

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
October 16, 2017

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, October 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Peter Corey, John Tholl. Wendy Hersom arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Denise & Steve Rice who own Ridgeview Terrace in Dalton attended the meeting to discuss requesting approval from the Board of Selectmen to extend the current 8" sewer main and 2" water main service which is capped at the end of the Main Road within Ridgeview Terrace. They said they are not applying to hookup services for the remaining six lots approved for homes at this time. Their intent is to have the water and sewer infrastructure in place so when they want to start preparing lots for new homes they can apply for each individual water and sewer hookup as the lots are occupied. The timing of adding the new homes is not known at this time. It has taken many years to have the other 20 lots in the park fully occupied. They said that they understand they will incur all the expenses of the work performed and the work will be done under the supervision of the Water & Sewer Department managers. They brought the Board a copy of the approved park plan which has been in existence since the late 80's. The plan shows the lot configurations along with the distance of the water and sewer lines involved from the point where it is currently capped.

Denise said when the park was established there were six lots in the park for future expansion and there is an 8-inch sewer man that is capped and a 2-inch water main that is capped. They don't want to hook up at this time. They want to expand the line infrastructure so the line is there when they are ready to hook-up. The lines are all privately owned by them. Peter said he doesn't think there is any issue with this. We just need to be sure it is installed to the water ordinance specifications. Mr. Rice said it is PVC SR21. Peter suggested that they discuss the materials that will be used with Fred Ingerson, who is unable to be here tonight. We also ask that they coordinate the work with the Water & Sewer Departments. Peter said that Terry Welch who operates the Sewer Treatment Plant needs to sign off for any new hook-ups, but that should not be an issue. John Tholl asked if they will be putting curb stops in while they are putting in the line, and Steve said they will be doing that.

Edie asked if this is part of the expansion or repair of the line in Dalton. John said it is not. It is a separate line. Peter said that they are constructing their own water and sewer lines. At the time they connect a new service, they will pay a new customer hook-up fee. The Town is not paying anything for this. Marsha asked why are we dealing with more Dalton water issues? Peter said this is a developer and they are current water and sewer customers. It is an expansion of our customer base and that is a good thing.

Mr. Diego, Managing Director of the Mountain View Grand attended the meeting to discuss the Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa's position regarding ownership and operating agreement of the main sewer line servicing the property as well as the appurtenant main pumping station and septic system. Wendy and John took some time to read the documentation that Mr. Diego had submitted.

Sondra Brekke asked what this was about this evening. Peter Corey said that there are some sewer lines and equipment that there is a question who is responsible for that. We are hoping to understand who

owns and maintains what, and clear it up tonight. Wendy said she was not aware that the Operating Agreement was recorded at the Coos County Registry of Deeds. The Operating Agreement was signed in 2001, and the Town recorded it in May of 2015, when it was located. Peter thinks everything that is presented tonight was an agreement between the Town and the Mountain View. Wendy thinks recording the Operating Agreement sealed the deal.

Peter made a motion that we abate the Mountain View Sewer bills in the amount of \$7,306.36, which were the bills submitted by Rowell's Services for pumping the two large septic tanks. John Tholl seconded the motion. All in favor 3-0. Motion passed.

Mr. Diego said the system, as it currently exists, will require pumping in the future. He just doesn't know how we can go about getting those tanks pumped so the Town doesn't get surprised. He is reluctant to have it pumped and he would like to somehow come up with an agreement for the pumping. Josh Welch said he can do it when he does the rest of them. Peter would like to take a look at this from the engineering standpoint so we don't have to pump anything. Steve Lafrance said at the time the Mountain View came on line, the treatment plant couldn't handle the loading so the septic tanks were put in to capture the solids to prevent them from going into the town's treatment plant. The Town was just receiving gray water and effluent. It could be changed so that it could go directly to the pump station and by-pass the septic tanks. Steve said there is some reduction in maintenance by capturing the solids first. It is a pretty nice pump station but they pump gray water and effluent better. Steve said you do a cost analysis to say it is going to cost us X to bypass the pumps. The history is the time the hotel was constructed the septic plant couldn't handle the solids. Mr. Diego said he just wants to be in agreement with when and how we pump out the septic holding tanks. Josh said he cleans all the pump stations out once a year and he will just do the Mountain View at the time he does all the other tanks. Mr. Diego said what was just pumped out in the spring was 11 years worth of materials.

Steve Lafrance dropped off some plans that Mr. Diego was looking for that were mentioned in a Confirmatory Easement Deed. It is a plan prepared by Provan & Lorber, Inc. entitled "Mountain View Water and Sewer Improvements, Whitefield, New Hampshire, dated May 2001. Steve also left a copy for the Town.

Steve said that he needs to speak with Mr. Diego or his representative regarding the alignment in front of the hotel for the right of way for the new eight-inch main that is going to be done in the spring. Mr. Diego said he would be the person to speak to. Steve said he would send out an e-mail to Mr. Diego tomorrow. Steve just needs some answers to go forward. Steve has a lot of ideas to run by the Board and Fred. Judy will coordinate a work session with the Board and Steve Lafrance. Steve is waiting on DOT on a preliminary response and will finish up the plans.

