

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes Monday, July 25, 2016

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, July 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Mark Lufkin and Wendy Hersom.

The following were in attendance: Marsha Lombardi, Edie Worcester, Terry Lufkin, Ivy Pearson, Sondra Brekke, Mina Adamovage, Richard Harris, Sr., Richard Harris, Jr., Jay Watkins, Fred Ingerson, Josh Welch, Shawn White.

At 6:30 p.m. Chairperson Hersom called the CDBG Public Hearing to order to discuss the progress of CDBG Emergency funds project that is financing upgrades to the existing water main and a new booster pump station and controls for the Bray Hill portion of the town's water system. This Public Hearing is a requirement of the grant.

Community Development Block Grant funds are available to municipalities through the NH Community Development Finance Authority. Up to \$500,000 annually is available for economic development projects; up to \$500,000 for public facility and housing projects; up to \$350,000 in emergency grants; and up to \$12,000 is available for each planning grant. All projects must primarily benefit low and moderate income persons. During a CDBG project, a progress update public hearing is required. The public hearing will update the public on, and take public comment on, the progress of the CDBG Project. This hearing will discuss the progress of the CDBG Emergency funds project that is financing upgrades to the existing water main and a new booster pump station and controls for the Bray Hill Portion of the town's water system. The project was needed to address recent serious problems in that area.

The construction is complete except for power activation and testing. There was a delay in waiting for the utility company to bring in the electric service, but this work has been completed. The Contractor has been on shutdown since approximately 6/1/16 and is scheduled to begin and complete startup and testing the week of 7/18/16. We will be on site for testing and a final inspection that week. The original Final Completion Date is 8/5/16, and we expect all work will be done by that date.

The Selectmen solicited comments from the public in attendance. None were received.

The Selectmen closed the Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m.

Department Head Meeting

Jay Watkins – Whitefield Fire Rescue

Jay said he really has nothing to report on the fire side. Jay said in reference to the Health Officer issue we had on Brown Street, last Wednesday when the homeowner

returned from vacation, they dumped 11, 40 lb. bags of lime down. Jay said he hasn't heard anything since then. Jay is not sure what to do if it continues. Jay hasn't received any other complaints yet. We will wait it out and see what happens. Jay said the calls are being covered on the ambulance side of it. Jay said we are still waiting to hear from FEMA on the tanker grant—so far so good.

Fred Ingerson – Whitefield Water Department

Fred said the new Booster station has started up. There are still some things they need to finish up. The old pump station was discontinued and there were other issues when this happened, but they seem to be under control at this time. Fred said he took his water license test last week. He will know in three to four weeks how he did.

Fred said even if he did pass his license is going to say operator in training for a year. Mark said we need to be looking to hire someone to help Fred. We did get a memo from Wade Pelham in reference to having a licensed person in charge. The Welch's were discussed as a possibility. Shawn said that Bill Rines is willing to help Fred out until we get situated. Bill did the water in Twin Mountain. Wendy was wondering why we need someone else in the Water Department. Fred has a lot of gate valve boxes that need to be raised. There are a lot of hydrant issues. Fred has been going through and doing hydrant flushing and issues have been cropping up. Wendy said let's run the budget and see where we are for salaries and we can discuss it at the next meeting. Fred said that there was another water break on Spring Street. The state hit a line that they didn't know was there. Bill Thompson had told Fred Ingerson that the Spring Street water line was supposed to be discontinued. It was not discontinued at the main. Mark said it was repaired and is no longer leaking. It is under the State's culvert. They really don't have any idea where that line goes and if it services anyone.

Fred said there was some lightning issues over the weekend and it messed up some of the communication systems. Fred worked on that all day today. According to Ron, who is setting up the new booster station, when he looked at some of the information from the other booster stations he is not sure some of it is very accurate and feels it is not working properly because a lot of it is pretty outdated. Fred talked to him about coming and setting up the other stations like he did at the booster stations. He was willing to put together a price quote—a ballpark figure was \$2,500 a station. Fred said it is \$250 a year for the service and Fred thinks we currently pay about \$600 a year for the dial up station as well. With the new set up we wouldn't have to pay that \$600 a year. It is set up as radio reads. You would be able to turn the pumps on and off from your computer. Mark suggested having Ron put a quote together. He wanted to be sure the Town was interested. He will make an appointment to come back and look over things. Josh Welch said that is good price. He said he got a price for Lisbon which was \$26,000 for two pump stations. Wendy made a motion to contact Ron G. about the pump stations and get a price quotation from him. Fred said the contractor for the pump station project has to come back and change a meter head, and there was some confusion in the spec for the other one. The Board said we are definitely interested in having him come back and take a look at the other pump stations and give us a price.

