

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Present: Chairman Bowles, Selectman Krieger and Selectman Ives.

Also present: Fire Chief Rick Wright, Road Agent Lance Houle, Pete Elliott from the Highway Department and Steve Bennett from the Transfer Station.

- I. Selectman Krieger moved to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 14, 2015 as written. Seconded by Selectman Ives. All in favor. Motion carried.

- II. The Board met with Fire Chief Rick Wright.
 - a. Chief Wright introduced Richard Maltais. Chief Wright said he recommends they hire Rich for the vacant fulltime position in the fire department; contingent on a clear background check and passing a pre-employment physical with a tentative start date of May 6, 2015 at \$17.00 per hour. Selectman Ives agreed with Chief Wright stating Rich shined at the interviews and is an excellent candidate. Chief Wright said he has all the certifications, has good experience from working at a hospital and working with the Gilmanton Fire Department. Selectman Ives asked Rich if he intends to continue living in Gilmanton Iron Works. Rich said he is looking to relocate. Selectman Krieger said he will take care of the background check which should be completed in one day and for all intents and purposes Mr. Maltais is hired. The Board congratulated Rich and welcomed him to the town.
 - b. Chief Wright said the aerial ladder truck made the journey from New Jersey to Loudon last week with no issues. They are working on lettering it and purchasing the tires that need to be replaced. Chief Wright said the first training on Sunday with the factory certified instructor went very well. Selectman Krieger said he stopped to see it; it looks like a decent rig. Selectman Ives said there are a lot of things on the truck that add value and will be very useful that he wasn't aware of until he climbed around on it.
 - c. Chief Wright said they held a driver safety class last night. He said there were fifteen firefighters, three employees from the highway department and three employees from the police department. He explained that it wasn't as general as he thought it was going to be, it was orientated to fire.
 - d. Pete Elliott from the highway department mentioned the weight of the new truck and the smaller bridges in town. Chairman Bowles said they receive a bridge report annually from the state; they will review that.
 - e. Chief Wright said Kit Thorstensen is going to take a look at the station roof, they still have leaks. Chief Wright said he spoke to the insurance adjuster who made a recommendation for the repairs. Chief Wright asked if the Board would like him to talk to that guy or to someone local. Chairman Bowles suggested that Chief Wright talk with a local contractor. Selectman Ives agreed that it should be kept local if possible.
 - f. Chief Wright said he spoke to Bob Maillot; he's going to do work at Station 2 and was hired to do the fence repair at the cemetery. Mr. Maillot was going to replace 3 sections of fence and repair the gate. He said he will work with Mr. Colby on the gate and will work with the Eagle Scout on the fence repair. Selectman Ives stated that Jim McNeil expressed interest in helping with the fence/gate repair.
 - g. Chief Wright said the lights at the War Memorial have been fixed except for the one that used to light up the library. Chief Wright said he spoke to Alice Tuson, Library Trustee

who assured him that the breaker is off; the Trustee's are meeting on May 6th and will discuss whether they will fix it or discontinue its use.

- h. Chief Wright said they cannot find information regarding the manufacturer of the flag pole with the broken latch. Roger Maxfield stated that he will get that information to Chief Wright.
- i. Chief Wright said the highway department has offered to make some road closure barricades to be kept at the fire station. Pete Elliott will make them and the fire department will paint and stripe them.
- j. Chief Wright spoke to Comcast; internet, phone and cable service is available at the highway garage. Chairman Bowles said the Supervisors of the Checklist should be able to piggyback off that when they have elections.
- k. Chief Wright said the second annual spaghetti dinner is Saturday night, April 25 from 5-7 pm at the fire station.

