

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, August 28, 2017

At the Selectmen's Meeting on Monday, August 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Peter Corey, John Tholl, and Wendy Hersom.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to enter in to non-public session at 6:00 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (e) consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against this board or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. The motion was seconded by John Tholl.

Roll call to enter into non-public session: Hersom – Yes; Tholl – Yes; Corey: Yes

The Board entered non-public session at 6:00 p.m.

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 6:25 p.m.

A motion was made by John Tholl, seconded by Wendy Hersom, to seal the minutes of the non-public session because it was determined that divulgence of this information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board.

Roll call to seal minutes: Tholl – Yes; Hersom – Yes; Corey – Yes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. & Mrs. Cowan along with Eliot Wessler and Ellen Hays, residents on Forest Lake, attended the meeting to discuss the water on the common. Mr. and Mrs. Cowan said they have been summer residents of Whitefield on Memory Lane since 1982 and have been paying taxes twice a year. In the 80's and 90's they were only here three weeks a year and they are now here 10-12 weeks a summer. They have water in their pipes from the lake, but they have been taking drinking water from the common until it was turned off a couple of weeks ago. They would like to make an arrangement to get town drinking water from someplace and they would be willing to pay for it. They understand they would have to pay for it. They appreciate the Board hearing their case. They draw from the lake for water for everything but drinking water. The only water they take from the common is for drinking water and probably fill about 3 gallon jugs a week from May to October. They said that there are probably about 50 residents who do this. All of Burns is in Whitefield and half of Mirror Lake is in Whitefield. People may have issues with their wells and use it as a last resort. They understand the Lion's Club for the pancake breakfast was frustrated at their last breakfast. They said that they can afford to buy bottled water, but that they like the taste of Whitefield water. They would be very happy to contribute their fair share. They understand there was a recreational vehicle filling up a huge tank—how is that fair? That is quite different than someone taking a couple gallons a week. Maybe there are options to post signs. This is for limited use, for Whitefield residents only. Wendy said she doesn't know how we would regulate it between different people using it. Peter said he doesn't see the town getting into the retail water market. We just aren't set up to do that. Peter said his in-laws had a home on Burns Lake, drew water from the well, but was not fine for drinking. Peter said they bought one of those Brita water filters then the water is fine to drink. Peter said they never thought that

the Town should be providing them their water. Peter said he doesn't see us getting into the retail water business. We have enough problems with buckets of sand. Wendy said it is a logistical problem. We are not sure how we would make it work. Would it be possible for Whitefield residents to get a key to use the water? They understand that for the water customers they pay \$65 as a customer charge twice a year plus usage and they pay per gallon after that week. They pay for what they use. Marsha -do they have friends they can go visit and get water from? Peter said he doesn't see us managing a retail outlet for water. John said even if we provided a key, how do you control the key? John sees it as a control issue. People come in and fill up rv's with water and that is the concern. John doesn't see a way we can set it up so it would work. How many times have we forgotten where our keys are? Mrs. Cowan said driving in from Forest Lake whoever needs it could sign it out. The Board doesn't know how to make it work. Wendy said in fairness to the other water customers, we are spending \$6.5 million to upgrade the water system and we are looking for everyone to pay their fair share. Wendy can't say it is o.k. for them to get water for free. They said they are not asking for free water. There will be an administration cost of who is going to manage it. Wendy said no disrespect but buy Poland Springs. Mr. Cowan said that they have gotten in to the habit of using the same four jugs. A water cooler is another idea. Wendy said she doesn't know how to manage it, but if they can come up with a brilliant idea, we are willing to listen. We don't want to not be accommodating. We just don't know how to make it work. It was suggested that they approach Mac's and see if they would install one of those vending machines they could use to get water. We just can't see the Town getting into the retail water market.

