

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2009, 5:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Ronald Cormier called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.; also present were Selectman Jon Pike, Selectman David Morse, Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Public Works Director Jim Fortin, Deputy Fire Chief Sean McCarty, Land Use Technician Rick Ball, Fire chief Jim Davis, Donna Cilley, Sherry Rowell, Lisa Clutters, Kim Drouin, Tricia Morris, Harrison Haas with the Citizen, Kinney O'Rourke with the Daily Sun and Cheryl from the Winnisquam Echo.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Morse moved to accept the minutes of the July 28, 2009 meeting as written. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Morse moved to accept the minutes of the August 5, 2009 meeting as written. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CDBG Ethics, Financial and Conflict of Interest Code Adoption

Town Administrator Beaudin reviewed with the Board the 3 policies required for the CDBG Grant for the Pleasant Valley Project. They include a Code of Ethics, Conflict of Interest and Financial Management Plan. She read each for the Boards consideration.

Selectman Pike moved to accept as written the Code of Ethics Policy as it pertains to the CDBG Grant for the Pleasant Valley Project. Selectman Morse seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike moved to accept as written the Conflict of Interest Policy as it pertains to the CDBG Grant for the Pleasant Valley Project. Selectman Morse seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike moved to accept as written the Financial Management Plan as it pertains to the CDBG Grant for the Pleasant Valley Project. Selectman Morse seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

E911 Coordinator re: Holly Tree & Pine Crest

Deputy Fire Chief Sean McCarty was present to discuss changing the name of Holly Tree and Pine Crest to Holy Tree Circle once the construction of the circle is complete. He explained that this change would affect the least amount of homes and with other streets in Town containing the word Pine already there has been confusion with calls and using Holy Tree would reduce further confusion. Selectman Pike noted that the residents of Pleasant Valley are looking to having mail boxes installed at the future, how will this affect that, Deputy McCarty indicated it shouldn't affect that and his department will work with the Post Office to ensure proper name and numbering if they move forward with that project.

Selectman Morse moved to change the name of Holly Tree Lane and Pinecrest Drive to Holly Tree Circle upon completion of the construction of the circle. Selectman Pike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Fire Department Vehicle Detail Rate

Fire Chief Davis explained to the Board that a review of surrounding communities detail vehicle fees is greatly varied. He added that he had contacted Gilford, Tilton, Laconia, Loudon and Franklin to see what they charge for vehicle detail fees. Gilford does not currently charge a vehicle rate but has recently submitted for their Boards consideration; FEMA vehicle rates of \$95/hr for an engine, \$145 for a ladder truck and \$41 for an ambulance. Tilton has no set fee for detail vehicle fees but would use State Haz-Mat rates in the event of an illegal fire or such at the rate of \$155/hr for an engine, \$32 for other vehicle and \$91 for utility & trailer. Laconia and Loudon have no detail vehicle fees. Franklin charges the following rate; \$150/hr for an engine, \$225 for a ladder truck, \$100 for an ambulance and \$15 for command cars.

It is Chief Davis's recommendation to use a collaboration of the findings and charge; \$95/hr for an engine, \$50 for a tanker, \$145 for a ladder truck, \$41 for an ambulance and \$15 for a command car. The Board discussed that if it is the Chiefs decision to stage apparatus out of the station during an event without a request from a specific organization there will be no fees charges to anyone. However in events such as the Timberman triathlon where a specific piece of equipment has been requested to be staged on the course, the fees would apply.

Selectman Pike moved to approve the detail vehicle fees as proposed. Selectman Morse seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Lake Winnisquam Scenic Trail Phase 2

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board that she recently met with Land Use Technician Rick Ball and BRATT Chairman Ron Mitchell to discuss the status of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the recreational trail. There was discussion that letters be sent to Councilor Burton and the State to ask for assistance with moving the project forward. The committee has decided to hold on the Phase 2 portion of the project at this time. It was discussed that there is currently funding for Phase 1 of the project and that they should break ground in the spring. The project has been held up due to issues with easements and the fence that the railroad is requiring if the trail runs adjacent to the tracks. There is currently discussion of shifting the trail to avoid the fence requirement.

2009 Value Update

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that the sales update has been completed and new values were mailed out today to advise owners of their 2009 assessment value. She noted that the Town lost approximately 9% of total value through the process. The new municipal tax rate will be approximately 13% higher at \$7.08. The individual values of property changed between 5% and 13% with mobile homes receiving significant decreases. She noted that the average tax bill will go up between \$100 and \$150. With the school rate going to approximately \$9.72, the county to \$1.37 and the state school portion to \$2.35 the estimated new tax rate would be \$20.51; however if there are any changes in revenue these figures could change.