Darlene Woodbury and Jeffrey Brown of 35 View Street attended the meeting to discuss the recent water bill. There are only two people who live in the house. She said there is no way they use that much water. She said that they did start to cut watering the garden back by half of the year before and this year's bill was higher than last summer. There was confusion with them being charged for two meters. After discussion, it was determined that all users are charged a fee for a connection fee, it is a fee for water and a fee for sewer. There is a minimum connection fee you are getting charged for the connection based on the meter size. They are getting charged for the connection not the meter. Mr. Brown said he cannot believe the gallons used is the same last year as it is for this year, 78,000 gallons. Peter explained that you can request to have the water meter tested if you think it is inaccurate but the

the homeowner bears the expense of the testing if no problems are found with the meter. Mr. Brown said they can't sell their house because of the Morrison Summit complex being built behind him. He feels that the Summit is paying for their water and sewer. The Board explained that the Summit is paying for water and sewer. Mr. Brown was upset about being charged the same usage for water and sewer. Peter said there is no way to accommodate for what does not go into the septic, therefore the rates are based on what goes in and out. Wendy explained that the Whitefield water rates are some of the lowest rates in the state.

Edie said people can't afford it. Wendy said they spent \$348 for six months for water, a utility you cannot live without. They are spending less than \$2 a day for all their water usage, which is pretty inexpensive. People spend more money to buy soda.

Edie and Marsha asked how much money from the Town of Whitefield is going to be paid for Dalton water users. Edie and Marsha said those Dalton people did pay their share, and now you are going to add more people on when you do that line. The Board explained again that the Ridgeview Terrace request has nothing to do with the repair of the leaking line in Dalton. Peter said that the more users you have on a system the cheaper it will be for the users. Edie doesn't understand how we are spending so much money for water for residents in another town. Peter said it is a customer base—it is an enterprise, whether it is in Dalton or Bethlehem, we are serving customers and those customers pay to be on the system. Edie said Anyone in Dalton should pay the \$5,000 to be on the line

The Board had sent out a request for proposals for Grade Level 2 Operator License Supervision for the Water Department. Two proposals were received, one from FX Lyons and one from Abenaki Water Company. The Board reviewed and discussed the two proposals. John Tholl made a motion that we go with FX Lyons for Grade 2 Operator License Supervision. The motion was seconded by Peter Corey. All in favor 3-0. The motion passed.

#### Josh Welch – Wastewater Treatment Plant

Josh said the lady from Grandma's called about their smell issue. Shawn has some information on that as well. He said he received a phone call from Dennis a couple of weeks ago. He said the smell was coming from his sewer vent pipe. Shawn said it has been his experience that every time it happens the sewer vent pipe is not installed properly. Shawn said that Dennis had not mentioned that before. Shawn thinks we should go up and look in to having their sewer vent relocated or get someone who works with that fix it. Everyone has a sewer vent pump on their house. John Tholl said he had to extend his because certain times of the year he gets the odor. John Ross, Jr. said he has been up and found a faint smell by one of the cabins down by the lake. He said it could not be detected at the restaurant. Josh said that he was contacted by the State who was asking about how the pump stations work and if there were any problems with them and how often they run. Josh said they would make a visit up here in the next couple of weeks. No one has spoken to Dennis yet about changing the vent pipe. The state had suggested that we smoke test that line and see what turns up. Josh said it is not a bad idea to do it. Josh said you should do it throughout your system to be sure things aren't tied in that shouldn't be. Peter suggested we probably should proceed with that. Josh said that we will need to send out notices before we do it and we will need to notify the Fire Department as well.

Josh said he would check with Terry Welch on the letter of deficiency we received from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Compliance Sample Inspection (CSI).

Josh had a request to purchase a hoist to pull out the pumps at the Brown Street pump station for \$4,500. It is just to pull out the pumps. It is installed and will be there forever. There is one there now that is old and corroded and the brake doesn't work. Shawn was wondering if it is something that Bill can possibly fabricate. Shawn said it will probably need a new motor. The Board will hold off on signing the purchase order until we determine if it is something the highway department can fabricate.

Josh said that he did order degreaser to put in the sewer line some to clean it out, in reference to the Grandma's line. Wendy asked if we should hold off until we do the smoke testing, and Josh said it is probably a good idea to do it anyways.

Josh said that the generator for the UV building is all in and installed. We are just waiting for Stiles to come down and hook up the propane to the generator. Josh wanted them to come down when Royal was there so they could have dug the line for the propane. They said they would be there on Thursday. The generator is installed and won't run until we get the fuel source. They said they would be there this Thursday.

John Ross, Jr., and Ed Samson discussed the issue of dwellings that have become unfit for human habitation and are hazardous and dilapidated and the best way to handle these. Chief Samson said his concern is we are going to get into these properties and spend way more than they are worth. Peter said if you don't make the attempt nothing is going to happen, rising tide raises all boats. Removing some of these blight and blemishes may encourage others to do the same. The fear of spending some money shouldn't be a reason for inaction. The first property is a good candidate. The Board decided to table this discussion until a further meeting.