Dennis & Linda Streeter of Grandma's Kitchen attended the meeting. They said they have had an on-going problem with an odor. They feel it may be coming from the sewer pump station. This year it has gotten very bad. It is random. The smell was horrible yesterday morning on the patio for breakfast at 10:30 in the morning. It lingers and it is there. Dennis said it does get worse when the humidity is higher. It is not as bad when there is low humidity. It is still there and it shouldn't be there. They also live across the street from it. Dennis said he understand that it may be coming from the sewer pump station as It is not properly vented—sewer pumps need to be vented. Sewer pipes run at neutral pressure and with no release valve it only comes out where it can. They have a vent on their commercial building which was upgraded when they hooked on to the sewer. The only place for that to go is up through the stack – that is the least resistance. The pump station above maybe when it starts up it creates that flow. The air in front of it needs to come out so it will pass freely through it. It all creates a rapid pressure. When it was first put in, Dennis said they brought it up to the state and the town. Bill and Bill showed up and had the state plumbing inspector and state health inspector has jurisdiction over it. There shouldn't be any smell. He has to remove the obnoxious odor. We need to look into doing something about that. Systems could be added to it to alleviate the problem. That is where we are at. Josh said the pump station doesn't need to be vented. The vents in them are for combustible gases. If it is vented, you would smell it more. Josh said he has been told it smells there. There has to be some other issue, possibly a failed leachfield. How do we find out what the issue is? It can cause illness and it is not good for business. If it was the pump station it would be every time it kicked on. Dennis said it would be more likely to occur when the other one releases. Dennis said it is hitting a block. That air has no other place to go. Josh said it is a

force main that pushes it down to the treatment plant. Where is the line for the pump station from the trailer park? Dennis said it goes down the same line. There is only one sewer line that both pump stations go through. Josh will look and see how it is run. There is a force main and a gravity line. The question is what do we do, who do we call, where is the smell coming from if everyone agrees there is a smell? Peter Corey said we just got a notice of a residence dumping sewer out in to the ground. Dennis said that we have to do something. We can't continue with how it is going now. Josh agrees—they shouldn't have to deal with that. Josh asked them to give them a call when the smell is bad. Josh has stopped every day this week and has not been able to smell anything. Wendy suggested they work with Josh on it. Wendy said Josh will work with you. What if he can't find it from the pump station? Josh said he does not believe it is coming from the pump station. He also said call him when the smell is there. When there is nothing there, there is nothing for him to look into. Call him immediately and he can come up. Next step, we have done that. Josh said that he will look into the town sewer system and see what is going on there. Josh said if the smell was coming from there they were right down cleaning it. Josh will look into it and have Shawn go around, pop the manhole and see if the smell is coming from there. If it is not coming from the town septic system, the health officer can come out, who does have jurisdiction and then we can get to the bottom of this. Dennis said that this did not just start and it has gotten worse.

Marsha said she was walking by the Bank of NH and the drainage system there smelled like sewer, maybe there is a blockage. Suggested we check into that. Josh is going to look into it.

Sara Dunn and Shane Morton attended the meeting to discuss a letter they submitted in reference to properties they own at 43 and 45 Brown Street. When they first bought the property, they saved it from going to tax deeding. Sara said the interest has been accruing because they were denied a permit from the planning board. It has taken a lot of time to get things straightened out. They are asking for forgiveness on the interest that has accrued. They are trying to get it up and manageable. There are now two separate properties. Sara said she had mentioned before RSA 79-3, which is a tax relief program. The interest that accrued seems crazy to her. They don't mind paying the taxes. Peter made a motion to abate the interest based that the property taxes are brought current no later than September 1st. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

Fred Davis attended the meeting in regards to the generator for the UV building at the treatment plant. Josh said with the grant for the UV building generator everything needed to be included in the price from buying the generator, the electrical the concrete and the dirt work. Fred's price was just the generator and the Town would do the dirt work and concrete work so when we sent it in to the lady from the state she needed a breakdown of the concrete, dirt work and that was a year and a half ago. Shawn's crew didn't have the time to do it. We got a price from Royal Electric, which included everything. Fred is wondering who makes this decision? Josh said he got the prices for the grant people as they needed the prices to put in to figure out the grant award. Fred does not understand how that can happen? What is the cut-off point? There is no bidding? Fred asked if the generator had been paid for, and it has not been paid for but it is

sitting in the town garage. This is a new generator. Fred said the bid process is not correct. Fred said we don't need a generator that size. Josh said we do need a generator that size.