Miscellaneous County Commissioners Meeting

Chairman Cormier informed the other Board members that he recently attended the County Commissioners meeting regarding setting up some sub committees to discuss the options of buying coop, regionalizing services and other cost saving measures. He advised that the commissioners would like the Town Administrator and one Select member to participate in the meetings. He also felt a meeting with Belmont, Gilmanton and Barnstead to discuss the possibility of sharing services would be a good idea as well.

Pleasant Valley Project

Selectman Pike asked if the Pleasant Valley project was moving forward as it should be, Public Works Director Jim Fortin explained that a meeting is held weekly in an effort to keep on top of the contractors and as long as they continue to make progress as they have this week the project will be on schedule. However if the progression doesn't continue a meeting with the principals and the engineering firm will need to be set up to address any issues at that point.

Water Meter Bid Opening

Town Administrator Beaudin advised that the bid opening for the water meter replacement project was held earlier today with three bids being received that ranged from \$209,000 to \$317,000. Although the bids must be certified by the engineering firm the apparent low bidder is a company out of New Ipswich.

Happy Tails Dog Park Discussion

Chairman Cormier reminded the audience that at the prior meeting with Happy Tails the Board had requested that the dog park reps contact several other organizations to determine if there are other options for them. Lisa Clutters was present and provided a PowerPoint program that highlighted the goals of the Happy Tails Dog Park organization and show the value of the project to the community.

Following the presentation Chairman Cormier expressed that he is not opposed to the project but has questions and concerns. He noted that in the rules it stated that the animals would need to be vaccinated and sprayed or neutered and asked how that would be policed. Lisa stated that their idea is that members would have a card swipe system that would be issued to members upon completion of the application and meeting the requirements of the rules and regulations. Chairman Cormier referred to the business as not having any cost associated with it; Lisa commented that they don't know what the cost is going to be at this point. Chairman

Cormier noted that the organization would need to develop some costs to have an idea what the project is going to look like financially. He added that estimated costs could be generated for fencing, parking, and restrooms and would be an important part of any business plan. Lisa stated that she would be willing to provide an addendum to the business plan with that information.

Chairman Cormier stated that the location on Dutile Road that the group had been looking at isn't a proper place for this type of park. Selectman Morse asked if the group had approached the State to utilize an area of one of their parks or as the data provided indicates more urban areas with these types of parks has Laconia or any other community been approached. Chairman Cormier noted that he recently had a conversation with a Gilmanton official who thought it was a good idea as well and the group should be open minded in considering other options. Lisa stated that she is from Belmont and would really like to see the park here. Chairman Cormier added that he would not consider a park in any residential area and the land would have to be located in the commercial or industrial zone and suggested that Lisa meet with the conservation commission to determine if they have any land appropriate for the park.

Donna Cilley commented that being utilized by other communities is a concern and what happens to it when several years' later people lose interest and there is no one to take care of it. She commented that Belmont is not a city and there are plenty of rural areas if not your own property to take your dog. There are socialization groups that are already in existence for this type of thing and most are private gatherings. She added that if this project was valuable to the community the room would be full of residents.

Chairman Cormier noted that it had been previously suggested that the project, if an appropriate place is located, go before a vote of the Town. Selectman Pike suggested that they meet with the Conservation Commission and suggested that they not compare the dogs to children. Selectman Morse suggested that the group approach Laconia too.

Town Hall

Donna Cilley thanked the Board for the recent face lift of siding on the Town Hall Building. She commented that it was much needed and spoken about positively and frequently at Old Home Day. Chairman Cormier noted that although he wasn't initially in favor of siding the building it does look very good.

Police Department Fencing

Donna Cilley also brought up the recent accident that involved a child on a bike being struck by a vehicle in front of the Police Station. It appears that the child was cutting through the parking lot and rode into the street in front of a vehicle. She requested that the Board look at closing the gate at the basketball court and also consider running additional fencing along Sargent Street from the existing fence to the railing on the Corner Meeting House with a spring loaded gate for pedestrian use to access the building. She commented that the gate at the basketball court used to be locked and access to the park was gained through the entrance on Sargent Street.

Chairman Cormier noted that it was an unfortunate accident but it does appear that the child will be ok and agrees that the area should be looked at again. Selectman Pike noted that a similar request had been previously made by the Police Chief and the Parks & Recreation committee members fought any changes there, but thought the situation should be looked into

again. Town Administrator Beaudin recalled that there may have been a second egress concern as well. The Board agreed to look into changes in that area.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board of Selectmen's meeting will be Monday, August 31, 2009 at 5:00 p.m., at the Corner Meeting House.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Ronald Cormier, Chairman

Jon Pike, Vice Chairman

David Morse