

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 22, 2011

Present: Selectmen Ives, Bowles, and Krieger

Also present were Road Agent Dave Rice, Fire Chief Jeff Burr, and Deputy Fire Chief Rich Edgecomb

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

- I. Selectman Bowles moved to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 15, 2011; seconded by Selectman Krieger. All in favor. Motion carried.
- II. The Board met with Road Agent Dave Rice.
 - a. Mr. Rice said that everything is going well within the department. He advised the Board that they are in the process of inspecting the trucks and there are a few minor things to be addressed. Mr. Rice said he has one truck that will need to have the springs replaced.
 - b. Mr. Rice advised the Board that he received a flyer about magnesium for the dirt roads being on sale until May. He will talk with the representative to get prices. He said he generally buys at least two loads of magnesium every two to three years. Mr. Rice stated that he did not use the entire current salt fund, therefore they could get two loads this year.
 - c. Chairman Ives asked if Mr. Rice has started getting pricing on road sweeping. Mr. Rice said that he has not as of yet but will be going with the same company that has been used in recent years.
 - d. Selectman Bowles advised Mr. Rice that the office has received a couple of complaints about rocks coming through the sanders, and he asked that the crew watch the screen better. He also said that the screen should not be left going when not being used as it cause undue wear on the equipment.
 - e. Chairman Ives noted that a bid proposal has to be prepared so they can begin getting bids for the highway garage roof.
 - f. Mr. Rice advised the Board that he would be talking with the trailer company about pricing for the new compactor.
 - g. Selectman Krieger noted that it has been a long, hard winter and he thanked Mr. Rice and his crew for the work they have done.
- III. The Board met with Chief Jeff Burr.
 - a. Chief Burr gave the Board information on pump testing and certification for Engine 2 as requested by Selectman Bowles.
 - b. Chief Burr advised the Board that an incident from a few weeks ago has been investigated. He gave the Board copies of a new policy that has been written for internet use and protocol. Chief Burr said that he hopes to prevent such an incident from happening again. Chairman Ives asked if the policy would be going into personnel files. The chief said they would be. Chairman Ives said that copies of all personnel files should also be filed with the Town Office.

- c. Chairman Ives noted that Chief Burr had mentioned taking a class and had requested using sick time. The chairman stated that the employee policy does not allow the use of sick time to cover such absences; it would have to be covered with vacation or holiday time.
 - d. Selectman Krieger thanked the chief for the policy and pump information. He asked if there are any figures on repairs for Engine 2. Chief Burr said that he has talked with a couple of manufacturers but does not have figures at this time. Selectman Krieger asked if there is anything else wrong with the truck. Chief Burr said there are minor things, such as paint, but the pump is the major item. Selectman Bowles stated that it would be good to know exactly when the pump did not perform. He asked the chief if there were reports other than the 2002 tests that he recently heard about. Chief Burr said that he will continue to search archived records. Chairman Ives stated that the truck is in service. Chief Burr said that was correct; it is just not pumping at full capacity. Selectman Krieger asked if every truck has a folder or book. The chief said they do.
 - e. Chief Burr advised the Board that the revised ADA rules are much more stringent. Chairman Ives stated that a copy of the new regulations have been ordered for the office.
- IV. Chairman Ives stated for the record that one pistol permit was signed.
- V. Chairman Ives introduced Neva Foley from Senator Kelly Ayotte's office. Ms. Foley stated that they hold hours at the Concord City Hall every other Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the next one being this Thursday, March 24th. She explained that they have an office in Manchester and Washington at this time but will be setting up additional offices around the state in time. Ms. Foley said that she would take all comments back to the Senator. Chairman Ives stated that a representative of the Conservation Commission would be arriving shortly to discuss the Northern Pass project. He asked if Ms. Foley could possibly meet in the hall with anyone who wished to speak with her while the Board continued with their meeting until Mr. Gabler's arrival.
- VI. Chairman Ives introduced Tammie Croft from NHMA Local Government Center. Ms. Croft explained that she and Tom Dunn are visiting members to talk about all of the services that are available to members. She went over an outline of their services and programs, noting the ones that the Town currently participates in. Ms. Croft and Mr. Dunn spoke about the legal services that are available to NHMA members. Chairman Ives stated that he has attended a couple of programs, finding them very informative. He asked if NHMA has had any input on the Northern Pass project. Ms. Croft stated that there is an advocacy committee of seventy-five members that looks at different projects. She said if the Town has a strong opinion on the project she would certainly bring it forward to the committee. After brief discussion Ms. Croft and Mr. Dunn thanked the Board for their time and encouraged them to call with any questions.
- VII. Neva Foley returned to the meeting upon the arrival of Bill Gabler of the Conservation Commission. Chairman Ives noted that there were several residents from Freedom Hill Co-op in attendance tonight because of the proposed location of the transmission lines. Mr. Gabler explained that he recently attended a public hearing on the Northern Pass project where he received a series of maps and

