8pm to maximize their training value to fly. One of the concerns is the environmental process. If approved by the town the project would undergo a complete environmental assessment under the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In reference to fuel, they will bring their fuel truck up here to refuel the helicopters. The fuel truck would be parked in a spill containment device to protect against any fuel spills. They are looking to use 3-4 acres with two helipads. The support facilities would include a hanger for one helicopter that we may need to repair when they are here training. The flight ops building would be available so they could practice their med flight operations. The timeline for this project, after environmental due diligence, would probably be one to two years out.

It was asked if this building would be located at the airport. It was explained that it would be on the airport property. Edith Worcester said she bought a house near the airport, but she has problems with helicopters over her property. They come right over the tree line – 9:30 at night last week they were out there, and when her husband was out hunting and sitting on their own

property here comes a helicopter – 30 times it went back and forth. Who are they and where are they coming from? Edith said she bought a house next to the airport realizing that planes come in, but these helicopters come out of nowhere. COL Mikolaities said that the NH National Guard helicopters are typically not here at 1 a.m. in the morning. They are here before it gets dark. They are usually into the airport and gone. He said they are maybe here once or twice a week.

Mrs. Worcester stated that there has been an increase in fighter aircraft lately. She has had no enjoyment of her property for the last two summers. Why do they feel she has no right to enjoy her property? Wendy said it is not what we feel, and that is why we are having a public hearing—to get people's input.

COL Mikolaities said they have 10 helicopters, and they are often deployed.

Mr. Christopher Laurent from Jefferson was not informed of this meeting, and he felt it is a regional airport – there is a national wildlife refuge right next to the airport, which is a concern for him. He said he is a retired navy captain. He said that there are facilities all over the country where this training could occur, and the White Mountains are not the only place to train. He said he does not live near a military base for a very specific reason. He heard helicopters long enough. His concerns are impact on wildlife, and why this facility when there are multiple facilities that can accommodate this?

It was noted that if one of these helicopters goes down in the mountains, we might as well write them off—their likelihood of survival is low. This proposal will certainly have an impact—people don't want to listen to them and don't want to hear them.

Wendy Shay said she moved here 11 years ago when she bought the Mason farm and she said the flight path is right over her home – she came up here to have a peaceful, beautiful farm. If a helicopter goes down, how are going to take care of the pilot and do we have resources to take care of these people who may be injured? She said the people in the community need to be respected with the taxes they are paying – if the Northern Pass lines go in next to the airport they are up to 150 feet – how does this affect the helicopters? What is the US government going to do for this little town? I haven't heard one thing with helping us out. She wishes they would look into Berlin or Groveton to do their training.

COL. Mikolaities said they are doing a training mission so they are not transporting patients. A helicopter has flight paths, and the input is taken from the stakeholders when the environmental assessment is done. This is a concept to get input.

Jeremy Gray said the N.H. National Guard has 10 aircraft – they probably fly 20 to 40 hours a month with 10 aircraft. The bulk of that is in the southern part of the state. They figure about 5 hours a month at the most. They are not here a lot. He explained that with the flight paths, they are required to remain 500 feet above the ground outside an airport environment. They try to fly at least 1000 feet above the ground. They have wildlife refuges marked on their maps and they avoid those areas.

If this goes through, they will be up here for a weekend – generally in the morning a flight for a couple of hours, a couple of hours in the afternoon about 4 hours total for the day. They are not going to be at the airport the whole time. It is more of a concept that we can talk about it.

Lucy Wyman from Lancaster is here representing herself and her partner Craig Harmon. They are wondering about the Pemigewasset wilderness and if that is on the maps – as a hiker she said it is pretty hard to get away from motorized sounds in the White Mountains. Any additional flights--reduce them rather than increase them. We probably shouldn't be in Afghanistan then we don't have to worry about these questions. The U.S. military is the best armed in the world, and the worse polluter in the world. She said Cherry Pond is a refuge people can go to get away from sounds and stresses and it is accessible to people in wheelchairs and people who don't need wheelchairs – they enjoy the solitude – many able-bodied people, their solitude will be threatened. Give us a break and allow us our peace and quiet.