III. The Board met with Road Agent Lance Houle and Pete Elliott.

- a. Mr. Houle said they have started cleaning up the roadside brush. He explained that there is so much dirt on it that they are not running most of it through the chipper. Mr. Houle said they are building a box for the dump truck so they can chip into it.
- b. Mr. Houle said they have started sweeping around town trying to get the center of the roads so when the sweeper comes into town it will save him a pass.
- c. Mr. Houle said they fixed a fence on Staniels road that was hit during plowing.
- d. Mr. Houle said they are looking at purchasing magnesium chloride; they have the money in the budget.
- e. Mr. Houle said there is a bad culvert on Village Road where it crosses just below Lovejoy. He said it is a steel culvert that will be replaced with the same.
- f. Mr. Houle said there are two basins on Lovejoy Road that are totally caved in. They should be taken care of when they do the road.
- g. Mr. Houle said on Lower Ridge Road there is a culvert that has caved in, they will be replacing that one.
- h. Mr. Houle said he purchased some locks so when the Selectmen are ready to make changes at the transfer station they can. Chairman Bowles said he asked Steve Bennett to attend tonight so they can discuss it because Steve has some concerns. Mr. Bennett explained that there will have to be some adjustments made regarding haulers that go in when the transfer station isn't open. He is concerned with the liability if they allow anyone in there when no one is there working. Selectman Ives agreed that is a concern, he didn't realize anyone had a key to the facility. He doesn't think that a business should have the ability to access the facility when the public doesn't. Selectman Ives said it needs to be stopped immediately and he doesn't think hours need to be changed to accommodate one business. Selectman Krieger said his concern is that they don't know how many keys are out there and who has them. Mr. Bennett explained that this business picks up trash at the three parks and other residences; it is quite a bit of trash. Selectman Krieger suggested that Mr. Bennett and Mr. Houle work on it this week and next week come back in with the business owner and discuss it with him in person.
- i. Mr. Houle said he will need a little more information about what they figured for numbers for Lovejoy Road. Chairman Bowles will meet with Mr. Houle on Thursday and look at it.
- j. Mr. Houle said on May 21st they are going to the Mountain of Demo's in Sunapee.

- k. Mr. Elliott said they purchased 43 tri-axle loads of crushed stone to mix with their bank run gravel and put out approximately 200 loads on the dirt roads to smooth them out.
- l. Mr. Elliott said to access their gravel they cross Dave Moody's property. He also explained that they had an issue with one of their trucks; in brainstorming with Dave the matter was resolved. Mr. Elliott said they owe Dave thanks for helping with those things.
- m. Mr. Elliott said that due to the harsh winter they have run out of money in their fuel line.
- n. Mr. Elliott said the trucks have been inspected; one needs brakes, and one has an oil leak they will take care of these items.
- o. Mr. Elliott said they received a truck back from Winnepesaukee Truck.
- p. Mr. Elliott explained that they had some issues with a tractor so they took it to North Country Tractor. It was a fuel check value issue.
- q. Mr. Elliott asked if anyone knows about TruGreen and the fields. The highway department will contact them. They will also call about the dumpsters at the fields.
- r. Mr. Elliott said they are working with Loudon Building Supply for a quote on the windows at the shop.
- s. Mr. Elliott said the new Road Agent sponsored a cookout for the highway crew last Friday. He said they are all trying to work together.
- t. Mr. Houle said he has reviewed the roads, feels the frost is gone in most places and would like to pull the posted road signs. The Board agreed that he could.
- u. Selectman Ives said there are some broken branches over by the playground by the tennis court; he asked that it be cleaned up.

