

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2017

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, July 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: John Tholl, Wendy Hersom, and Peter Corey. Others in attendance: Linda Trudeau, Marsha Lombardi, Edie Worcester, Gerry Pons, Tom Ladd, Dick Harris, Sr., Dick Harris, Jr., Steve Cantin, Bob Stiles.

Gerry Pons attended the meeting. WEDC wants to sponsor and install a wifi hotspot in downtown at the gazebo and it can be used for a variety of issues. It can be used for tourism and it would be a nice asset and could be used for town functions. Gerry said that they have been working with Don Dawson of TCC Networks, and they will work with us to get it going. They will monitor it to be sure people who aren't supposed to be on it are not on it. TCC and Don Dawson funded equipment to light up the north country. Gerry said that he just got it installed at his house and the speed is amazing compared to Fair Point. WEDC is asking for some support for the first year. Don would install the service for the first year, and the cost would be \$99 a month. WEDC had a budget before, but it was cut back to just \$75 year. Their thought was a one year fee structure to see if we like it and whether the town likes it. From the second year on out we believe we can sell advertising to support it. Wendy asked how would advertising on a hot spot work? Jerry said that Don would come in and do a presentation if the Board would like. It is almost like a website, but it is not. The Town has a function they can put a link in to it. It can all be put into that. It is easy to monitor. We can advertise our events on it. Gerry said a lot of people don't even have land lines anymore. The EDC thought it was a good idea. We would like to see at least \$1300 in funds restored for one year, and Gerry thinks he can sell it beyond that. How big of an area does it cover? Gerry said it would just be around the common area. It will be monitored on a daily basis and can be shrunk down if need be. Their concern was people would get on it and use it without paying for it. Don was very specific that they can figure out if someone is on it for more than an hour and a half. It will be a monitoring process for the first few months. He has worked with Coos EDC and has been a good partner. He is wiring up the airport. Wendy said the plan is to get it up and running tomorrow. Gerry said that Chris Diego has given them a line of site to be able to operate it. Gerry likes the opportunity it may bring. Wendy said it is not in the budget for this year. The budget year runs the calendar year. They would need \$700 to finish out this year. Edie asked what is this thing? Wendy said it is an internet connection. It is a wireless hotspot. Marsha said in the winter we don't even use the common. Marsha said you are only talking about a couple of months that it would even be used. Gerry said tourists come through all the time. Gerry said he would like to try it. Shawn said on the advertising piece when you log on you have a page with a disclaimer and you can put advertisers on it. Shawn said we had a hotspot on the common when the town office was there. Shawn said we set it up for the information booth to use. Wendy said she does not want to

provide internet free for people. Shawn said we have a camera set up on the common to monitor the weather. Shawn said \$99 a month is pretty expensive in the winter. Shawn said when we had it before, it did not get a lot of use in the winter months. Gerry said Twin Mountain had a hot spot which got a lot of usage in the winter months. Gerry said people realize there is a hot spot that can be used. Wendy said good luck finding a hot spot in Boston. Gerry said they had a problem at Mt. View Grand with people coming there using the internet service. It is a process to settle in to it and see how it is. It may not meet expectations, but it may meet a need. People can sit at a pancake breakfast on the common and get on the hot spot. The EDC Board liked the idea. Peter asked about a six month trial. Tom Ladd said that if the tech people would come in and explain it that might help. John Tholl said we need to have some software to prevent people from downloading software that is not lawful. John said he would like to hear a lot more before he decides it is a good idea. Gerry said he is sure they have some way of monitoring the flow of what goes in. Marsha said we will have people hanging out there all the time. John would like to hear more if we are going to go with it. Wendy is on the fence if this is really a town expense. Shawn said all the businesses have internet maybe we can get them to partner with us on it. Shawn said he knows the bagel shop and the gun store have internet service. Shawn doesn't know if that can be done. It might make some sense to have them in to a board meeting. Gerry has a private source who says they can fund it if need be. Wendy said we are not saying no. Gerry can invite Don Dawson and TCC to come in to a meeting. Would it be a worth having the businesses come in? Don is a for-profit business. Gerry said Don is easy to talk to and he is looking to grow the business and help where he can. Gerry thinks it is a good idea. Gerry can invite him to another meeting. Gerry will get with Judy and come up with a date for Don to come in. Gerry said the EDC has some projects they are looking at and would like to come to the meeting for funding if they feel it is necessary. Wendy said we are already in to 7 months of our budget year.