Gary Weiser, a Whitefield resident commented that this is the Town's land, and we should think about the site--that is pretty nice piece of property that the Town may want to develop in the future. We should make sure that the Town picks the land we want to lease to them. Are we leasing the land? COL Mikolaities said we have not determined the land partnership at this point—we have not gotten to that point yet. Chairperson Hersom said it is definitely not a purchase of the property. COL Mikolaities said there are environmental standards they have to go through to be sure they are good stewards. We need an independent firm to come in and do this environmental assessment. COL Mikolaities said we are a community based organization, and we need to train and fly our pilots.

Ray Gradual said his question is what is the role of the Selectmen? – will they give them permission, as it is a regional airport? Chairperson Hersom explained that the Town of Whitefield owns the airport, and there is a regional commission which donor towns are a member of and they run the airport operations. It is ultimately the Town who owns the airport and sets the leases. The Commission comes to the board for projects, grant writing, etc. because we own the airport and the Town has the final say. Wendy explained that the purpose of this meeting was to hear what the N.H. National Guard is considering for a project and the Board of Selectmen wants to hear from the public how they feel about it.

Are we donating the land and will they be paying taxes? Wendy said the land at the airport is never sold – it can be leased. Wendy said our town attorney has told us that if there is a hangar it is the National Guard responsibility to pay the property taxes.

Laura Mason presented the board with a list of questions & concerns they have that they would like the Board to look over and answer before they say yes to this proposal.

The section of the land is in the airport – not the industrial park. It is to the right of the runway. This is part of the airport land. Once they lease the land, it is leased to them.

Lee Hallquist moved up here for the peace and quiet, and his taxes are high enough. He said he appreciates the National Guard's service and training. He said they don't hear the helicopters because you are in them all the time. If he ever tried to sell the property, it would be difficult

with the helicopters flying around the airport all the time. People are worried about the noise situation.

Sondra Brekke said she does not live over the flight path, and it is noisy and in truth that is part of life; however, that kind of airplane is part of life. She said her question is when the people come up here for the weekend trainings where will they stay and what business will they bring to the area? Will it revitalize the town?

COL Mikolaities responded that they will bring up 15-20 soldiers on the weekend. They would be living in Lancaster and Whitefield at the barracks when they are here and will bring business to the Town. They will need to eat, get gas, etc.

Terry Lufkin asked why is that the Town of Whitefield has to donate to all these different things – it is time to do something for the downtown area – we have been putting money in the airport for years now. Terry is assuming once a facility gets in there – there will be more and more. We give a lot to the different nursing homes, theatres, tax-wise. Why does Whitefield always have to give? Why don't some of these developments give to the Town of Whitefield?

COL Mikolaities said that the facility itself would be pay for everything they use. They will pay for whatever they need – plowing, mowing – and whatever that cost is it is their responsibility to pay for. They would be pay for the plowing of their facility. They would pay for their parcel to be maintained.

Jenny Ricker said when you buy a house by the airport, you are going to have noise. She came tonight worried about the environmental aspects of the project. She is not here to put anyone down or anything. She just wants to hear what they have to say, and we should stay positive.

A member of the public stated that once you are here you can do what you want then things can change. Whitefield should not even consider doing this – it is something you will not have any control over and they are not leaving once they get here.

Lt. Hunter said if this facility is built, they try to work closely with the communities. Noise abatement areas are identified in their Standard Operating Procedures. The pilots are trained and they know not to fly over those areas that are identified. They fly neighborly – they do work hard and have open door discussions on flight paths. It is ultimately the community we serve. In a given year we do about a dozen search and rescue missions. Last May we did fire fighting. They are not the big army. They are N.H. National Guard – most of them native to New Hampshire and they work hard to maintain those relationships. This training value is not only for going overseas. It is for doing missions here in the state as well.

Rick Wright asked if they would have airport aviation fuel available at the airport. COL Mikolaities said they are not in the business to sell fuel. They would only bring the fuel for their own use.