Fred said he was in on this from the get go. Public Service made Bill Robinson take those poles down. They put in a new service. It is fused down for 100 amps and when Fred put down two separate generators. He said we don't need that big of a generator. It is way over-kill. If it was that big of an issue, it should have been stamped by an engineer.

Josh said this has been going on for three years. What does Fred want us to do? Fred said he wants it to be fair. Fred said he is a taxpayer. It is way overkill—it is a waste of taxpayers money—bottom line. How did you determine what you needed for the building? Josh said from the UV spec book. The electric bill is \$1200 a month to run that uv building.

We have the generator all through the grant from FEMA. How can you sign off in a bid process that is not legal? There wasn't a competitive bid process. Fred said he put in a quote for the big generator and one for a lot less. Fred doesn't have that type of authority. Josh got the generator based on what the UV panels stated. Fred looked at it and that is why he has a 30K generator quoted. That matches the existing power source going in there. It ran off 60 amps forever. Fred said we have a generator that is this big and we need one that is way less. We need a Ford Escort and not the Suburban.

John said what concerns him is not the size of the generator. Is this sole source contract or is it going out to bid? John said in his opinion this is what they wrote to write the grant. Not going out to bid. Is the plan to go out to bid for the remaining part of the project? The lady from the state needed the price on who we were going with for the grant. He was figured once they got that that is who we are going with. Fred thinks we are out of order.

Royal Electric bought the generator and it is waiting to be installed. Fred said this is not how business is conducted. At this point Royal thinks they are doing the job. Peter Corey said that the law does not require a competitive bid process.

Ed Samson, Police Chief, said he has gone through the FEMA grant process a couple of times. He said they look at what you want to do and what you have gotten for price quotes.

One of the reasons we went with Royal is because they were going to do the entire job. John said we are locked in to Royal at this point. We do not have to go to a bid process. We can go to a sole source provider. Peter said it is not illegal. Fred said we were very happy to use him when they were \$100,000 less than everyone else for this building.

John said that we are locked in and we are stuck. There is not much we can do about it now. John would prefer to have this go out to one or more people. Ed said that signing the grant application was basically signing the purchase agreement.

Department Head Meeting

Josh Welch – Treatment Plant

Josh discussed the property on Mountain View Road with the failed septic system. The state called him about that hooking in to town sewer. The best alternative for them would be to put in their own septic system.

Josh said they had an inspection from DES last week and there wasn't any major issues. They did want the fence put back up that the highway crew took down when they cut the trees and brush. They were not happy with the holes in the liners. Josh had told them that we are not going to dump thousands and thousands of dollars into it as we are upgrading. Josh said every year we have to calibrate the flow meters and the influent one was off and the effluent was being measured of 45 degree wear and it is really a 60 degree that is in there. It has been reading that we have lower flow that has really been going out of there. They were there when we were doing it. It is still not over the design flow for the plant. Josh said it has been reading lower than it should be.

Josh called the state today and talked to them about the violation mailing. They said they would extend the violation notice deadline so it could go out with the water bills. They gave October 13th as the deadline as that is when the water bills will go out.

Fred Ingerson – Water Department

Fred had a PO in the folder for a hydrant repair kit to replace some part which was signed. Fred has been raising some gate valve boxes. He has to do Jefferson Road and repair some hydrants. Found a hydrant on Route 3 that we are not going to be able to repair. It is rotted beyond the point of repair. Two hydrants in a row that don't work there. Fred said he called in to dig safe to do the hydrant in front of the salon. He had another bacteria hit in August and repeated samples that came back fine. It was at the fire station and that triggered another level 2 assessment and he has been working on trying to get that done. Fred asked the state and he can do it himself. Every time there is a hit there is going to be a level 2 assessment that has to be done. You have to have a year's period in between before you can go back to level 1 assessment. There is a form that he can fill out to get the sampling location changed, which Fred may do to change the location from the fire station to the town office.

