

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 30, 2008

Present: Selectmen Ives, Bowles, and Maxfield.

Also present: Road Agent David Rice, Police Chief, Code Enforcement/Compliance Officer Bob Fiske, and Fire Chief Jeff Burr.

Merrimack County Commissioner Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh, Merrimack County Jail Superintendent Ron White, Merrimack County Jail Assistant Lieutenant Richard Doucette, and Merrimack County Jail Chief of Operations Daniel Ward were also in attendance.

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

- I. Selectman Maxfield moved to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 23, 2008 as presented. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried.
- II. The Board met with Police Chief, Code Enforcement/Compliance Officer Bob Fiske.
 - a. Mr. Fiske discussed the need to place a "Not a Thru Road" sign at the end of Route 129 and Bear Hill Road. He stated that there have been issues with tractor trailers attempting to turn onto this road, then having to back up on Route 129 when they realize they are not able to go all the way through. Discussion ensued regarding adjusting the speed limit. Selectman Maxfield moved reduce the speed limit to 25 MPH on Bear Hill Road and to place a 25 MPH speed limit sign on Bear Hill Road at the Route 129 end. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried. Chairman Ives stated that the "Not a Thru Road" sign will also be placed at the Route 129 end of Bear Hill Road.
 - b. Discussion ensued regarding the petition received by the Selectmen's Office asking for the reduction in the speed limit on Bee Hole Road. Mr. Fiske stated that there had been a serious accident on Bee Hole Road and after the accident the speed trailer was set up to monitor the traffic. He said that the information collected does not warrant a change in the speed limit at this time. Discussion ensued regarding the difficulty in enforcing the speed limit. Mr. Fiske stated that he would be sure there would be more police presence on Bee Hole Road to enforce the speed limit.
 - c. Mr. Fiske advised the Board that there are two 2008 building permits left and the list for 2009 has fourteen building permits left.

- d. Chairman Ives stated for the record that two pistol permits were submitted for signature and approval.
 - e. Mr. Fiske discussed the audit for NH Volunteers regarding the CERT Trailer and all its equipment. Discussion ensued regarding who would be in charge of handling the audit information and accountability as well as the need to have clerical assistance for the paperwork. It was stated that Mr. Fiske will handle the accountability aspect and Chairman Ives will speak with Office Manager Jean Lee regarding the clerical aspect.
- III. The Board met with Road Agent David Rice.
- a. Mr. Rice advised the Board that he has received a letter from a resident on Country Hill Road regarding concerns over a pine tree and her desire to be notified prior to any work being done near her property. He stated that he would be forwarding a letter to the landowner advising her that the Highway Crew was working in the right-of-way and that the little bit of sand left behind would be cleaned up. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of the pine tree's roots being in the right-of-way and that the construction needed to take place.
 - b. Mr. Rice advised the Board that the gravel has been placed on the shoulders on Upper City Road. He said that the gravel would be paid out of the Highway Department Budget and it cost approximately \$2,800.00 to have Pike for the day.
 - c. Mr. Rice advised the Board that the culvert on Berry Road has been replaced.
 - d. Mr. Rice advised the Board that grading was ongoing and that the driveway on Old Shaker Road has been addressed. Discussion ensued.
- IV. The Board met with Fire Chief Jeff Burr.
- a. Chief Burr provided the Board with the contract with PSNH for the Energy Audit upgrades for the Safety Complex.
 - b. Chief Burr stated that the Harvest Supper would be October 18, 2008. Chairman Ives discussed advertising options.
- V. The Board met with County Commissioner Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh, Merrimack County Jail Superintendent Ron White, Merrimack County Jail Assistant Lieutenant Richard Doucette, and Merrimack County Jail Chief of Operations Daniel Ward to discuss a program where NH Inmates perform work for the Town at no charge as well as other programs available.
- a. Ms. Asplund-Walsh discussed the Merrimack County Prescription Assistance Program. Selectman Bowles stated that the Selectmen's Office did receive this information and it is available to residents at the Town Office.
 - b. Ms. Asplund-Walsh stated that the Merrimack County Nursing Home is up and running. She stated it was built with a geo-thermal heating

system as well as a cold water washing system which removes viruses such as Mercer. Ms. Asplund-Walsh said that the County is looking at installing solar panels at the correctional facilities.