A member of the public asked what the impact would be with military vehicles going through town? COL Mikolaities respond that it would be minimal. If we bring up 20 soldiers on a

weekend, four person crews, probably 3 to 4 vehicles. Katie Siggins said in the newspaper it said 12-15 soldiers. Katie said we can see the process already growing. You are already bringing up the size of this thing. You said your main focus is a training facility, and Katie said the negative from the project is not worth it.

Mr. Alan Savage of Lancaster said he lives in the path of the helicopter going to the Weeks Hospital. He doesn't want to encourage any more helicopters in this area. He hears no benefits from this. All he can say is why would you give away valuable land at the airport? It wears on you day in and day out to listen to those helicopters.

Wendy Hersom asked if people would feel differently if they were going to pay their lease and pay the taxes like the other tenants at the airport. A show of hands saying they would not want the project even if they paid was a large majority.

Lucy Wyman said she has concerns of militarization of rural areas. She is wondering how the noise of the Blackhawk helicopters compares to the Dartmouth medical helicopters and the helicopters at the Lancaster Fair.

A member of the public asked if this project would preclude other business like a charter service coming in to the airport?

Ed Stevens, Airport Commissioner and Manager, said that there is other land that may be available for businesses. It is a 4000 foot runway. Ed said 60 to 90 jets a year come to the airport who can land on the 4000 foot runway. He said the charter jets need larger runways. You are looking at a \$10 to \$12 million project to increase the size of the runway. Where they want to go is an area for other businesses to go. Ed said when people want a hanger, they pay for it, they build it, they pay property taxes. Ed said the government doesn't pay taxes. The grant assurances don't allow it. The spot they are proposing is the spot they need to look down the runway both ways. The ASOC needs to be moved. Ed said this is the Town of Whitefield property and the voters in Whitefield should determine what goes out there. With the National Guard being out there, they could help us get some federal money. If the Town doesn't approve this, it is a bad move for Whitefield. It is a good airport that we need to have more money put into it then UPS, FedEx and charter companies would come to the airport and employ people. That is what they are striving for – to get money in to the community. Ed said this is a plus – we need it – it is a government project. It would be a bad day for Whitefield Airport if we don't approve this project.

A member of the public asked what exactly is the government going to do to help this town out financially? Do we get a new ambulance; do we get money for the school? What is it going to do for downtown?

A member of the public stated that he just bought a house in Town, and he moved here for the unbelievable beauty of the area. He said this is a very slippery slope. He said he sees the benefit of the search and rescue and emergency aspect of the proposal, as he is an outdoors person. He appreciates that. We have to be very careful that we are attracting the right kind of economic

development. There is not much room to find nature anymore. He said he hopes to bring more good money to this area. We don't want more planes and trucks.

A member of the public asked if they have looked at any other sites? How ultimately does this get decided? Wendy replied that the Selectmen will be the ultimate decision makers.

COL Mikolaities said they are not permanently basing anyone here. No one is here except for the six to eight weekends a year they come up to train. He said they started looking in this area because they have the Lancaster Armory, and they said "why don't we go to an airport?" They fly search and rescue, and they fly out of Concord. It takes them 30 minutes to fly up here from Concord to do their training in the White Mountain National Forest. They will continue to train in the White Mountain National Forest.

A member of the public stated that 1000 feet is not very high. Folks live here because they love the peace and quiet and it is not heavily populated. You give up a lot to live here—you have to travel far to find food and clothing. We don't want this noise and noise pollution. We compromise to live in such a pristine and beautiful area. The noise of 1000 feet in addition to the jets and the airport is a lot. It is a concern that we hope people will take in to consideration.

Mr. Cargill, a retired gentleman from Boston said he came up here to get away from this. He doesn't want to listen to the helicopters on the weekends. What about the birds and animals that live out by the airport?

COL Mikolaities said they will not be flying at night. Their hours of flying will be from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Pondicherry is an important consideration and will be included in the environmental impact assesement. The NEPA study will be started if the Town of Whitefield agrees to the project.