Josh Welch – Sewer Treatment Plant

Josh said with all these storms, the tent we put up for adding coagulant to drop the phosphorus the wind and rain ripped out the tent. Josh said we have seen a drop in the phosphorus numbers from what we had – not a real lot but it is coming down from what we had. We have been adding Pyro 2 to the air lines and it seems the VODs are down and it seems to be working pretty good. Josh said we do need to get a commercial humidifier in the UV building—it is really wet in there and Josh has gotten dehumidifiers from Home Depot and they don't last long. He would like to get a commercial one for \$3,200—Josh said there is money in the budget. The lights need to be replaced down in the u.v. building as well. Fred Davis will give them a price to do that. Wendy asked Josh to do up a purchase order for the dehumidifier.

Sondra Brekke asked about the change in personnel in the Water Department. Wendy said that Bill Thompson retired and Fred Ingerson is working on getting his license. Fred has been working with Bill for the last few months. Bill Thompson is the licensed operator for a short period of time.

Shawn said Fred did give us a quote for the u.v. system.

Shawn White – Whitefield Public Works

Shawn said these recent storms have done a lot of damage. They have been working on cleaning up the storm damage, and as a result the water line did not get done in the cemetery. They have been helping Fred with his water department issues. The paving downtown is going to start on Thursday from the center of town to Dalton. Shawn said when they pave – do we want them to leave a lip so we can pave our streets, behind the monument. Shawn said we can pave in front of the bank. Shawn would like to do Main Street. The same company who did the sidewalks in front of the monument is giving Shawn a price quote. Shawn doesn't have the figures from him. A quick price quote was \$3 a square foot. Shawn thought paving that downtown area of roads will be \$35,000 to \$40,000. Mark said we have been pushing to get those sidewalks done. The Town would like to see that area paved this year and Shawn can get them to leave a lip. Shawn said Pike has not been very competitive with their prices as they have so much work. Shawn said we have that leak for Cumberland Farms to fix so this won't get paved until fall.

Shawn said we are actively ditching on Old East Road. Richard Harris, Jr. has been taking that material, which is very helpful. We took out 300 yards of material. It was slow going for 200 feet because of taking out a lot of material. We need to gravel and maybe throw some pavement down if we have money in the budget.

They are assisting Fred with locating some gate valves and see if we can find them so we can do the hydrant on the common. Mark said Bill Robinson said the best thing to do with that hydrant is dig it down to the base cut it and cap it off because of other issues down there. Mark was not sure how the meeting went with Jay. Shawn said it is up to Fred and Jay what they want to do. They are there to help.

Shawn said on Spring Street where it meets with Route 3 they are going to take

material out of there so it is not an abrupt hill.

The Board reviewed the budget print-out through June, 2016. Most of the budgets look good with the exception of the legal line items, which only has \$14,877.32 (31.32%) left.

The Board deferred the acceptance of the July 11th Selectmen Meeting Minutes until the next meeting on August 8, 2016.

The Board reviewed another section of the Personnel Policy revisions.

Wendy said in going through the books for the last several years for the airport some things have come to light. The airport leach field got compromised and at this point the septic system is a holding tank at the airport. The airport for the last 4-5 years rather than fixing the leach field has been having the tank pumped 4 to 5 times a year at a cost of between \$1200 to \$1400 a year. We are in the process of getting a price quotation to have this done. One of the questions Wendy said they have is borrowing the money to repair the leach field and then they won't have to pay for the pumping each month. The field monitoring system is in someone else's building. Today it was beeping like crazy and the person who rents that space called here to find out what to do.