information on the project. He said that it appears that the line could come through Co-op property and cross Route 106 into Chichester. Mr. Gabler stated that it is his understanding that the steel towers would be approximately 135' tall, up to 345,000 volts of AC, and there would be a clear-cut right-of-way of 200'-300' wide. He said that twenty-nine towns have opposed the project thus far. Mr. Gabler explained that the project is at the federal level for investigation as it has to be approved to cross the border from Canada. He said the ball is in the feds' court but if the community wants to oppose, now is the time. Chairman Ives stated that three routes were mentioned at a recent Planning Board meeting. Mr. Gabler said that a route through Maine and then under the ocean was discussed; a route under Lake Champlain was discussed but would not pass due to VT's strict regulations; and a route through NH has been discussed because NH has the least stringent regulations. He said that the lines would be DC to Franklin, converted to AC, and go from there to Deerfield and into Massachusetts.

Catherine Wallace asked about the benefit of the project. Mr. Gabler said that MA will get 1200 megawatts of power without having to put in a power plant. Ms. Wallace asked about the sacrifice to NH. Mr. Gabler said a 200' – 300' swath from Pittsburg to Deerfield, noting that public utilities have the ability to utilize eminent domain for properties that they cannot buy. Ms. Wallace asked about the environmental impact. Mr. Gabler said he could not say for sure but just creating the clear-cut swath would have quite an impact. Ms. Wallace asked how a town says no to the project. Chairman Ives stated that they are just starting to discuss the project as they recently heard that it could affect the town.

A gentleman from the Co-op (name inaudible) said that he has not heard anything about conservation. He said he feels this will gut the state of NH. He also spoke about fair market value not being enough for anyone to relocate should their property be taken for this project. Bill Gabler spoke about supply restrictions in MA and a bill currently before the legislature to kill the use of eminent domain. Selectman Krieger encouraged those present to contact State Senator Andy Sanborn and to speak with Ms. Foley about their concerns. He said contact information is available at www.nh.gov.

Selectman Bowles said that the public carries weight on these projects. Bill Gabler explained that the primary route passes near the Concord airport. Because of the potential for airport impact two alternate routes have been laid out, one of them through Loudon. Steve Jakubowski said that the project could create construction jobs and would have a huge impact on the City of Franklin with increased revenue. He said fees would be paid within the state as well. Bill Gabler said that the towns would benefit from increased tax base due to the wires but that would be more than offset with devalued properties. Mr. Jakubowski said that the town was a rural community when he moved here and now it has the expanded track. He said the last thing that is needed is a transmission line. A gentleman from the Co-op asked why the current PSNH right-of-ways couldn't be used if the project has to come through the town. Mr. Gabler said some of the areas are not feasible and it would be quicker, easier, and cheaper not to use them.

Donna Rollins stated that Canada is building this plant for MA, some towns may realize an economic benefit, yet there are no major gains for NH. She asked if the power company would go into each town to make an agreement. Mr.

Gabler said he could not speak to that but it would seem that they would work more with individual landowners. He said that the federal government has to make a judgment. Neva Foley said that many meetings have been held for the purpose of gathering information. Bill Gabler said that the feds have to make an assessment as to whether to grant permission for this to cross the border.