Kate Marro asked if the facility will be available for private contractors to rent or lease – could they approach you? He said most likely they could use the facility. It would be for aviation use only for the airport. Dave said they typically let people use their armory facilities for food drives, blood banks, etc. As a practice, they let people use their facilities.

Peter Corey said he worked for the N.H. National Guard and there are very strict rules Congress has set for unfairly competing with the private sector for the loan or lease of equipment. If a private contractor wanted to use the property, by law we can't do it. Federal laws prevent this. He said they do allow non-profits events, food drives, blood banks, etc.

COL Mikolaities said this is all about maximizing their time. Having time to train in this area for flights, medical evacuations are so critical.

1LT Hunter said they are different from other Search & Rescue teams because their aircraft have hoist capabilities. He said N.H. Fish & Game has used D-Hart in the past for a critical patient, but they need a place to land. With the hoist capabilities, they don't have to land. The Blackhawk helicopter is larger than the D-Hart helicopter and would be louder.

Everett Kennedy said he is in support of this proposal. Mr. Mumley said he feels it would be good for this area with their fire suppression capabilities.

Dan Davenport said he moved to the area recently, and would like to thank the National Guard for coming tonight to explain their proposal. He said he feels much safer having them in the area to provide safety. These guys need all the training they can get in this type of environment.

Duncan Nevers said he has 15 questions. Wendy said he can ask three questions.

Duncan asked Wendy who is the town counsel who said that the National Guard facility would pay taxes to the Town. Wendy said the Town Counsel is Shawn Tanguay from Gardner, Fulton & Waugh. Wendy read from a letter saying that lessees of property at the airport pay property taxes. She noted that they also pay a lease.

Duncan asked when there would be another hearing at which questions not asked tonight could be addressed. Wendy said we are not required to have this hearing. We wanted to hear input and have more discussion so we can get a better sense of what they are going to do.

Duncan asked how many small civilian airports have Blackhawk helicopters. COL Mikolaities said he didn't know. In Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, Blackhawk helicopters are currently only at Concord and at the commercial airports in Bangor, Maine and Burlington, Vermont.

Duncan asked would they take off vertically or follow the usual flight paths? 1LT Hunter said they can take off vertically but that typically they do not at an airport in order to comply with the airport approach and departure flight paths.

Duncan asked whether Town Meeting approval would be needed, as Town Meeting approval is ordinarily needed for the sale of town property. Wendy said that it would be a lease—Col. Mikolaities said it could be a 99-year lease—and that only the Selectmen's approval would be needed for the lease.

Duncan asked if the National Weather Service knows about the need to move the weather station. Ed Stevens answered that they do.

Duncan asked if retired military personnel can get rides on the helicopters, and COL Mikolaities said they probably could.

Duncan asked if the National Guard would agree to a condition in the lease that the Blackhawk helicopters would play no role in the construction of the Northern Pass project. Other members of the audience asked whether the facility itself would play any role in Northern Pass. The answer was that this project will have nothing to do with the Northern Pass project. Northern Pass would not be able to use the National Guard facilities. If Northern Pass needed a hangar, they would need to lease a private hangar.

Duncan asked who would be performing the environmental assessment? Jacobs Engineering is the consultant from Bedford, N.H.

COL Mikolaities closed the public hearing stating that they are a community based organization. They serve the communities. He said that there are 100 soldiers and crew chiefs who are N.H. residents. He said he appreciates our time and thank you.