John Ross, Jr. – Whitefield Fire Rescue

John Ross, Fire Chief, said that he is starting to get prices on a new fire truck and present it to the CIP committee. He is thinking \$350,000.

Edward Samson – Whitefield Police Department

Ed Samson, Police Chief, said he wanted to speak about the Emergency Management side of it. EOP has been submitted and Hazmat, which we have been reimbursed on. In moving forward with planning the budget, start using shortcomings identified on those lists for our budget planning.

PD side of things Pat just did the ALICE training, active shooter training. Pat is in Connecticut to be certified as a SRO. The Superintendent is in full support of that position. She would like to see it in all the schools if the resources were available. We need to do winter tires for two cruisers. There is an overage in outfitting the new cruiser. Ed has some non-public personnel matters to discuss.

Shawn White – Whitefield Public Works

Shawn White wanted to discuss the parking lot where of the old town office was on Jefferson Road. He said it basically houses four or five vehicles, and it is getting old and hard to plow. We need to sign it so there is no overnight parking or we can remove the parking lot. Ed said he doesn't see an enforcement issue if we put up signs. Peter said that the EDC had a sub-committee who looked at parking in the town. All these people living in the apartments are parking in the public spaces. It is not unique to Whitefield. Peter said what is kind of interesting is a lot of towns do a permit process so the parking lots are marked permit required and they pay a monthly fee and get a sticker for their vehicle. The Town

receives an income from those permits. That comes with an administrative and enforcement burden. Is it something we wish to consider for those parking lots downtown? It is happening all over the downtown. Ed said we used to have two to three-hour parking posted and there is a group of businesses who are interested in rehashing that. It is an issue from an enforcement standpoint. The Board felt it is something they would like more information on. Peter will get the materials to everyone so we can take a look at it.

Shawn said the business owners have been coming to him about the two-hour parking in front of their businesses and do we want to put the two-hour parking signs back up? The Board said we will look at this while we are looking at the parking information.

Shawn said he has been receiving number calls and complaints from residents of Greenwood Street about Claude Roy's driveway, and when it rains heavily the amount of gravel and rocks going out in the roadway. Shawn said when it comes down into the roadway, it is a ½ hour ordeal for the highway department to go up there and clean it up. The amount of complaints we get about is adding up, and there should be a letter written to them about it. Something has changed up there, possibly the way the drainage has been sloped. It is a hazard.

Shawn said Jim was gone from the transfer station on vacation, and we had a highway department person running it for a week. The part-time person is out with a medical issue. Jim would like to try to handle it by himself if the part-timer will be able to come back within a few months.

Shawn said we had a meeting with FEMA last week, and we are in the process of getting our money back from the July storm. Shawn is asking permission to discontinue plowing the Elm Street sidewalk right before Marsha's house. There is no swale to push the snow in to. It is a pain. Shawn is asking to discontinue it, and if we receive complaints we can relook at it. Is there a liability? Shawn would like to see the sidewalk ripped up in that area. Shawn said that would remove our liability of maintaining it. We can post some signs that the sidewalk is not maintained for winter maintenance. If someone complains at that point, we will have to revisit it. The sidewalk is not wide enough for winter maintenance – can we sign it not available to winter maintenance? Judy will check with Primex reference this issue.

Shawn said the projects they working on is trying to get Gould Road done. There is a water break on Jefferson Road to fix tomorrow. The state is done with their project on Jefferson Road so we have to finish our sidewalk. There are other manholes that have to be raised. We are stressed for time and the state dragging their feet on that Jefferson Road project didn't help. We can encumber those HB238 funds to use next year.

Gary is going to be out for a couple of weeks as he had surgery today. He can come back administratively in a couple of weeks.

Shawn and Judy discussed the town e-mails with the Board. Time Warner/Spectrum is having issues with their outgoing server so we are unable to send out e-mails. Certified Computers can switch the town e-mails over to Microsoft exchange with outlook and we would have whitefieldnh.org e-mail addresses. The cost is \$12.50 per month per mailbox for the exchange e-mails and \$4.00 a month for the POP e-mails. The cost for them to do the work to set it up and switch it over is \$50 an e-mail. John Tholl said he feels it is important that the Selectmen have their own town e-mails so they are not using

their personal e-mail accounts. Wendy made a motion to proceed with changing the e-mail accounts. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. All in favor 3-0. Motion passed.

The board approved refunding Mr. Greenberg of Tuckaway Lane his \$1000 hook-up fee to town water, as he has decided to dig his own well.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to approve the 10/2/2017 Selectmen's Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Wendy Hersom. John Tholl abstained as he was not in attendance at the meeting. Motion passed 2-0.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to enter into non-public session at 8:15 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 non-public session: Corey – Yes, Tholl – Yes, Hersom – Yes.

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 8:30 p.m.

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The Board adjourned from non-public session at 9:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to enter into non-public session at 9:00 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 non-public session: Corey – Yes; Tholl – Yes; Hersom – Yes.

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 9:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.