The gentleman who owns the building requests a 24-hour notification to get into the building and he is charging \$100 a month to have the box in his building. Wendy is not sure about the meeting that it got approved to do this was even a legal meeting. There are no minutes of any meeting as they used the recording system. As far as Wendy can tell there were only three people in attendance at the meeting so they didn't have quorum, and one of the people at the meeting was the person who owns the building the box is in. Again they didn't do a great job of saying who was at the meeting. Wendy said we have our fuel monitoring system in a building we don't own. There was a quote in 2011 to relocate that in to the terminal building and that quote was \$8700. Wendy said she is bringing this up now as a potential avenue to fix these two issues. The airport is currently spending what the loan payment would roughly be, and it would fix two issues. It was asked what is the longevity of the septic fix? There is no septic system at the airport. It is roughly just a holding tank in the ground. Someone asked if there was even enough activity generated to warrant a septic system. Wendy said there is more activity there than you realize. The Civil Air Patrol is pretty active and they had about 25 kids out at the airport last weekend. They are not charged to use the airport. Wendy said last weekend the powered parachute group came in did a barbecue for the public and they gave a donation of \$125. Terry Lufkin said we paid \$50 to use the outhouse. Marsha Lombardi asked why can't the airport pay for these things? Wendy said the airport benefits the Town minimally. There is about \$18,000 collected in taxes for the airport hangers. The Town has given \$9,000 to the airport for operations the past few years. Wendy said it is busier at the airport than she thought it was. Wendy said she has spent a lot of time at the airport. There is now a whole commission, and it is a legal commission. There is a lot of interest and enthusiasm to make the airport a more valuable asset for the town. Twenty years ago there was a lot more activity. Colleen Chen is operating a helicopter ride business at the airport. Terry Lufkin asked about Flo Corriveau, and she said she feels he needs a green card.

Wendy told Terry the Town has nothing to do with that. Wendy said she knows he is registered with the state, and Wendy doesn't think he is illegally operating a business out there.

He is a fixed base operator at the airport. He does mechanical work, flight lessons, and he rents a plane out there. Wendy said they have been discussing hosting an Aviation Day, which would bring people in to the airport and generate business in the area. Edie said some of it is very annoying. Edie said they are in our yards. Can they just stay away from their personal yards? They are flying 20 to 30 feet away from her house and they are 80 feet above her property. Edie said they are in her yard and looking at her house. Terry said it is the same at her house. Edie said it is just in the last few years this has been going on. Edie said she doesn't want to see the townspeople, taxpayers, putting money in to the airport, and all we get from it is aggravation. Wendy said that the Town of Whitefield owns it. There has been a lot of federal money put in it and there are grant assurances that requires us to continue to operate it. Edie said that the majority of the people in this town don't own planes. Wendy said there has been a lot of mismanagement at the airport. Edie said she believes that because of the mismanagement people don't like the airport. Wendy said we are starting fresh. We have to do something about it. The bottom line is this is something the town owns. We need the management to get better. Wendy said on average she is spending 15 to 20 hours a week out there. Jim Ash who is Whitefield's representative is spending a lot of time out there. Dave Presby has been a big help with issues out there. Wendy said at this point Presby is the only one on the Commission who owns a hanger. Mr. Ogle is a retired Lancaster representative. Littleton has an appointed rep, James Mason. Sugar Hill appointed Dave Presby. There is a provision for associate members – they don't get a vote in decision making or how money is spent. There are 8 commissioners who are decision-makers. Tim O'Neil and Lyn Tober both of Whitefield are also Commissioners. Wendy said a lot of the commission members in the past are people who own hangers. The people who are there now are concerned about the budget and are looking at ways to save money, i.e. eliminating the paid bookkeeper. Wendy said in looking back it is hard to see how things got voted on because there are no minutes. Wendy said they spent about \$2800 on mowing by leasing the former airport manager's lawn mower. They did contract with a gentleman recently for mowing, which will cost about \$1500. There is a lot more consciousness about what is going on there. Mark said this has only been happening since April. There have been significant improvements since that time. Sondra Brekke said she attends the meetings and said everyone on the Commission has been very dedicated. Sondra said they are trying hard to get it together. Mark said they are working on it. Sondra said it is not a promise-- they are working hard. Edie said people want to hear it is getting better. Wendy said unless we do something to fix the septic system it will continue to go on for months. We are looking at a design to fix that, but we need money to do that. The airport doesn't have \$10,000 laying around to fix it, but if we are paying \$100 a month to bet the holding tank pumped. Mr. Presby is working with Larry Rexford to come up with a design. Wendy said hangers generate money for the airport. Edie said it is not the planes that are the problem. It is the people who hang over their houses, and that is why we don't want the helicopters. Those helicopters come in at 100 feet. Wendy said the airport will be paying the loan payment and it benefits the Town to have it

operational. Terry asked if they will be asking for more than \$9,000 at town meeting, and Wendy said they wouldn't be asking for more just because of the loan payment. Wendy said in the grant assurances the airport is supposed to be self-sustaining. Marsha said maybe Presby could donate the piping for the septic system seeing the Town has done a lot for Presby. Mr. Presby uses the airport a lot. Marsha said we could put up a plaque with his name. Wendy said Mr. Presby is interested in making the airport better. Ivy Pearson said that Mr. Presby is a taxpayer in this Town as well.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to enter into non-public session at 7:50 p.m. pursuant to RSA:91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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