

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 7, 2008

**Present: Selectmen Ives, Bowles, and Maxfield.**

**Also present: Transfer Station Manager Steve Bennett, John O. Cate Van Committee members Bob Ordway, Dave Nicholson, and Walter Howard, and Senator Harold Janeway.**

**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 30, 2008 as presented. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried.
  
- II. The Board met with Transfer Station Manager Steve Bennett to discuss the 2009 GAT figures for the Town of Loudon.
  - a. Mr. Bennett discussed the GAT figures for 2008 and his projection for 2009. He stated that the GAT figures for 2008 were approximately 100 ton under the 3,600 ton that was agreed upon. Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of estimating too high or too low and the costs associated with the estimates. The Board agreed that it might be best to estimate a little low and put the additional money in the budget to cover any overage, than to estimate too high and have to pay for tonnage that is not delivered. Selectman Maxfield moved to set Loudon's GAT for 2009 at 3,600 ton. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried.
  
- III. The Board met with John O. Cate Van Committee members Bob Ordway, Dave Nicholson, and Walter Howard to discuss the J. O. Cate Van Garage.
  - a. Chairman Ives stated that Howard Gassett donated the labor to fix the garage door. He discussed the future of the building maintenance and budget issues. Mr. Ordway stated that the building is going to be used to house the Van and for the communications location. He said someone may need to be there one to two hours per week to do the scheduling and paperwork. Selectman Bowles said when the building was constructed it was not set up to have the heat set at more than 45° - 50° and the budget does not include funds to have the temperature above that. Mr. Ordway said he does not feel there will be a problem. Discussion ensued regarding the placement of the thermostat. Chairman Ives said that Fire Chief Jeff Burr has agreed to look at the placement and relocation of the thermostat. Chairman Ives thanked the J. O. Cate Van Committee for all they do for the townspeople. He stated that the issue of the maintenance and costs for the new building need to be addressed during the budget preparation. Mr. Ordway said

that there is an overhead fan that will be installed to help move the heat around. Discussion ensued.

- IV. The Board began their review of weekly correspondence.
  - a. Chairman Ives discussed the vacancy in the position of Trustee of Trust Funds. He stated that Melissa West of Pond Street in Loudon has shown some interest in possibly filling the position. Ms. West has been given information relative to the duties of the Trustees and will be speaking with former Trustee Howard Pearl to get her questions answered. The Board agreed if Ms. West decides to take on the position, they would gladly appoint her. The Board thanked Ms. West for her consideration of this position.
  - b. The Board received copies of the approval letter from Employment Security regarding the Maxfield Public Library and Town quarterly reporting.
  - c. The Board received copies of the budget memo distributed to all departments. It was noted that the deadline for all departments to submit their budgets to the Selectmen's Office is November 17, 2008.
  - d. The Board received quarterly fuel usage reports from Huckleberry Heating Oils for each department.
  - e. The Board received copies of a memo from Office Manager Jean Lee regarding a Veteran's Credit and town re-mapping proposal for review. The Board reviewed a Veteran's Credit in which the property owner has an "Irrevocable Trust" and Assessor Dave Wiley is questioning the eligibility of the credit. Chairman Ives stated that Office Manager Jean Lee has contacted Linda Kennedy at DRA regarding this issue and was advised that until there is case law on this subject, it is up to the Board's discretion whether to allow the credit or not. The Board agreed to keep the Veteran's Credit in effect.
  
- V. The Board met with Senator Harold Janeway to discuss energy costs.
  - a. Senator Janeway presented the Board with a proclamation suitable for framing, to be given to the VOA "Richard Brown House" from the dedication ceremony.
  - b. Senator Janeway said he is going to towns and getting their input on ways that they are handling the heating oil situation and he hopes to create a central location, clearinghouse, to distribute information to all cities, towns, and residents. Senator Janeway provided the Board with copies of information regarding services available as well as general information pertaining to fuel costs and tips for energy savings. Senator Janeway advised the Board that many towns and cities are designating a "warm place" for residents who do not have heat and asked if Loudon had considered this as an option. The Board stated that if there is an issue, the two fire stations would be the places that would be utilized. Discussion ensued regarding neighbors looking out for each other and keeping a close watch on the elderly and medically

needy residents. Chairman Ives discussed the incident where there was a major power outage and the fire department went from house to house checking on the residents. Senator Janeway said he is trying to get everyone thinking ahead to anticipate any problems that could arise from the strains on residents with the increased heating costs. He said the estimate from last year on all the oil purchased for residents and businesses in NH is six hundred million dollars and with the current prices the cost could be approaching one billion dollars this year. Senator Janeway advised the Board that the Senate had a special session a few weeks ago and voted to put some state money upfront so the Fuel Assistance Program could begin disbursing funds prior to the Federal Government's vote to increase the funds. The Board will see that the information Senator Janeway provided is included in an upcoming issue of the Loudon Ledger advising residents of heating options.

- VI. The Board continued their review of weekly correspondence.
- a. The Board received copies of the breakdown of gas supply costs for the Town Office and Community Building for review. The Board agreed to not sign the contract with National Grid.
  - b. The Board received copies of a letter sent to Ruth Murray from Road Agent David Rice for review.
  - c. The Board discussed the re-mapping proposal from Cartographic Associates. The Board stated they do not feel this is the right time to be looking at this option due to the large costs associated with this project.
  - d. The Board received notice of a pre-construction conference meeting on Thursday with DOT regarding the Route 106 Project.
  - e. The Board received a memo from Planning/Zoning Secretary Donna White regarding the first Zoning Amendment workshop scheduled on October 16, 2008 at 6:00 PM.
  - f. The Board received copies of two memos between Code Enforcement and Planning Office regarding Loudon Woods Estates for review.
  - g. The Board received copies of the draft ZBA Minutes of September 25, 2008 for review.
  - h. The Board received a notification from Department of Safety regarding Criminal Record Checks. The Selectmen will discuss this issue with Police Chief Bob Fiske and will look at including this in the Personnel Policy. All Criminal Checks will be forwarded to the Selectmen's Office and placed into an employee's personnel file. Selectman Bowles stated this is a new requirement for new hires and the Board needs to decide how they are going to proceed with this issue.
  - i. The Board received a notice for Town Meeting workshops on November 1, 2008.
  - j. The Board received copies of a DES survey regarding water resources.

- k. The Board received information on “Stay Warm NH” program for review.
- l. The Board received copies of a newsletter from NH Division of Economic Development for review.
- m. Chairman Ives stated that Alvin Davis III has requested the Selectmen sign a form for tax purposes on the land that Mr. Davis donated to the town. Selectman Maxfield moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the Charitable Donation of Property form for Alvin R. Davis III and Monika A. Davis for the donation of 135+/- acres of land donated to the Town of Loudon. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried.
- n. Selectman Maxfield moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract with PSNH to upgrade the electrical fixtures in the Safety Building based on the energy audit performed in 2008. The total cost of the project is \$7,478.30 with the cost of the Town of Loudon to be \$3,738.94 to be realized in the electrical savings from the upgrade. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried. Discussion ensued regarding this being a cost sharing grant with PSNH, the payment of the \$3,738.94 being spread out over the 2.7 years as part of the monthly bill.

Selectman Bowles moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

THE LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Steven R. Ives, Chairman

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Dustin J. Bowles, Selectman

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Roger A. Maxfield, Selectman