The Board asked about the tank cleaning and Fred said they will let us know a couple of weeks before they come. Fred is suggesting spending the extra money to have a video done and keep track of what they actually do for work. The additional camera was like \$500.

John Ross, Jr. – Fire-Rescue

A motion was made by John Tholl to write off \$976.36 in ambulance bill balances for a deceased patient. The motion was seconded by Peter Corey. All in favor 3-0. Motion passed. Three new members were approved to join Whitefield Fire-Rescue on a six month probationary basis.

Edward Samson – Police Department

Kenneth Tetrault is in the part-time academy. He will complete it in November. The tasers came in like five days—ready to go. They are going to work out well. The tasers will activate the body cams. We spoke about Jefferson wanting us to do the details for Santa's. They can't keep the details filled. Norm Brown reached out if he went to their town attorney to draft a contract with us would they be ok with that? Ed said it would nothing other than being allowed to work those details at Santa's Village. It would not affect our schedule. The Town gets the extra compensation. Lisbon just signed a contract with Lyman to provide coverage 5 hours a week. John said his only concern is about worker's compensation—whose coverage would they fall under? The liability coverage. Ed will tell Norm to go ahead and see what their attorney comes up with for a contract.

Ed said currently we have a set detail line in the budget. That \$10,000 gets reimbursed and we get it reimbursed in the general fund. Thinking about creating a revolving fund for details. Ed would like to pursue it. We are going to research it and speak with the auditor about it.

Ed said we have been fully staffed this summer, and things have been going good.

Kelly Smith – Recreation Department

The After School Program will be downstairs this year. Kelly thanked Ed for dealing with that. We are going to have a bus drop the kids off and exit out. Recreation had a good summer. Had an average of 48 kids. Kelly said she got a lot of compliments about the summer program.

Ed asked what is the status of finishing the building at the legion field? It is not finished and his stuff is still there. She is not sure what we want to do. The Board asked Judy to invite Bill to a meeting. Kelly wants the baseball stuff stored in there.

Ed said the Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Operations Plan are done.

A motion was made by John Tholl to approve the Whitefield Emergency Operations Plan and to approve the Statement of Adoption. The motion was seconded by Peter Corey. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

Peter made a motion to adopt the NIMS (National Incident Management System) Resolution for the Whitefield Emergency Operations Plan. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2017 Selectmen's Meeting. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to accept and authorize Wendy Hersom, Chairperson of the Board of Selectmen, to sign the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Agreement Number: NBRC17GNH11 for Town of Whitefield Wastewater Treatment Facility Septage Receiving Station Upgrades in the amount of \$399,200. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

A letter from a resident was received voicing concerns with the proposed Dalton water line repairs. The Selectboard will respond to this letter.

As all the payments from the Dalton residents for the water line repairs have been received, the Board asked Judy to contact Steve Lafrance and Fred Ingerson to let them know that we would like to proceed with the project as soon as possible.

The Board has given its consent to Devine, Millimet and Branch, bond counsel, and waived any conflict with Bank of NH, who will be doing our interim financing for the Water Bond project.

The Board approved the Request by North Country Council for Extension of the Contract for Update to Town Capital Improvements Plan and Revision/Correction to the Original Contract.

The SB38 meeting is scheduled for September 11th. Shawn is making the recommendation that the SB38 funds be used to finish Gould Road from where we left off this summer to Spencer Road with gravel, pavement, and culverts replaced. If anything is left over, he would suggest using it on Main Street. We were notified by the state that the SB 38 funds cannot be spent on upgrading a municipal parking lot. SB38 funds need to be used for highway construction, reconstruction or maintenance purposes. The highways are Class IV or Class V local highways. The projects need to be something that is part of the highway infrastructure.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.