IV. The Board met with State Representative Howard Moffett.

Mr. Moffett explained that he was there to hear what is on the Boards mind. He explained that this is the first year of a biennium as far as the state budget is concerned; this current term from January through June is heavily dominated by development of state budget for the next two years. Mr. Moffett said the budget just passed the house a couple of weeks ago it's now in the senate, and then there will be a committee conference to iron out the details. Mr. Moffett said from his point of view it is a disappointing budget, he didn't vote for it, it's a maintenance budget. He said some people are happy about that because there are no new taxes or fees but he thinks they missed an opportunity particularly around the department of transportation and the funding of the state highway department. Mr. Moffett explained that the state department of transportation has historically been funded out of the highway fund, basically the gas tax. He explained that the house proposed a twelve-cent increase phased in over four years that didn't get passed by the senate; the senate proposed a one year increase of 4.2 cent. Mr. Moffett said that even with that increase the annual operating deficit for the state department of transportation is about 100 million dollars over the next two years. He said when it became clear to the house finance committee that there was no way of covering the expenses of the transportation department out of the highway fund they suggested breaking out the DOT budget into a separate bill. Mr. Moffett said this bill would have required the layoff of about 700 staff members of the DOT. He explained that several of the most conservative members of the house finance committee proposed another increase of 8-cents all at once, it became clear that there would not be enough votes to pass this so what happened was they pulled money from the university system cobbling together a budget that is still about 10 million dollars short in each year of the biennium. Mr. Moffett said he feels they missed the opportunity to have services funded by the people that use the services; that use the roads. Mr. Moffett said as bad as some of the state roads and bridges are they are going to get worse before they get better. He said he hopes that the senate will find a

different way to fund the department of transportation and funding other critical state services. Mr. Moffett said they have completely gutted the rainy day fund and it was used not for a rainy day but to fund ongoing operating budgets of state agencies. Selectman Ives said he doesn't believe there are any dedicated funds when it comes to the state. He said when the gas tax was raised before it was supposed to be dedicated to highway improvement but was robbed to pay the state police. Selectman Ives said they need to identify the critical services of the state and separate from those the feel good services that we just don't have the money to fund and cut the money from those. Mr. Moffett agreed and said that most would agree that one of the most critical services is state highways and bridges. Mr. Ives said he read that the tourism budget was cut, he read that for every one dollar spent they see a return of \$9.24; that's a profit making budget that got cut. Mr. Moffett said he's not happy; they'll have to see what the senate comes up with. Selectman Krieger asked if Mr. Moffett thinks the house will pass the 8-cent tax if the senate sends it back to them. Mr. Moffett said if they did he would hope the house would look at it. Mr. Moffett said there are some services such as developmental disabilities services that were cut by 50 million dollars; there is no way to make that up. He said they have problems at the state hospital because of lack of beds for emergency mentally ill people. He explained that they had proposed to put a new ten bed unit in there and there is no funding for it. Mr. Moffett said there is no funding in the budget for a 2.5% raise for state employees who have basically had no raise since the recession started. Selectman Ives asked about the block grants that help pay for road repairs. Mr. Moffett said the governor wanted to increase them, the house froze them at last year's level and he hopes the senate won't decrease them. Mr. Moffett said his sense is that the economy is starting to come back, businesses are starting to see some movement, more people are hiring, it's still not good across the board but tourism is coming back up and there are reasons to believe that we are finally coming out of the recession. Chairman Bowles asked about education. Mr. Moffett said that for K-12 there has been an attempt to provide more aid to the school districts that are growing the fastest. Mr. Moffett said school budgets seem to be out of whack too. Mr. Moffett stated that the university system was flat funded but they needed an increase in order to prevent a tuition increase and they didn't get it. He said that our state university, which already has the highest tuition in the country for a state school, is going to raise tuition again. Roger Maxfield asked what the gas tax is now. Mr. Moffett said it is \$.22. Mike Labonte said that he has traveled a lot in the last few years and pretty soon this state is going to have to get a sales tax. Mr. Moffett said he is getting to the point where he would think about a sales tax on luxury items. Mr. Moffett said when he ran the first time in 2012 he said he wouldn't vote for a broad based tax because he wasn't convinced that they can't pay for the services they need out of a combination of narrower taxes. Stan Prescott said stop giving money away, let people live within their means; there are people out there that should be working, and get people off drugs. Mike Labonte said people getting welfare should have to take drug tests; he has to take one for a job so why shouldn't they have to take one to get free money. Mr. Moffett said he thinks there are a lot of people out there that would like to work but haven't been able to find jobs. Discussion ensued about welfare, jobs and drug testing. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Moffett for attending the meeting.

