

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009**

**PRESENT: Selectmen Bowles, Maxfield, and Ives. Also present Road Agent David Rice and Conservation Commission Chair Julie Robinson.**

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

- I. Selectman Ives moved to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 14, 2009 as printed. Second by Selectman Maxfield. All in favor. Motion carried.
- II. The Board met with Road Agent Dave Rice.
  - a. Mr. Rice provided a quote from Harry O Electrical to replace the electrical panel at the town garage. Mr. Rice said the existing panel is antiquated and parts are no longer available. He said the circuits are maxed out. Mr. Rice said the quote will upgrade the electrical system as well as provide access to plug in an auxiliary generator should the need arise. Mr. Rice said there is enough money in his building maintenance appropriation to cover the cost. The Board approved Mr. Rice's request to upgrade the electrical service.
  - b. Mr. Rice discussed the sand screener which has been on loan from Joe Bohi. He said Mr. Bohi will be taking the screener back but the town should be able to use it again, for a month or so, during the summer. He said he would like to purchase some screens for the unit to allow more use of the machinery. Chairman Bowles said Mr. Rice should get prices and bring those to the Board before purchasing parts for equipment that does not belong to the town.
  - c. The Board discussed intersections being cleared of winter sand. Mr. Rice said he has the sweeper scheduled for the first week of May. Chairman Bowles said the crew needs to continue to sweep and remove sand in an effort to cut down of the expense of hiring someone else to clean it up. Selectman Maxfield asked Mr. Rice about the cold patching that has been done. He asked if the cracks can be cut and tar placed in between.
- III. The Board met with Julie Robinson, Chairman of the Conservation Commission.
  - a. William Gabler was also present and has expressed interest in serving on the Commission. Mrs. Robinson said she has spoken with Mr. Gabler and knows of his prior experience with other towns and counties in planning board and conservation issues. She said Mr. Gabler's experience will be very beneficial to the Commission. Chairman Bowles said the Board will have an appointment paper prepared and the term will be for three years.
  - b. Mrs. Robinson advised the Board the NH Fish & Game Department has agreed to monitor the Conservation Easement on the property the speedway plans to purchase as part of their wetlands mitigation program.
- IV. The Board met with Carole Soule to discuss the formation of the Agricultural Committee.
  - a. Ms. Soule stated she had been asked to provide a list of people interested in becoming part of the Committee. She said after listening to Mr. Gabler, she would like him to consider being part of the Committee as well. Chairman

Bowles said he agreed and the conservation experience would be most beneficial. Ms. Soule presented the Board with a list of nine people who have expressed an interest in joining the Committee.

- b. Ms. Soule asked if the Board could assist with creating a list of farms in town and provided a tentative list for the Board's review. Chairman Bowles suggested Ms. Soule contact the Old Home Day Committee to make plans to participate and bring the Committee's ideas to the residents. He also recommended getting the information into The Ledger to help generate interest.

V. Chairman Bowles said the Library Trustee vacancy will be addressed next.

- a. Chairman Bowles stated he spoke with the three candidates proposed by the Trustees. He said he thought the Trustees had presented three very good candidates for the vacancy. He said one candidate is a former trustee and the other two are very interested in serving in the position. Chairman Bowles said he would like to encourage the Trustees to consider adding one or two alternates to the Board, which would help to ensure this situation would not resurface in the future. He said he felt this approach would be in everyone's best interest. Selectman Maxfield asked if this happened would the Selectmen approve their choices for an alternate position. Chairman Bowles said the experience gained by being an alternate would be beneficial to the Selectmen if they needed to choose an individual to fill a vacant trustee position. Chairman Bowles said this happens on other town boards. If an elected official chooses not to run again generally an alternate will step up to run for the position and already has some experience in that position. He said he really feels this would be in everyone's best interest. Chairman Bowles said he had spoken with Marilyn Sylvester and she was very interested in an alternate position being established. Chairman Bowles said taking on responsibilities of being a Trustee can be overwhelming. He said he and the Board are very appreciative of the volunteers who choose to serve in town positions.
- b. Chairman Bowles said Ken Krezewick has provided the Board with a letter outlining his qualifications for the Trustee's position. Chairman Bowles recognized Trustee Chairman Sandra Blanchard from the audience. Ms. Blanchard asked if the Board had received any other letters in reference to the Trustee vacancy. Chairman Bowles said several letters were received in the past week. He said he has also seen and talked with several residents who expressed their concerns. He said the decision is not an easy one, but it is one that will be made by the Selectmen, as a Board. He said he feels everyone has to move forward from this day and work with whatever decision is made and go from there. Ms. Blanchard asked if Chairman Bowles was the only one who received or read the letters. Chairman Bowles said each of the Selectmen have received copies of the letters as they arrived. Ms. Blanchard asked if the Selectmen have had this much discussion on an appointment in the past. Chairman Bowles said this is only the second time he has been involved with appointing someone to fill an elected position vacancy. The first was when Ms. Kardaseski resigned from her position as a Selectman. He said he and Mr.