The Board met with Sam Chase for an update on the Whitefield project. Sam said they got with their sub-groups and asked them to come up with ideas for short-term, medium term, and long term goals, and throwing out ideas. Sam said Peter's committee, the Zoning & Ordinances Committee, has had a meeting, Expectations and King's Square Activities Committees have had meetings. Sam said the main thing that has come up is the Clean Up Day on May 14th and they have people taking responsibility for roads in the town and have tied in to Jimmy for the free dump day. They will have a picnic on the common after clean-up day. Lion's Club will do the cookout on the Common. We have to do things to bring people together in the Town. The Clean Up day will get people to come together and hopefully it will be a nice day. Rick is looking for a snow day just in case. Sam said the big thing that came up was getting youth involved in the community. Economic Development wants to do a survey at the high school – why do you go to North Conway to get your hamburgers? What can we do to keep you here—while they are in school? The way to communicate is with Facebook – we need to have a Facebook page for the town. The Departments have a website, which Tina maintains – we need to look at it to be sure we are utilizing it fully. Sam said for any area in the town, we need to explore tax increment financing – what can we do with historic districts – what can we do to provide incentives for people to fix up their buildings – we need to look at them. The zoning and ordinances committee is finding that the major thing is enforcement – we went through and had a long discussion on the comprehensive development guide – we went through and the guide covers a lot of things, but we don't enforce things – it is a guide. Mark said the problem with the Guide is that certain things contradict other things. They discussed having it re-looked at by Tara Bramford. Mark said Christine Fillmore our Town Attorney is already looking through it so we don't have contradictions. Sam said there were a lot of edits that have not been, and we should reach out to Tara to incorporate those edits. Mark said she is the reason why it is messed up. Peter said that is not what we were led to believe. The Planning Board is going to come in to Peter's next meeting, and highlight the areas that are problematic. Should we wait until we get something back from the town attorney? Sam said that we wanted to look at the Comprehensive Development Guide.

Sam said one of the groups is going around to look at properties to identify those areas that may be a problem and may need to have something done, i.e. a house that has been condemned, abandoned, etc.

Sam said he got a call this afternoon from Barry Normandeau from up in Groveton and he read the article in the newspaper about what we are doing, and he said it is a good thing we started on this. He told Sam the North Country is in for a rude awakening because if these projects go ahead in Groveton and Colebrook they will be bringing in a lot of people for construction – are

they ready for an influx of people? His opinion is the schools are not looking ahead to get an influx of people. He is saying we are in the corridor. If you watch the traffic coming through on Thursdays and Sundays – Whitefield has an opportunity to grab some of that business. People are saying that “We are not going to stop in Whitefield – it is nothing but a piece of junk”. There are too many people bad-mouthing Whitefield. They say they used to stop in Whitefield and we need to get some pride in the community. The signage coming in to town is no longer there. We should look in to replacing that. Shawn is going to get prices from SDI signs for new signs. Sam said Barry Normandeau found in trying to bring businesses in to Groveton they spoke to about 120 businesses, one of the big pluses was the airport. They wanted a place to fly in to. Sam keeps getting calls on the Golden Eagle Railway—he doesn’t think it is going to happen, but he is interested in his last piece of property at the Industrial Park.

Sondra Brekke asked if there are any incentives for people who want to put a business in Town. Wendy said we did do that more Mountain View and Presby Plastics when they first started up. There is mechanism to do this.

Gerry Pons said that the group is trying to get the groups together with plans. Here is an idea for tax credits, tax abatements to attract businesses. Gerry said he has been very happy with the turn-out and enthusiasm. Time might be right to keep it moving. They are not trying to over-step people and work together to get good things done. He is impressed with the number of people who are being involved. The signage – people are looking at. We need to get everyone involved – the Selectboard, the townspeople, the businesses. The taxpayers may need to reach in to their wallets and help pay for it. Sam said at the last meeting we had 70 people there, and it was really not advertised. It was more by way of mouth. Sam said they are getting people involved. Mark said he was involved in two of his meetings, and he hasn’t been involved since because no one has contacted him. The next full meeting is May 4th.

Aggie said her little group is doing the common area – they do the flowers. Aggie said the lights were out down there and she spoke to Shawn he took care of it immediately. The Bridge is a big issue. Shawn said he has been touch with DOT, and it is on the state schedule for next year. We need to keep the state’s feet to the fire so that bridge gets done.

Aggie said this is very good and a lot of people are behind it. We have a new business in town – an art gallery. Sam is going in there to meet the guy.

We need to work with the Board to see what can and can’t be done. Sam said we have a lot of energetic people and we don’t want them to get off track and we don’t want to discourage them.