Chairman Ives said the maps were the first that have been seen. Donna Rollins said that is a good reason to take a close look at this project as there is not enough information being offered. Bill Gabler said this has been in the works for 1 ½ - 2 years but up until six months ago there were no maps available. He noted that these are still tentative maps. Selectman Krieger again encouraged everyone to contact their representatives and senators. Ms. Rollins asked if there is a list available of those who are for or against the project. Ms. Foley said that the Department of Energy is looking at the project. She said her office is gathering concerns and taking them back, encouraging all to contact the office. Steve Jakubowski said that it would seem more effective at this point to contact the state senators where they are considering the bill on eminent domain. Ms. Foley urged all to contact both state and federal representatives. Bill Gabler said that there are two bills being considered that could kill the project. He said he feels that the local representatives would be a good point of contact. Chairman Ives thanked Ms. Foley, Mr. Gabler, and others for attending and participating in this discussion.

- VIII. The Board began their review of weekly correspondence.
- a. The Board received a reminder about the Barn Preservation Easement public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, 2011 for the property next to the Town Office owned by Robert & Patricia Every.
 - b. The Board received a memo about preparing appointment papers for the committee members whose appointments expire March 31, 2011. Selectman Bowles said that committee members should be contacted to confirm their interest in continuing. Once confirmed, papers could be prepared.
 - c. The Board received correspondence from NH the Beautiful and a copy of the check for the waste oil heater. Chairman Ives explained that Road Agent Rice got a grant for \$2,000 toward the waste oil heater recently installed at the highway garage.
 - d. The Board received a copy of an e-mail from Fire Chief Jeff Burr regarding new ADA regulations.
 - e. The Board received a copy of an e-mail from Judy Houston.
 - f. The Board received copies of the draft March 17, 2011 Planning Board meeting minutes.
 - g. The Board received a copy of an e-mail from NH Government Finance Officers Association regarding possible legislation to reduce the interest rate on delinquent taxes.
 - h. The Board received information on the 2011 Local Officials workshop and NH Selectperson Institute.
 - i. The Board reviewed miscellaneous correspondence.
- IX. Chairman Ives recognized Mike Henderson of Oak Hill Road from the audience. Mr. Henderson asked about setting up a Roads Committee. Selectman Bowles

said that some committees are handed down as directives from the State. Chairman Ives asked if this would be an advisory committee. Mr. Henderson said that it would be, noting that Pembroke has five on their committee. He said that he does work in other towns and sees this type of committee made up of experienced people. Chairman Ives said that they could talk with the road agent. He said he would want to gather information on how this works in other towns. Selectman Bowles said that committees are sometimes hard to keep together because people get busy. He said the Board cannot ask the road agent to be on a committee as a town employee as that involves over-time but the road agent could serve if he chooses. Discussion continued about what the committee's purpose would be, how it would coordinate with the town's zoning ordinance and regulations, and needing to proceed methodically. Chairman Ives thanked Mr. Henderson for bringing the idea forward.

- X. Chairman Ives recognized Roy Merrill from the audience. Mr. Merrill stated that the MVSD finance committee would be meeting Monday, March 28th, 6:00 p.m. at the high school library. He said Loudon representation is needed as the committee will be deciding on budgets cuts and the town's tax dollars will be affected.
- XI. Selectman Bowles moved to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel issue at 7:35 p.m.; seconded by Selectman Krieger. Roll call vote: Krieger, yes; Bowles, yes; Ives, yes. Selectman Bowles moved to come out of executive session at 7:52 p.m.; seconded by Selectman Krieger. Roll call vote: Krieger, yes; Bowles, yes; Ives, yes. Chairman Ives stated that the purpose of the executive session was to discuss a personnel issue with an employee of the Town of Loudon.

Selectman Bowles moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Krieger. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

THE LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Steven R. Ives, Chairman

Dustin J. Bowles, Selectman

Robert P. Krieger, Selectman