Maxfield sought an individual with prior experience who agreed to accept the appointment. Ms. Blanchard said the Board did the same thing the Trustees did. Chairman Bowles said he did not feel it was the same. He said the Trustees received notice in January Mr. Silva was leaving the position. He said the Selectmen did not receive prior notice, so he does not feel it is the same. Chairman Bowles said he wasn't going to spend time on discussing what took place in the past. The point is to move forward from this point. He said the Trustees have not yet answered his question as to whether they would consider appointing some alternates, who would then have experience to assume a trustee position in case of a vacancy on the board. Ms. Blanchard said she thinks it is a great idea. Chairman Bowles said he would also like Selectman Maxfield and Selectman Ives to comment. Selectman Maxfield said he would like to go back to town meeting where he said the majority of those present supported the budget and the trustees. He said those present also supported the Selectmen in passing the budget. Selectman Maxfield said he feels the Board should go back and take a look at what happened at town meeting. He said the Selectmen should give a lot of consideration to the Trustees choice. He said in regards to checking out the trust funds, there are ten trust funds in place, each for a specific purpose, including the Library trust funds. Selectman Maxfield said he does not feel anyone should be trying to take the income from the Library trust funds and move it into the general fund, where it could become part of the unreserved fund balance. He said he feels this would be wrong and he hopes this does not happen. Selectman Ives said he initially was not going to debate the issue tonight, but since he has been asked to comment he would. He said the town did approve the budget and he also felt the voters sent a strong message the Selectmen were doing a good job. He said the original budget proposed by the Library Trustees was reduced greatly by the Selectmen. He said the Library budget that went to town meeting and was passed by the voters was not what was originally proposed by the Trustees. Selectman Maxfield said the only cut the Selectmen made was to the salary lines. Selectman Ives said yes, but that was the major increase proposed by the Trustees. Selectman Maxfield said whether the Board agrees or disagrees, the decision is going to be made. He said the Selectmen have to respect each other regardless of the outcome. Selectman Ives said the Selectmen have to base their decisions on what is best for the Town of Loudon as a whole, and that is what he has based his decision on. Selectman Ives moved to appoint Deborah Kardaseski to fill the interim term of Library Trustee Greg Silva. Second by Chairman Bowles. Selectman Maxfield said he would like to clarify one thing regarding the trust funds. He said the information was brought up at the Trustees' meeting that is where he heard it.

Chairman Bowles called for the vote, ayes two, nays one. Majority vote carried. Deborah Kardaseski will be appointed to fill the position until March 2010 town meeting. Chairman Bowles said he would like to ask the Trustees if the Selectmen can appoint Marilyn Sylvester and Ken Krezewick to

alternate positions. Ms. Blanchard said the Library Trustees will discuss it at their next meeting.

VI. The Board began their review of weekly correspondence.

- a. Chairman Bowles recognized Peter Pitman from the audience. Mr. Pitman said he wanted to thank the Board for doing what he feels is best for the town.
- b. The Board noted receipt of a memo from Office Manager Jean Lee. Chairman Bowles said he will contact town counsel to obtain information on letters to taxpayers with outstanding taxes. Selectman Maxfield said perhaps the tax collector could make telephone calls regarding this issue. Chairman Bowles said he thinks she does do that, but he would like to see the Selectmen also be proactive in encouraging delinquent taxpayers to make payment arrangements in an effort to get caught up on their back taxes. Chairman Bowles said he just wants to get the word out there the town is willing to work with these people in making payment arrangements. Mrs. Lee also informed the Board of the postage rate increase going into effect on Monday, May 11. All new construction and new subdivision lots have been entered into the computer. Mrs. Lee and Tax Collector Helen McNeil have been discussing the processing of the spring tax bills prior to the postage increase in an effort to save tax dollars. The Board agreed to go ahead with the tax bill processing prior to the postage increase. Mrs. Lee advised the Board two applications for Historic Barn Preservation Easements have been received. A public hearing must be scheduled on the applications. The Board agreed on May 19 for the public hearing. Mrs. Lee will prepare the advertisement and abutter notices.
- c. The Board was provided with a request from NH Magazine to provide a town landmark for a feature story they will be publishing. Selectman Maxfield suggested the Town Hall as the landmark.
- d. The Board was provided with their copy of NHMA Legislative Bulletin #16 for review.
- e. The Board received their copies of the quarterly fuel usage reports from Huckleberry Heating Oils.
- f. The Board received a regional impact notice from Town of Gilford.
- g. Chairman Bowles noted Selectman Maxfield's suggestion that a mail receptacle be established at the Town Office for the Agricultural Committee's use.
- h. Chairman Bowles recognized John Plummer from the audience. Mr. Plummer questioned the Comcast Cable franchise renewal. Chairman Bowles said his idea was to schedule an open meeting or open forum with the Government Affairs representative of Comcast for people to air their grievances and get input from Comcast on what their intentions are.
- i. Selectman Ives said he wanted to note for the record, in regards to the appointment approved this evening, even though the Selectmen disagreed on the appointment, as a Board we will work beyond that and still be able to work well together. He said his decision was not to appease any one group in town, but to do what he thought was best for the town as a whole. He said even though some people may have been angry, he hopes by the end of the term that Ms. Kardaseski will serve, she will prove the Board made the right decision. Chairman Bowles said he also wanted it noted he did take the time to speak with the other

candidates for the position and they are all very capable people. Chairman Bowles said the Library needs to work with the town's people. He said all the departments need to work together to make the town a community. He said no one department is any stronger or any better than any other. He said they are all equal in his book and they are all needed to make the town what it is. Selectman Maxfield said he has been outvoted before and when it is over, it's over. He said there is no animosity whatsoever, the Selectmen are a team and that is what they are supposed to be.

Selectman Ives moved to adjourn at 7:40 P.M. Second by Selectman Maxfield. All in favor.  
Motion carried.

#### LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Dustin J. Bowles, *Chairman*

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Roger A. Maxfield, *Selectman*

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Steven R. Ives, *Selectman*