Peter said as a participant it is a very positive thing.

Sondra said she was looking at the website, and there is not a lot of information on the website. The Board said we can post our minutes and agendas on the website. We can only put on the site what we know about, and if people have information for the website they need to let us know and get us the material.

Mark said that Tom Ladd mentioned a concern to him so Mark asked him to stay and address the Board. Tom Ladd did not come with the intention of speaking to the Board. He is a member of Whitefield Fire Rescue, and he is speaking for himself only, but he found out from Chief Watkins at their meeting last Wednesday that the Chief has proposed to discontinue the ambulance. He told them that he has had complaints coming from the Board about the Department's coverage. Jay said he is being held to task of what is not happening. Wendy asked Jay what the Board is complaining about? Tom Ladd said he would like to know what was said to Jay. Tom said that he was told by the Chief that the Chief was being required to cover any shifts that weren't being covered. It was the Chief's recommendation to shut down the service. Tom is wondering what is going on. Jay said that was what was brought to the membership. Jay said that Mark Lufkin has told him that that Jay must ensure that all the calls are covered. Mark said he never said that Jay has to personally see that the calls are covered. Jay said he disagrees. Tom said if we can improve communication it will help.

Jay came to the last Board meeting and presented the facts in terms of the number of people available to cover the number of ambulance calls and a number of the members are not serving, and Jay had suggested that we consider using an outside service – basic example Lancaster. He talked about potential costs and scenarios and after the discussion the Board asked Jay to come back with a more definite plan with facts and figures. That is what we were expecting to review, and then we will decide whether we do it or whether we forego it entirely.

There have been no decisions made on shutting down the ambulance service. The Board asked Jay how many members he has. Jay said that there are nine people on the department and four people run regular. Wendy asked how many people were at the meeting the other night, and Jay said six people. They are listed in the meeting minutes, which is in the packet of information Jay left for the Board this afternoon.

Wendy asked Jay when is this agreement with Lancaster supposed to take effect? Jay said he doesn't have anything in writing. What was given to the Board is what Jay was told verbally from Chief Flynn. Jay said they assume the Town wouldn't make a decision tonight or even in a month. They are projecting this to be further out. Basically this agreement will need to be negotiated. This is what they verbally told Jay.

Why is recruitment down so much? Wendy said according to Jay it is because we don't pay enough. Jay said that the Towns around us have gone to hourly pay. Wendy said that the Town of Lancaster is not covered by part-time people all the time. They do not have 24-hour coverage of people getting paid hourly. Wendy said she was also told that we haven't lost some members, and that they only took a couple of shifts up in Lancaster. Steve Cox said something doesn't make sense. Steve said Littleton has a lot of volunteers for things. Those are low numbers to run a volunteer crew with who are paid per diem. The numbers appear to be very low. There appears to be internal issues that are going on and maybe the Board needs to meet with the members. Jay said the biggest thing that came out of the survey he did was money. Jay said we can leave things the way it is right now. Jay wants a letter stating to him that he is not obligated to go on calls after hours so he can do what he wants to do. He doesn't want miscommunication on what his responsibility is. Jay said a couple of years ago he came to a meeting, and Wendy was not there that night. He told the Board that night that he was burnt out, and Duane told him

we will have to put you on suspension. Mark said he does not recall that. Jays said that Duane was joking, and that would be a way for Jay not to go on all the calls. Wendy said no one selectperson can tell him what do, it is a Board decision. One member of the board acting on their own has no power. Wendy said if something occurred, Jay should have been here. Tom Ladd said Jay has responded to after-hour calls. Tom said the police chief doesn't go out after 40 hours. The Board said that there has been no expectation that Jay has to provide the entire coverage and Jay has been told this a number of times.