Bob Stiles said he still has a problem with the limit of two, 5 gallons of winter sand. Bob said it is not right to have the highway department tracking down people and causing hate and discontent. A lot of people don't have money and go to the town's sand pile to get sand to prevent people from slipping and falling in their driveways. Bob said if necessary he can put some extra sand down at the sand pile if the town can't provide sand to their residents. John Gooden for example on Kimball Hill Road would need to make 10 trips to get his driveway sanded. There are more cameras at the town garage than at the Bank of New Hampshire.

Shawn White said Bob is always down asking for help from the highway department, and Shawn said he always accommodates Bob, and he doesn't appreciate the insults. Shawn said that the highway garage is not going to monitor the winter sand. When the sand pile goes empty and he has no sand for the town roads, then he is going to ask the taxpayers to pay more for sand. Bob said he has plenty of money because he has plenty of cameras.

Peter Corey said one of the purposes of the Selectboard is to assure we are good stewards of the public dollar. We have to ensure that the public money is used for public purposes. Sanding private driveways is not a legal use of public dollars. Peter has had people call him at home to complain about people who are contractors for sanding and plowing driveways going down to

the highway garage and filling their trucks up with sand. If it was up to Peter, no one would get any sand. We don't allow people to come in to the town office and take paper and stamps. Peter said you can buy sand at Home Depot. Peter said that he has a bucket of sand that he purchased three years ago at Home Depot, and he still has sand left. When he needs his driveway plowed and sanded, he calls a local contractor to do it. Peter said that Bob has plenty of land where he could put out sand for people to come and take sand if he wants. Peter said Shawn shouldn't be have to be policing who gets sand and how much they get. We don't allow people to take other public property so why do we allow them to take public sand? Peter said he is going to make a motion that directs the PW director to take appropriate measures to ensure there is no unauthorized taking of any sand at all from the sand pile and notify the police chief to enforce it. Edie said then stop paying for sanding the sidewalks. It is not fair to people who live out of town and don't have sidewalks. John understands the principal, he just can't second it. Peter said it is theft of public property and the Selectboard is allowing it to continue. The motion was not seconded. Wendy said that Mr. Corey's position is not allowing any sand at all to be taken from the town garage. Wendy said she feels we have had enough discussions over the past months which seems to support two buckets of sand. Wendy is here to do the will of the residents. The two buckets of sand stands at this point. Mr. Corey disagrees with this, but the other two Selectmen agree with it.

Bob said do the people have anything to say about it? Bob said he is a sounding board a lot for the residents of Whitefield. Some people can't afford to buy sand. Wendy said she feels we have discussed it enough – two buckets of sand.

Department Head Meeting

Fred Ingerson – Water Department

Fred said they have been doing hydrant flushing, weed cutting, and the NH-DES sanitary survey is coming up. The State asked for the total number of water connections, which Fred said he can get from Joyce. They also want to know the last time the water tanks were cleaned and sanitized, and all Fred can find is that the last inspection was done in 2005. Wendy asked when the last sanitary survey was performed and whether or not there was a record of tank inspections in that report. Fred said the last sanitary survey was done about three years ago but he hasn't seen the report and doesn't know if they asked about tank inspections then. It was just something they asked for in preparation of their upcoming survey. Is the question we can't find the records or they haven't been done? Fred said they haven't been done. Fred is working on getting prices and quotes for tank inspections and cleanings. He spoke with Josh Welch, and he is getting a price from them as well. One company was \$10,000 for all the tanks. Fred said we may be able to get by with just an inspection for now.

Fred said in reference to the Spaulding Inn leak he has talked about recently, he has done some more investigating. It is the town's responsibility to fix it, not the owner's. The gate valve is within the town right of way. That line is like a 3-inch line that may be cement/asbestos given the material the main line is. It may be difficult to come up with parts if that is what is leaking. He is looking to see what kind of recommendations the Board has. Should he go ahead and fix

the leak or wait until the line has been replaced as part of the water project next year? That valve has not worked for quite a few years. Peter feels we should hold off and do it as part of the water project. The other two board members felt the same. We will just let it leak another winter. Fred said they do turn off the water in the basement.

Fred had a couple more leaks. There was a house on Prospect Street that he got called for on July 20th. Something was going on in the house and no one was living there so Fred had to turn the water off. That same night Florence Darby on Mountain View had a leak underneath the crawl space and the pipes were leaking. Fred had to shut the water off so they could get the leak fixed. Fred did have a chance to look at the meter that was in the house, but there is nothing going to the meter so they wouldn't be able to use that. The water comes in from the other side of the house.

