

Selectmen's Meeting
June 13, 2005

The Selectmen met for their weekly meeting. Present were Selectmen Donald Johnson, Jr., Jon Homer, James McGarr, Charles Wheeler and Charles Cheney. The Board spent the first half hour reviewing and signing the manifest. They also signed several Intents to Build, two driveway permits, and four new residents. The Board also signed some Timber Tax Warrants.

At 7:30 p.m. the Board met with Beverly Chappell. Beverly had set up her computer to show the Board some of the changes she had incorporated since they met last week, and also now included the graphics. Beverly indicated that she was very grateful and excited about all the wonderful pictures she had been able to get from Cheryl Johnson, and she is acknowledging Cheryl's contribution on the webpage. She showed the Board how the various pages had different links to other websites as well. A privacy statement was included for those who wished to register for the emails of the public notices. She will also be able to keep a record of how many people register and unregister for the emails. If an email is sent, and is not deliverable, it will automatically be deleted after ten times. She showed the Board how the different pages that showed the Town's information as far as office hours, phone numbers, and links to other department websites like the Transfer Station and the Police Department. The various meeting minutes of the Selectmen, Planning, Conservation and ZBA will be faxed to Beverly in a word format, and she will start an archive of the minutes. The Board and Beverly also discussed the business directory that she set up as well as the area resorts and recreation. Selectman McGarr suggested adding Whale's Tail and Weirs Beach. Selectman Homer also suggested that the 511 NH and DOT links should be added to the State links. More detailed information will refer visitors to the website to the Chamber link. Beverly wanted to know if the Board felt the site was ready to go live, and any additional information and changes can be made as needed. The Board agreed to this.

Road Agent Ray Mardin met with the Board next. He gave them a list of his proposed schedule of work for this summer which included reshaping and heavy ditchwork on all gravel roads. He also planned on ditchwork on certain tar roads to include Pinnacle Hill, Hodgeman Hill, Winterbrook, Perch Pond, Town Pound, Beaverbrook and Alden Drive. He also plans on replacing a number of culverts throughout Town. Selectman Homer inquired as to whether he ever uses the rough culvert on steep hills. Ray indicated that he had not. This work is in addition to the paving work for Winosha Trail and Summit Drive, Pinnacle Hill and Winterbrook. Ray was then ask as to whether he had put together bids for the paving. He indicated that he had quotes he had received from Pike and GMI when he was putting his budget together. Selectman Cheney inquired as to whether he was planning on doing any cold mix. This prompted a lively debate between Selectman Homer and Cheney about hot versus cold mix, and about using chip seal on the cold mix. Selectman Wheeler suggested that Ray get quotes on both cold and hot mix, and include the chip seal with the cold so the Board can look at the numbers. Selectman Homer requested that if the cold mix company did not feel chip seal was necessary that they should put this in writing in their quote as there was some discussion as to whether chip seal was necessary or not with the cold mix. Ray also indicated that he has already started to work on the culverts, and has already replaced some on Avery Road and Susie Driscoll Road. He indicated to the Board that his budget already reflects the culverts as he had purchased them previously. Ray and Selectman Johnson discussed the culvert to be replaced on Perch Pond Road. Ray also provided the Board with a list of work that Roger Hoyt had done on each of the vehicles over the past year. The Board suggested that Ray should think about replacing the 1996 F350 next year. Ray also indicated that he had the trucks used for plowing sanded and cleaned down this year to prevent them from rusting, and felt this was a worthwhile expense to keep the vehicle bodies in good shape. He also showed the Board the log works that he keeps in each vehicles to show what maintenance and repair work has been done on them. Selectman Johnson inquired about the bids for the coming winter plowing. The Board felt that they needed to establish some set comparable rates. They felt that right now the rates are all over the place for different contractors. They suggested that Ray see what other Towns are getting for rates, and talk with his present contractors to get an idea of what the rates should be. If some of the contractors are not happy with the rates or we need to find additional help, Ray should put the different routes out to bid to see who is interested in doing plowing. Before Ray left, he offered to have the All State representative come and discuss the cold mix and chip seal versus no chip seal.

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The Board then went over their correspondence. Ann Marie gave the Board an affidavit to sign for the paperwork to be submitted to the Superior Court along with the petition for the Special Town Meeting. She read over the timetable of what we should do next, and it was decided by the Board to set the date, time and place for the public hearing on the one budget item, the purchase of the land for the Special Town Meeting. It was decided to hold the hearing on Monday, June 27th at 7:30 p.m. We will inquire to see if we can use the Campton Historical Building, Old Town Hall again, as it is capable of holding a fair number of people. Ann Marie had received a call from Emily Hemingway about having Kati A Lane and Millie's Circle inspected by the Selectmen. These roads had been approved by the voters at last March's Town Meeting to become Town roads contingent upon the Selectmen's approval. The Board agreed to meet at the site on Thursday at 5 p.m.