- V. The Board met with Tom Blanchette representative of NHMS.
 - a. Mr. Blanchette explained that he is following up on the discussion from last week. A gentleman explained they are starting up a Raven training program; a small UAS. Mary

Ann Steele asked if these are drones. He said they are not drones like you see in the movies but yes they are surveillance vehicles. He explained that they are looking at NHMS so they won't have to fly over people's houses; NHMS is more than large enough. He showed the board a map that indicated they would be training over NHMS property only. He explained that at any one time there would only be two Ravens in the air, they are very quiet, once up and running they welcome any in to see what they are doing. He also explained that this is a small program and they would be flying Ravens a few times a month. Selectman Ives said his biggest concern is that they maintain their flight pattern within the ground of NHMS or they not take imagery beyond track property. Selectman Krieger asked if the testing would only be during the day. He said in the beginning but there are night qualifications that will happen. Selectman Krieger asked that the police department be notified when they are testing so if people report UFO's the police could explain what is going on. He said they will let them know. Selectman Ives said the people around the track put up with a lot so they want to be sure to protect them. Mary Ann Steele explained that she lives near the track, listens to all the races and practices and isn't looking forward to hearing a lawnmower buzzing around overhead five nights a week. She asked if this training could be done in Concord at the airport. He explained that the training has to be done five miles away from an airport. He explained that the parking lot is big enough so they will not be flying over houses, once in the air it is very quiet she won't hear it and it won't be five nights a week. Ms. Steele asked whether there is a permit for this. He explained that they are trying to obtain a three-year permit.

- VI. The Board met with members of the Union Cemetery Association regarding the Union Cemetery. Stanley Prescott explained that they received a memo from the attorney general's office regarding transferring the cemetery to the town. Mr. Prescott asked if the selectmen want to proceed. The Board said they do. Selectman Ives said they have the town attorney's blessing. Mr. Prescott said they will be taking care of the tree and the fence. Chairman Bowles said working together they can get it cleaned up; a couple of cemetery guys can pick up the brush and throw it out to a couple of highway guys with the chipper, he has a local logger ready to pick up the big tree at no cost to the cemetery or town. Mr. Prescott said he has picked up the pine boughs and branches around the rest of the cemetery. Selectman Ives said they have a price from their mowing person. Mr. Prescott said they have a contract with the person they use; generally they mow 4-5 times. The agreement is that they will honor the contract that the cemetery already has. Mr. Prescott said they will draft the deed to the town.
- VII. Chairman Bowles explained that last week they received notice that the price for printing Zoning Ordinances has increased. Selectman Krieger made a motion to increase the fee for printing the Zoning Ordinance from \$7.00 to \$10.00. Seconded by Selectman Ives. All in favor. Motion carried.
- VIII. The Board recognized Mike Labonte from the audience.
Mr. Labonte said he did some asking around and he understands that Bonnie has still not been put back in a permanent position with her insurance and he's curious why. He said at town meeting where he was the moderator he understood the town's people wanted her back full time now and in the future so they raised enough money for next year's budget and there should be enough money in this year's budget to put her back in her position. Chairman