Fred said that his July monthly bacteria tests came back, and they triggered a level II assessment. Fred is not licensed to do that so Welch has to do chlorinate the Bray Hill system to ensure public safety and we did a bunch of chlorine tests to be sure they all came back ok. The bacteria tests have come back fine since then.

Bob asked what is happening on Elm Street—water is running down the road. Bob said next to Belanger's house—it is the Dalton water line. Wendy said that we are trying to figure out a solution to the problem. John said people who own the line don't have permission to dig from the state. The line serves Dalton residents and that line is servicing 6 Dalton residents. The state won't give them permission to dig in the state of right of way. Wendy said we potentially have a solution to the problem. Wendy said it's not a simple fix. Bob thinks it could be fixed. Wendy said that the leak is in Dalton. We don't have the authority to dig in Dalton. Bob thinks you could get a permit to dig in Dalton. The Board said they are working on it. Bob said we could put in a meter pit.

John Ross – Whitefield Fire Rescue

John had a new applicant he was looking to hire. He is a certified firefighter that has to recertify. The Board was o.k. with the applicant.

Engine 2 is starting to be put back together. The repairman is going to let us have the old parts and he is taking photos. This is the engine that was supposedly fixed two years ago. It now appears that the repairs the town paid for were not performed. John asked if the town wants to pursue reimbursement through legal means. Wendy said we can look at it again when the current repairs are complete and he has more details.

Shawn White – Public Works

Shawn said you are all familiar with that July 1st storm where we got 5.75 inches of rain in less than an hour which did a lot of damage to some of our roads. Shawn met with Heidi Lawton of FEMA and we were one of the hardest hit in Coos County. Gould Road took it the hardest. We had areas on the side of the road it washed out 6 feet below the pavement. It was a clean culvert but it was unable to support the water flow. The road used to have paved ditches. The stone we have been putting in was not holding so the only thing to do was dig it out and put stone in and

keep stone on top of it. We paved the swales and put curbing up to keep the water in the roadway. Shawn said doing the FEMA numbers, employee time, and vehicle costs, we are at \$89,000. Combining the damage in other towns and to State roads in Coos County we will be over the \$119,000 threshold for FEMA reimbursement. Shawn said his budget is over \$60,000 for the mess it caused. Overtime was held to a minimum because we did the repairs during normal maintenance hours. There are still areas in town that need to be done. The majority of the out of town roads there is pavement under the gravel. A lot of the summer projects are not going to be done due to time and budgetary reasons. That is just a FYI. Heidi Lawton was in today and said it looks good we will be able to get our money.

Street lights are up, four haven't been put up yet. Shawn said we missed the one at the junction of 142 and 116.

Mrs. Boswell has a camp on Newell Lane, which is next to the boat landing. She has contacted the Police Department several times about people parking on her property. She wants no parking signs out on the front on the roadway. Shawn has some cones up. The Town is obligated to maintain the boat launch. Wendy made a motion to put up a no parking sign. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. All in favor 3-0. Motion passed.

Shawn said that our GIS program is live right now. We have one more step and that is to sign the service agreement for the AXISGIS editor. This will help with our filing system. Joyce will be able to put in all the permits the planning board issues. It gives us a tool so we can now go around and with the GIS and put in water shutoffs, street lights, etc. Shawn just needs the Board to sign the AXISGIS Editor Services agreement with Cartographics, which the Board did sign.

Shawn received a bill from Mark Lufkin for two tires and rims that he gave the department. Mark also wants the department to return a heavy equipment trailer that he gave to the department 8-9 years ago with the understanding that he would want it back if we were not using it. Shawn said that he is going to give it back, but he has to remove some steel off of it first. He also wants \$160 for two tires and rims. Shawn said when we took the two tires and rims, we exchanged two radiators for them. What does the Board want Shawn to do? The tires were purchased last fall. Peter said it had to be before that because he wasn't serving on the board when the transactions occurred. Shawn said when we crushed the gravel for this site, Mark had some crushed as well as Bob. The town agreed to place the gravel and grade the road to Mark's salvage yard in exchange for a utility trailer. We have never received any utility trailer—what direction are we going to go with that? Judy can look back through the minutes and see what she can find regarding all these transactions.

Shawn said in reference to the sidewalks we will be back working on Main Street and then up Highland Street. We can't finish Jefferson Road until the state finishes up with their drainage.