The Board then reviewed a letter from Town Attorney Tim Bates. Attorney Bates had met last week with the Board, and had toured Beebe River. The Board was seeking Attorney Bates' opinion on going forward with legal action against Albert Nault for the \$55,000 still owed on the tax liens that the Town had sold him back in 1997. The agreement was that he was to pay \$5,000 for each lot as it sold, and to have the money paid up by 2002. The deadline to pursue this was up in mid July, and the Board needed to decide whether to go forward with this or not. Attorney Bates had found that Mr. Nault has mortgages on this property totaling over \$800,000, and it would most likely cost in excess of \$25,000 to pursue the matter in Court. Selectman Wheeler indicated that he felt after discussing this with Attorney Bates that it would be like throwing good money after bad, and he did not feel that it would be in the Town's best interest to pursue it. Selectman Cheney also agreed that with all the mortgages on the property that the Town would be at the bottom of the pile to get their money. Selectman McGarr agreed as well, but felt that we should not let the sale of these lots go through without trying to get the money by some means. He suggested that the Board consider rescinding their letter to the mortgageholder who was going to start foreclosure action against the lots, and had spoken with Attorney Bates about this back the end of last year, and the Board had signed a letter in January allowing these lots to be released so they could foreclose. This would be done in the hopes that the mortgage company would be willing to work with the Town in settling the money owed to us, and then could proceed with the sale of the lots if an agreement could be reached. Selectman McGarr made a motion to rescind the letter to Attorney Britain allowing the foreclosure/sale of the lots on Shannon Drive by Pioneer Mortgage. This motion was seconded by Selectman Wheeler, and voted in the affirmative by all. Further discussion on Beebe River focused on the Feasibility Grant. Ann Marie had spoken to Paul Denton at the State, and he suggested that Donna Lane could write the grant for the Town as the grant money allows for her expenses to do this. The grant money would then be earmarked for the research to see who actually owns the roads in Beebe River. A letter from Attorney Cowie, who represents Robert Welsh, was also read in which Mr. Welsh is seeking to opt out of the Beebe Village District. The Board agreed that Attorney Cowie and Mr. Welsh did not understand that Mr. Welsh cannot opt out of the District itself as this is set up by properties within certain boundary lines. What Mr. Welsh can do is opt out of the Water District, and if he gets State approval, drill his own wells. He also will have to allow for some kind of sewerage as well. Ann Marie will send a letter to Attorney Cowie.

Ann Marie passed along some information from Mark Nieder of CNP. He has recently hired Jason Bickford, Rebecca's husband to replace Nancy Decoteau as a data collector for their firm, and wanted to know if the Board had any problem with Jason doing measuring and listing in Campton. The Board agreed as long as Jason did not do any work involving his home or his relatives that they had no problem with him doing work in Campton. The data collectors do not put the values on the properties. They collect the information for Mark.

The Board then went on to discuss the policy that Police Chief Warn had given them to approve and which they had decided to take some time to review. Selectman McGarr indicated that he had spoken with the Chief, and he had explained that the reason for the search was to protect the officer if the owner of the vehicle came back, and claimed he had a million dollars in the glovebox. Selectman McGarr had advised the Chief that he could come in and speak with the Board if he wanted to do so. Since the Chief had not come in tonight, and the other Board Members did not agree with this reasoning, a motion was made by Selectman Johnson not to accept this policy, and it was seconded by Selectman Homer and voted in the affirmative by all. The Board wanted to advise the Chief to notify the State Police if any

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abandoned vehicles were found on State roads.

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. With a motion from Selectman McGarr, and seconded by Selectman Cheney, the minutes were approved as written.

Under Selectmen's business, Selectman McGarr indicated that Conservation Chairman, Jane Kellogg had reported that they had a very good turnout at last Saturday's nature walk at the Blair State Forest with about 12 people attending. Jane is filing the last report for the Conservation Grant from the Moose plates, and is going to get some money for the Town which Selectman McGarr indicated that we could then perhaps get another couple of loads of gravel for the parking lot down there. The Conservation Committee has indicated that they will hand rake it if necessary. Selectman McGarr also indicated that he wants very much to see Beebe River turnaround, and he feels that the Feasibility Grant will help get this started. He would like to see the roads fixed so businesses would be attracted to the area. Selectman Wheeler agreed with him, and both indicated that Attorney Brian Ray had offered to show them in an hour, who owns the road.

Selectman Johnson mentioned that he was unable to attend the work session of the Planning Board the other night, but he notes in the draft of the minutes he received that Martin Kimball had been back into see the Board, and was complaining about Thornton Collision not coming in for their Site Plan yet. Ann Marie will contact Kevin Daugherty and urged him to get this done.

Selectman Wheeler indicated that he had been reviewing the employee manual, and he wanted to propose a change in the amount of mileage paid to employees. Currently the Town pays 30 cents a mile, and he would like to see that brought up to .405 cents per mile which is more in line of what the standard is today. He made a motion to increase the mileage from 30 cents to .405 cents, and this motion was seconded by Selectman McGarr, and voted in the affirmative by all. Selectman McGarr proposed another change to the manual. He made a motion to eliminate the opt out option for employees on the insurance. Selectman Wheeler seconded this motion, and it was voted in the affirmative by all. Selectman Wheeler then proposed that the Board start their summer schedule next week, and Selectman Homer seconded this motion, and it was voted in the affirmative by all. The Board will meet every other week in the summer unless there is some business which needs attention before that time. The next meeting will be the public hearing on June 27th. The Board will continue to come in each week to review and sign the manifest, and any Intents to Build, residency applications etc.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Foote
Administrative Assistant