

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
March 13, 2017

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, March 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Mark Lufkin, Peter Corey, and Wendy Hersom.

Ken Russell, Town Moderator, attended the meeting to review the items for town meeting tomorrow night. He said it looks like the weather is going to have an impact, and he said he told Tina to put on the website that we suggest people get there as early as they can when the polls open at 8:00 a.m.

Ken said he had a question on both the water and the sewer bonds—both are \$6.5 million – is that a coincidence? Peter said it is actually. Peter said with contingencies, they rounded them both to \$6.5 million.

Ken wanted to discuss the possibility of postponing the town meeting. He said that we are not postponing the election portion. Ken said he feels everyone should have time to vote if they vote early on during the day. The moderator from Candia was on television tonight stating he is looking out for the safety of the residents. Ken said there is no question he has the authority to cancel, but he is keeping the voting polls open during the day. Town meeting is where it could get interesting. If Shawn is right, and we don't have that much snow until later at night, Ken is thinking to see where we are at around 4 tomorrow. Shawn doesn't think it is going to start snowing heavy until 8:00 p.m. tomorrow night. If it is snowing pretty hard by 4 and it looks like it might not stop, he has until 5:30 to postpone the meeting. The polls close at 6pm, and we need an hour and a half to count votes so we can announce results when the town meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Ken said he us up until two hours before the meeting to cancel.

He said another option is to open the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and if there is only 30 people or so there we could adjourn the meeting to another night.

Ken said he has done it for 29 years without it ever being an issue. Sondra Brekke was wondering if we postponed the meeting, could we try it on Saturday to see if it helped with attendance? Ken said if you look at the statute, the town meeting has to be on a Tuesday in March or May. Ken said he would postpone until March 28<sup>th</sup>? Is there anything that this will effect? The Board said they are fine with March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. if we do need to postpone the town meeting.

The Board reviewed the warrant with Ken. Ken suggested on Article 25 – Article 29 that as they are basically housekeeping issues with the balances being transferred to the general fund that we would propose discussing them in a group but voting on them separately.

Ken asked about sidewalks, which was a big discussion item last year at town meeting. The Board said we did not do as much work as we had planned on the sidewalks, as we were applying for a grant to help with sidewalks (which we did not receive). Shawn said that the state called him, and they are doing Jefferson Road this year, and they are asking us to do from Myrtle Street down to the intersection of Lancaster Road. The Board was wondering if we have enough money to do this, and Shawn said he believed we did, but it won't be granite curbing.

In reference to the charitable donations, the Selectmen said they did not recommend these as they don't feel it is appropriate that we as a board tell people how to vote on these.

Shawn said he wants to ban the Airport Road from Jefferson 115 to the upper entrance of the power plant. Shawn said he talked to Doug at the Power Plant. Shawn said that he usually doesn't come here to ban the road, but his recommendation is from Jefferson to the upper entrance of the power plant to close it. The last several springs the road has really sunken down out there. Shawn spoke to the power plant several months ago, and they had no issue with it. They haven't gotten the wood in they usually get in this past winter so they are concerned about getting in the wood with the roads banned. Last year when Jefferson wanted to close the road, Doug had said come up with a figure, and Shawn said it is all in Jefferson from the light tower to the lower section of the hill it was approximately \$45,000 to do a shim coat and would only last a few years. That figure was higher than Doug thought it was going to be. He asked if Presby would chip in. Shawn said he spoke with Dave, and Dave said we can spend money to put a patch coat on that won't last is kind of a waste. Dave is backing Shawn on closing the road. Shawn called Doug back, and told him that he was going to come to the Board to recommend closing the road for several weeks. Shawn is not for opening Colby Road, as that is in poor condition as well and is not going to handle truck traffic. Shawn wanted to know the Board's feelings. Shawn said he is not going to do until the weather warms up more. Shawn said it would be nice to find a way to prevent thru trucks from using it as a short-cut. Wendy said she has been on that road and it is in horrible condition. Every truck right now is using Airport Road, as the Jefferson Road is in such bad shape. A lot of full log trucks go through there. Can we have two of the Board members go out and meet with Doug? Mark said he is not against shutting the road down. He just wants to be sure we are all on the same page. Mark is not against closing it because he knows it is deteriorating. Mark said he feels that we should meet with them and Dave Presby and let them know what is going on. Wendy asked what would it cost to upgrade the road to make it so it would stay open year round? Shawn said it would require paving and at least 4 feet of the road would need to be dug up would be \$950,000. Peter said the Northern Borders Commission representative was here and they have grant programs available to help with infrastructure. When you tell him we are closing it, we should come up with a plan of how we are going to fix it. Peter said that \$250,000 from Northern Borders has to be matched. Maybe Presby and the Power Plant may want to contribute towards the cost of the road improvements. We are always going to have issues with that road. Shawn wants to ditch both sides of that road this year and try to get some water out of there. Shawn said it is what it is. Wendy made a motion, seconded by Peter, and unanimously approved to ban the road. Shawn will set up a meeting to discuss this with Doug.

Shawn updated the Board about the incident that happened at the house the town owns on Highland Street. The water froze and broke last week and washed out the bank on Brown Street. Shawn said to shore it up, he contacted AB Logging and trucked in five or six loads of stone. The damage is not covered under the town's insurance plan and the total cost for the repairs will likely be about \$3,500.

A motion was made by Mark Lufkin to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2017 minutes with a couple of typographical changes. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The Board approved the two road names for 9-1-1 for the Morrison development—Summit Drive and Birch Bend.

The Board reviewed the Taxicab licensing ordinance that was adopted back in the early 1950's. The Board asked Judy to follow-up with town counsel on what we can require of someone wanting to license their taxicab business. Under RSA 31:40, amendments to the taxicab ordinance are adopted by the town meeting.

Sondra said she found out that some people who live in the Town of Dalton are on the Whitefield water line and can't vote on the water projects. Wendy said we service the Town of Dalton with ambulance service as well. She was wondering if this happened in other locations. Tom Ladd who was in attendance said he knows of many towns who provide water to neighboring towns.

Mark Lufkin's request to renew the junk yard license for Lufkin's Auto Sales & Towing on Twin Mountain Road (Tax Map 232/Lot 2) was discussed. Peter said a lot of people complain about the center of town and that is an extension of the junk yard. Peter said now it has spread across the street to the dairy bar. Peter asked Mark if the junk yard was located at 262 Twin Mountain Road as stated on the license or in the center of town? Mark said it is both. Mark said when he got his junk yard approved by the Planning Board that they wanted the vehicles drained at the downtown location to eliminate the contamination soaking in the ground so that is what has been happening. Mark said the salvage materials get dropped off sometimes when they are not there. Mark said in reference to the vehicles at the dairy bar, one is a customer's vehicle behind the dairy bar, one belongs to Mark's son, and one of the ones in front of the dairy bar is an abandoned vehicle from a lady in another town. Mark said they have been working on getting it cleaned up. Peter said it gets better then it gets terrible again and people are upset about it. Mark said he is one person and he has five different people helping and there are only so many hours in a day. Mark said they do the best they can to keep it cleaned up.

Jay McCusker, Dalton Selectmen, stopped in to discuss the Northern Pass project with the Board and the upcoming town meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.