- c. Ms. Asplund-Walsh advised the Board that the last County budget included a “bed tax” bill that was passed. She said that the State was supposed to pay the 20% bed tax and the former State Health and Human Services Director helped get the bill passed, the costs were shifted to the Counties. Ms. Asplund-Walsh stated that this year it cost an additional \$3,000,000.00 and next year it will cost over \$6,000,000.00. She went on to advise the Board that the NH Association of Counties filed suit against the State and the case is going before the Supreme Court in hopes it will be reversed. Ms. Asplund-Walsh said this is one of the largest reasons the County budget has gone up.
- d. Ms. Asplund-Walsh began discussion regarding the Correctional Inmates Work Program where the towns provide the supplies and Merrimack County Jail provides the manpower and supervision. Daniel Ward, Chief of Operations for Merrimack County Jail, stated that this program began approximately 3 years ago and gave a brief overview of work performed to date. He stated that the inmates that are part of this program are minimum security with the least amount of risk. Discussion ensued regarding many of the inmates are in jail waiting on the court system for various offenses such as non payment of child support. Mr. Ward stated that the program is not set up to take away work from local contractors. He said the program is to assist the towns and cities in stretching their budgets where possible. Mr. Ward said the program provides eight or nine individuals with an officer to work on a project from one or two weeks at a time. He said the inmates skills are reviewed and are placed on projects where their skills could be utilized. Merrimack County Jail Superintendent Ron White provided a slideshow of projects for the Board’s review and gave an overview of the program the inmates go through once they are part of the Merrimack County Jail system. Ms. Asplund-Walsh explained that all of the education the inmates receive while incarcerated at the MCJ, is provided by volunteer educators. Mr. White stated that 70% of the inmates at the Merrimack County Jail are there as pre-trial inmates and many of them will not have a court date until sometime in 2009. Discussion ensued regarding the existing facilities and ways of making them more efficient. Mr. Richard Doucette stated that the program has saved Merrimack County \$250,000,000.00 by doing work at the Merrimack County Nursing Home, Merrimack County Jail, and the jobs that are done for the towns and cities in Merrimack County. He said that there are approximately seventy-eight to one hundred inmates per day that are out working through this program. Mr. White advised the Board that if Loudon finds a project they want assistance with, the Selectmen would make

the contact with the jail and give the specifics of the project and estimated timeframe, and then a date would be scheduled. Discussion ensued. Roy Merrill suggested that the Town Pound restoration could be considered for this type of project as well as the new proposed soccer fields to be located at the Merrimack Valley School District property at the Elementary School. It was suggested that the Board contact other cities and towns who have participated in this program to get their feedback. Mr. Ward welcomed the Board and townspeople to feel free to contact any of the Merrimack County facilities and set up a tour.

- VI. The Board began their review of weekly correspondence.
- a. The Board discussed having a meeting with the members of the J. O. Cate Memorial Van Committee to discuss the heating situation at the Cate Van Garage.
 - b. The Board received copies of a resignation letter from Trustee of the Trust Fund Alicen Twardosky. The Board thanked Mrs. Twardosky for her service to the town. Discussion ensued regarding filling this position.
 - c. The Board received information from NH Charitable Foundation regarding the VFW Veteran's Memorial Fund.
 - d. The Board discussed a request to forward a scholarship payment directly to a student's loan company. The Board reviewed the request and granted the approval based on the fact that the payment will be made to pay off part of the student loan. The Board agreed that this issue will be on a case by case basis.
 - e. The Board received a copy of a memo to Bob Fiske from the Planning/Zoning Office.
 - f. The Board reviewed a copy of a letter sent to the J. O. Cate Van Committee regarding the donation of office carpet for the J. O. Cate Van Garage.
 - g. The Board received a request from a Merrimack Valley High School Senior asking to place food collection containers at the Town Office for the Capital Region Food Program for her senior project. The Board agreed that the collection containers could be left as long as the student was sure to pick up the food items in a timely manner and that the containers were not in the way.
 - h. The Board received copies of the Traffic Study reports from DOT for the September Sprint Cup event.
 - i. The Board received copies of the July ESMI Compliance report for review.
 - j. The Board received copies of the 2008 edition of the Basic Law of Budgeting from LGC as well as copies of the Right-to-Know Law concerning electronic communications for review.
 - k. The Board received a notice of upcoming current use public forums for review.

- l. The Board received a notice from National Grid regarding fixed price options for the Town Office and Community Buildings. The Board will research this information further.
- m. The Board received a Regional Impact Notice from the Town of Goffstown for review.

Selectman Bowles moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

THE LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Steven R. Ives, Chairman

Dustin J. Bowles, Selectman

Roger A. Maxfield, Selectman