

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 9, 2017

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Mark Lufkin, Peter Corey, and Wendy Hersom.

Richard Harris attended the meeting to discuss the policy for water hook-ups. He said his question is on the meeting of October 3rd when we had Horizons here they stated when the water bill was paid if you are on a one-trunk line that if you pay the bill for hook-ups and you have been approved you are on it forever. Dick said prior to that meeting, the Board took the moratorium off. Dick's question is he paid for five hook-ups and he is wondering why his check has not been cashed. Wendy said the forever is an issue. Wendy said they don't necessarily agree with what Dexter said on that issue. Dick said he was just approved for five new mobile homes. Wendy said the main service line was approved for how many homes and Dick said probably one or two. He has been approved for 35 over the past few years. Dick said he can't get planning board approval without water hook-up approval. If Dick has been approved for the five hook-ups, and the planning board has approved them, Dick said he feels he should be able to get those five hook-ups. Wendy said the problem becomes if you don't use those hook-ups indefinitely it ties up other possible hook-ups. Wendy said we have not made a decision on that yet. Dick said we are talking about a master meter not an individual hook-up. Dick said when you give a decision, it goes in to the town allotment for capacity. Fred Ingerson had asked how does someone keep track of who has paid and who hasn't paid. Fred said if someone pays 20 years ago who is keeping track of that. Frank Lombardi said those trailers for Dick's mobile home park passed with the condition he could get town water or he could do artesian wells. Peter said we have been passing over this ordinance issue, and we really need to make a decision. Dick said he can't hire his engineers to come in and look over his sewer system upgrades until he knows if he has water for those hook-ups.

We have had it for a couple of months and need to decide. Dick said why don't we give him three years and extend it if is not done in that time frame. Peter said he feels we need to have a standard procedure for everyone. Dick said he feels that once you allot five units that goes into your allotment for capacity. Wendy said we don't have an answer for him quite yet. We have been bogged down with budgets, etc. Wendy said hopefully by the end of the month we can have something for him.

Katie Lombardi presented her budget for the summer concert series, which comes out of the Recreation Budget. Katie said she is requesting the same as she did for this past summer, \$2,450 for 7 weeks of concerts. Katie said they don't always use the full amount for musicians if someone cancels, etc.

Katie said basically she put together what she could in December for the attorney for Northern Pass.

Frank Lombardi, CIP chairman and Regan Pride of North Country Council attended the meeting to review the Capital Improvement Program.

Mr. Pride said he brought a summary presentation for the CIP for 2017 to 2022. The first sheet is the Ten-Year History of Capital Expenditures for Municipal Government Departments. Mr. Pride had some issues with tracking the spending of the library project so he used what was proposed. It also tracks tax rate impact for capital projects ranging from \$1.55 to a high of the library project year of \$4.10 per thousand. Wendy said we never impacted the tax rate \$4.10. Mr. Pride was the only bond he could find was the \$60,000. In 2006 to 2015 the net change is 33.5% change in the operating budget, which is about 3% per year. There was also charts tracking the town tax history and the capital projects tax impact. There is a chart for Whitefield Debt Service History. The DRA has a limit on what the Town can carry for debt, which is \$5,912,407 based on the 2016 valuation. Mr. Pride suggested putting in those debt schedules for the town report. There is a six year schedule for the proposed capital expenditure projects. Wendy had a question if the town's value decreases with a revaluation, what would happen if we were over our debt limit? Mr. Pride tried to get a handle on what the balances were in the capital reserve accounts and there was discussion to eliminate some capital reserve accounts that could be closed out. Mr. Pride said it would be good to get those capital reserve accounts cleaned up. We should take a review through those capital reserve accounts and have a good handle on what the original purpose of the capital reserve fund was for so you know it is being used for what it is supposed to be. You may find you want to change the purpose for some of those capital reserve accounts. Mr. Pride said he would see at some point during the year the Selectmen authorized to buy a piece of equipment through the capital reserve fund. Be sure you are not taking the funds out of capital reserve funds that you are planning on using those funds for future projects. Mr. Pride said look back at the capital improvement plan and you may need to consider increasing the amount you put in those accounts. Mr. Pride reviewed his Summary Points and General Recommendations. Frank said the CIP Committee would like the tax rate impact listed on the warrant articles. Tom Ladd asked about bonding for other uses if we use up our bond limit for the water/sewer projects. There does not appear to be any future funding issues that will have to have bonds. The Hazen Road bridge may be a bond article. The Board thanked the CIP committee for their hard work and efforts. Tom Ladd asked if this would be available on the web site, and the Board said we will put on the 6 Year Schedule for Proposed Capital Expenditures. It may be a document that people can come in to the town office to look at it.

Edie asked about tax rate impact, and the Board said we do put that in our public budget hearing handout every year. Mark said we try to look out for our taxpayers as much as we can. Frank said the CIP Committee try to keep it the same as last year. Wendy said we try to stay in line with the rate of inflation.

Edie asked about the discussions for money for the water and sewer one of the things that was brought in to plan was the town's median income. Edie asked wasn't there a mention it was 10%, we have to show good faith. Wendy said because our user rates were so low. There is a Public Hearing scheduled for January 30th for the bonds for the water and sewer improvement projects.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the December 19, 2016 Selectmen's Meeting Minutes.

Judy told the Board that the terms of our checklist supervisors got messed up sometime in the past. The Supervisor checklist terms pursuant to RSA 41:46-a are elected on even numbered years and they are for 6 year terms. Tina Wright Town Clerk had a proposal to get this fixed was to have the Supervisors on their renewals run for five year terms so they will be get on the even numbered year cycle. She checked with the Secretary of State and they suggested checking with our Town Attorney who felt that the method we have suggested will work fine and be relatively painless. She said it will take 9 years to get everyone back on a six-year term ending in an even year, but it won't be that disruptive. The Board was o.k. with this.

Judy told the Board that the Town of Wakefield did a survey in the past couple of weeks on what towns provide to residents for sand/salt. Judy said she put the results in the folder for the Board to review.

The Board approved the road name for Hemlock Road for 9-1-1 purposes for a development off of Spring Street, as there will be true structures on this road.

Mark Lufkin said Thom Richardson phoned him about Richardson drive. Mark said that Shawn has been saying that Thom wants to give up Richardson Drive. Thom wants to keep it a town road. Thom told Mark that he is trying to save the town money by saying you don't have to plow it when it only has a ½ inch of slush on it. Peter told Thom that we shouldn't be telling the public works director how to plow the road. The Board needs to decide if we want to put on the warrant an article to discontinue Lunn Drive and Richardson Drive.

The Board approved paying for the grader lease payment of \$23,969.14, \$1,450.55 for the airport's 5% share of the 2016 airport projects and \$9,000 to the Mt. Washington Airport for the share of the runway resurface and marker project from the 2016 budget.

The Board reviewed the operating budget for 2017. Next week we will add in the warrant articles and revenues and see where we are at. The plan is to have the Public Budget Hearing on Wednesday, February 8th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.