Bowles said the Board made the decision to make the position part time and he didn't hear anything in the motion that said it was to start immediately, most things that are voted on at town meeting start July 1. Mr. Labonte said he understands but the message was there loud and clear. He said he heard that they wanted the money to reinstate her next year but they were also saying, you might have to read between the lines, but they want her back fulltime and it was kinda meant immediately. Chairman Bowles said he doesn't know how they can read between the lines because if every selectmen or board were to read between the lines the town could get itself in a lot of trouble. Selectman Ives objected to them categorizing it as Bonnie; it's a position not a person. Mary Ann Steele said it was pretty clear to her and there didn't need to be any reading between the lines because as one of the speakers at the meeting she said there is a person in that position, it was assumed that the person had left and you were talking about refilling this position with a candidate and the compensation would be set based on experience what she said specifically at the meeting was you know who the person is because she hasn't left the position which was a shock to many. Ms. Steele said she didn't use the person's name but the person in the position had been in the position for seventeen years and it seemed very precipitous that if you had funding through the end of the fiscal year that effective February 1st you would cut that person back to a part time position with no benefits. She said it doesn't take a lot to figure out that we are talking about the incumbent in that position so without using her name it's pretty clear who we're talking about. Peter Pitman said the reason they did not use that person's name was because they were afraid that as a Board you would say this is a personnel issue we can't discuss it at this public meeting. He said that is why her name was never used when we were talking at town meeting. He said they understand that a personnel issue is something that is private and goes into executive session and they were afraid the Select Board would say we can't talk about that at this public forum. Chairman Bowles explained that the issue wasn't the person but the budget that you were there on that day to discuss. He said they got the message. Mr. Pitman said the point they were trying to get across to the selectmen as a whole they didn't grasp. He said the townspeople made it very clear what they were trying to do and he understands that it was for the budget that was starting in July but they made it very plain to you what they were looking for. Mr. Pitman said saying reading between the lines is crap because they made it very plain what they were looking for. Selectman Krieger said he would summarize what he was hearing. He said if we have the money in the budget and we have work for this person that she would need to be put to work. Ms Steele said for those that voted at that meeting that's exactly what the intention was, which is precisely why the discussion was had that there was funding through the end of this fiscal year and we then assured that there would be additional funding for the following fiscal year. She said that was clearly the intent that it happen then. Ms. Steele said those of them that have been around for a long time have heard complaints about not enough help in any number of places; the fire department among them if there isn't sufficient work to carry over this person, whose name happens to be Bonnie, in the selectmen's office 40 hours per week then certainly they could use some help in the fire department. She said if they have a problem with her personally that is a whole other issue. Selectman Ives said there are a lot of things that they aren't allowed to discuss in public. He said Ms. Steele brought up the fire department, he explained that they have already been in discussion with the Fire Chief, weeks ago. Selectman Ives said he tired of all the accusations that are being brought forward he said their hands are tied on a lot of these things and we can't let you know what is going on but you accuse us of doing things personally, we are not and he is sick of it. Ms. Steele said she said she did no such thing. Selectman Ives said he doesn't like getting shanghaied at

town meeting. Kathy Pitman asked if the town ran out of money for that position. Chairman Bowles said no, there is not 40 hours of work. Ms. Pitman said all of a sudden there isn't 40 hours. Chairman Bowles said they looked at it for quite awhile. He explained that they looked at two positions and found work for one, they don't know how long that is going to last they will be reviewing that in May to see if that is working or not. Chairman Bowles said they are working with the Fire Chief. Chairman Bowles said he heard what they have to say and they will take it under advisement and look into it further.

- IX. The Board began their review of weekly correspondence.
- a. The Board received a letter from Town Counsel regarding NHMS.
 - b. The Board received a letter from the Clough Pond Association. They have three items to discuss with the board; they've had a change in leadership, an issue with the sign near the boat ramp and e-coli testing. The Board will ask a representative from the association to come in and speak to them.
 - c. The Board received a letter from Planet Aid. They would like the town to "host" a bin somewhere in town. \$.05 per pound of whatever is collected would come to the town. Chairman Bowles said there is a Goodwill box at the Transfer Station. Due to concerns with excess being left around the box, the Board decided that the best location for a box would be at the Transfer Station.
 - d. The Board received information from Eversource Energy regarding energy efficiency workshops.
 - e. The Board received a Community Action Program thank you letter for the quarterly payment.
 - f. The Board received a request from Congresswoman Kuster to hang a notice of offer of assistance.
 - g. The Board received miscellaneous correspondence.
- X. Chairman Bowles explained that he was looking at the property near the recreation field where trees were cut. They will ask the property owner to come in and speak with them.
- XI. Selectman Krieger moved to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Ives. All in favor. Motion carried.

LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Dustin J. Bowles, Chairman

Robert P. Krieger, Selectman

Steven R. Ives, Selectman