Josh Welch – Sewer Treatment Plant

Josh said that everything at the plant is running good. We got all the pump stations cleaned out. Josh said that the grease at the pump station next to Grandma's has increased quite a bit. Josh had a couple of people giving prices for cleaning out the brush. It is going to be like \$6,000,

which is the cheapest one. It needs to be done. The cheapest one is going to do it with an excavator with a chipper head on it. Shawn thought he read we had to remove the stumps. Josh doesn't think we have to as long as the trees are dead. Josh will check on that. He is going to get the price to Fred this week to clean those water tanks. Peter asked about the pump Josh spoke about last meeting, and Josh said it is up and running without too much expense.

The Dalton residents attended the meeting to discuss the water line issue. Wendy said we received an estimate from the engineer for \$247,000. Wendy said there is no way the Town can support that. We can't spend that much of Whitefield taxpayers on water for five Dalton residents. Wendy said we have an alternate solution, but it is going to require them to cooperate with one another. The solution we came up with after meeting with our engineer is that we can replace/extend our water line for 650 feet to a point where a master meter can be put in and the Dalton residents will need to form a homeowner's association to run from the master meter to their residences.

There would be a master meter, and the Town would send a bill to the homeowners association and they would have to figure out how they will pay it. They would be responsible for the line from the master meter to their homes. The master meter would be located just past the cemetery. It is still a huge cost to the Town so we are asking them to contribute \$25,000 towards that cost. The Town will only be responsible to the master meter. We would just service the water to the master meter. It is then their line after that. If it is not leaking now, they don't have to do anything until it does leak. If their lines are still intact, then they don't have to fix it. If there is a leak on their portion of the line, it would be their responsibility. Wendy said we are only going to track the water to the meter. Pat Neal asked if we are going to do it this year. The plan is to do it this year. John Tholl said they should be able to save half of what they were planning on spending originally. John said it is a win/win for the town and for the Dalton users. They can use what they have currently for as long as their lines hold up. They are responsible for any problems after the master meter. Wendy said the town is going to put in an 8 inch ductile iron line, which is actually cheaper than a 6-inch line.

Edie asked what the cost to the town would be for the 650 feet of line, and Wendy said it is about \$50,000. Edie asked who would be paying for it, and Wendy said the water users are paying for it. It is not going to be paid for by the grant, it was not in the original PER. Edie asked if the water users can afford this? Wendy said yes, as the water department has some surplus. Hooking to that master meter is probably included in the project costs. It will be all new to master meter than it will be their galvanized lines, unless their line is not usable. The master meter is going in at the end of the cemetery. We won't be in the state right of way. Dick Harris asked about wells, and the owners said that is not going to work for them. John Ross said contact your insurance and it may save them some money with a hydrant being so close to their homes. The hydrant is before the master meter.

August 14th is the next meeting – we will put them on the agenda for that night 6:30 p.m. Peter said the work won't proceed until we have their \$25,000. The residents asked about the bill they received in February for the repairs to the line that was done last October. The Board agreed to reduce the charge to cover just the materials that were purchased for the repair. Each of the five

residences will need to come up with \$5232 each to cover the older repair bill and their share for the new line. One of the residents asked if we could look at changing the wording from the meeting minutes of July 10th in reference to them stating they thought the leak had slowed down.

A motion was made by John Tholl to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2017 Selectmen's Meeting with the following change: on the top of the second page instead of it saying "The Dalton residents thought it looked that the leak has slowed down a lot. Fred said he thought it had gotten worse." It will say "The Dalton residents thought it appeared that the leak had subsided some, but Fred said he thought it had gotten worse." The motion was seconded by Peter Corey. All in favor 3-0. Motion passed.

Rural Development is finalizing our documents for the sewer system upgrade bond project. In discussions with USDA, questions relating to unallocated funds reported in the 2015 audited financial statements, the Selectboard acknowledges potential infiltration and inflow to the sewer system and will allocate \$40,000 of these funds for testing and repairs. We will discuss the time frame in a future meeting.

The Board approved Harvest Drive and Tower Drive for road names for the sub-division up behind Shear Destiny Salon on Lancaster Road.

A motion was made by Wendy Hersom to enter in to non-public session at 7:50 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. The motion was seconded by John Tholl.
Roll call to enter into non-public session: Hersom – Yes; Tholl – Yes; Corey: Yes

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 8:05 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

A motion was made by Wendy Hersom to enter in to non-public session at 8:05 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 Wendy Hersom.
Roll call to enter into non-public session: Hersom – Yes; Tholl – Yes; Corey: Yes

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 adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