Tom said if Jay works his 40 hours and doesn't go on calls after that, there is going to be a shortage of coverage. Tom said that Jay has been phenomenal in answering calls. The Department doesn't have enough people who can do that. Tom Ladd said that sort of expectation, whether it was pressure exerted on them from a variety of Boards, is a pressure on them they have to go on all the call. Tom said that this is not anything brand new—it goes back to all the people who ran the ambulance, John, Judy Deveau, Ron, etc. Tom said that Jay has worked way above and beyond. How we work through this is a very valid concern. Tom said that he got most concerned that the contract was with a certain entity, when Tom said he didn't even know this discussion was going on. Jay has taken an attempt to solve the problem. Is money a solution, Tom said sure, but there are flexibility issues. There are a variety of things that can be looked at. Wendy said we are certainly open to suggestions, and Jay always tosses out give us more money. Wendy said we can throw money at the issue, but then the Board would need to go to the voters. There are different options. We could go to 40 hours provided by Whitefield then go to Lancaster after 40 hours or go entirely to an outside agency. We asked Jay to present us some options so we can discuss them and evaluate them. Some things we may want for the community may cost us more money.

Shawn White said he was on a volunteer fire department – volunteers don't happen anymore - \$50 a day isn't really a lot to pay someone to sit and wait for a call for 12 hours. This is an issue everywhere. If Whitefield is going to have a response agency from outside of the community, Tom Ladd said it would be unwise of us not to set up a first response program – that would come with some costs. To offset the delay, we may want to look at something like this. The Board said it is an issue that we need to continue to look at and try to come up with a solution. We need to evaluate all avenues.

Wendy asked Judy to follow-up with Jason Call our assessor on the Matt Carstens parcel of land. Wendy also asked Judy to pull Ed's letter we sent listing our Northern Pass concerns so we can review it at our next meeting.

Judy, Peter, and Ed Betz will go to Concord on April 20th to meet with DOT re: the TE project that was cancelled by the State.

We received a draft of the Administrative Order from the EPA re: the sewer treatment plan. Steve Lafrance was given a copy, and he will be at our next meeting to review this with us.

Wendy explained that the Sewer Treatment Plant is past its intended lifetime, and has some issues with the EPA so we will be issued an Administrative Order. We have been working with the EPA. Every year they make the testing requirements more stringent. We seem to

gain a little bit and they change the limits so we go backwards. The plan is to try to switch from discharging in the river to discharging in the ground. We are not the only town that has this issue. There is a whole other level – one reason you can keep violating is if you are a poor town. They look at what your water and sewer bills are and if they are low then they say you are not poor. They tell us we have to raise our water/sewer rates. Part of our problem is our water and sewer rates have been low for a long time. We started raising water/sewer rates about seven years ago in small increments but we have not been doing enough. Terry Welch is very creative and has been working with the EPA as well.

Peter said people are concerned that the planning guide is not being enforced. Peter said he spoke with Scott Burns, Chairman of the Planning Board to see if there is anyone in violation who has been notified by the Planning Board that they are in violation. Scott said there has been someone who has not filled out a development permit, and they have been notified a couple of times. Where do you start this whole process? Mark said the Board needs to be sure it is being universally enforced. The Planning Board notifies people they are in violation, and the Selectboard notifies them they take action against them – when do we start? We have to start somewhere or people will continue to ignore the planning guide. We have someone here who has been noticed twice so why don't we start here? Shawn said driveway permits, roadway bans, planning board makes the rules and there is no enforcement. Peter said if we are not going to enforce it, why have the Development Guide? Wendy said we can't selectively enforce the guide. The Planning Board needs to start citing the violations and then if people don't comply, it will be referred to the Board. Can the Board start sending out letters so we can send out a few together? Wendy doesn't want to be in a position of singling people out. Wendy will reword the letter, and it will be sent to the people who have not submitted their development permit.

Shawn said he is on vacation next week, and he would like Fred to work with the highway next week to help with grading. If there is good weather, he can do the water things he needs to do in the morning and then come do the grading. Fred doesn't have a problem with that. Shawn asked the Board if the Water Department come up with a plan so the new building at the Legion Field has water. Mark said those are things that Fred has been working on, and we can discuss this with him.

A motion was made by Wendy Hersom, seconded, and unanimously approved to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 I e.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

