

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Present: Selectmen Ives, Bowles, and Maxfield.

Also present: Road Agent David Rice.

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

- I. Selectman Maxfield moved to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 28, 2008 as presented. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried. Selectman Bowles moved to accept the executive session minutes of Tuesday, October 28, 2008 as presented. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield. All in favor. Motion carried.
- II. Selectman Bowles moved to amend the Town of Loudon Personnel Policy to include the Service Member Family Leave Act as described by the Department of Labor regulations. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield. All in favor. Motion carried.
- III. Selectman Maxfield moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the 5% multi-year discount program agreement with Primex for Workman's Compensation. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried.
- IV. The Board met with Road Agent David Rice.
 - a. Mr. Rice advised the Board that the paving at the end of Goshen Drive and the patching at the Safety Complex have been completed.
 - b. Mr. Rice said the grader has been out working on dirt roads before the roads freeze. He said culverts are being checked at the same time as the grading.
 - c. Chairman Ives asked if there had been any issues with Country Hill Road. Mr. Rice said he has not heard anything since the Town forwarded a letter to the landowner.
 - d. Discussion ensued regarding additional paving in the spring of the ends of Goshen Drive and Sheeprock Road as well as the Safety Complex. Selectman Bowles asked about the culvert on Pleasant Street. Mr. Rice said that area has been paved. Selectman Bowles discussed the culvert on Batchelder Road Extension. Mr. Rice said he is talking with Jim McNeil on that project regarding the small excavator.
 - e. Mr. Rice advised the Board that he would be on vacation during Thanksgiving week.

- f. Mr. Rice advised the Board that the Highway Crew is still screening sand for winter.
 - g. Chairman Ives stated the Highway Crew had done some roadwork on Riverview Drive; however, there is another area of washout a little further down the road where the pavement is being undermined. He suggested that the Highway Crew check out the surrounding areas that they are working on in the future to catch any other areas that may have issues.
 - h. Selectman Bowles discussed the continuation of digging ditches and keeping areas from plugging up. He talked about a structure on School Street and Oak Hill Road that sticks out. Discussion ensued regarding the culvert and swale. Chairman Ives asked about the catch basins on Berry Road. Mr. Rice stated that they will be cleaned before the ground is frozen.
 - i. Chairman Ives advised Mr. Rice he would update him on the Wiggins Road issue after he speaks with DES on Wednesday.
- V. The Board began their review of weekly correspondence.
- a. The Board received copies of correspondence regarding the petitions for road layout for Greenview Drive, Thistle Hill Road, and Wellington Lane. Chairman Ives acknowledged receipt of a petition from Greenview Drive to accept the layout of Greenview Drive as a town road. He stated this petition will be forwarded to Town Counsel for review. The Board agreed. Selectman Maxfield moved to deny the petition to lay out Thistle Hill Road as a town road due to the fact that there is only one house built on the road and it is in the town's best interest to not plow the entire road for the winter. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried. Chairman Ives stated the petition is denied. Chairman Ives reviewed the status of Wellington Lane and the issue of the final inspection not being completed on the road. Selectman Bowles moved to deny the petition to lay out Wellington Lane as a town road due to the issue of the final inspection from the Town Engineer not being completed as of November 10, 2008. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield. All in favor. Chairman Ives stated the petition is denied.
 - b. The Board received copies of correspondence from DES regarding Wiggins Road.
 - c. The Board received copies of a letter from Michael Harris for review. Selectman Bowles said he would need to research the agreement, but he felt it stated that there would be no competitive racing activities, not that there would be no racing activities. The Board will have a letter drafted for signature next week. Selectman Bowles stated that another issue in Mr. Harris's letter was relative to signage. He said he felt that all the boards had already addressed the issue of signage.
 - d. The Board received copies of a Facilities Task Force meeting schedule from Merrimack Valley School District for review. Chairman Ives

stated that the Selectmen have been attending meetings with the MVSD/School Board regarding the proposal for MVSD to purchase the Beede Electric property next to the High School for 2.18 million dollars. Selectman Bowles stated there is also a proposal for an eight hundred thousand dollar slush fund to be used to fix up the property. The Board stated the building is currently undergoing a hazardous mitigation process and that there are two other school buildings that could be used to suit the purpose for the purchase of this building. Chairman Ives stated the next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at the MV High School Library.

- e. The Board received copies of a thank you letter from Gary Vermette regarding the naming of the road of the subdivision of which he is a partner, in honor of his wife who is ill. The Selectmen had agreed to name the new road "Bert Lane".
- f. The Board received a memo from Office Manager Jean Lee regarding budget preparation. The Board will review their schedule and set appointments to meet with department heads.
- g. The Board received copies of the Planning Board and Zoning Board agenda for review.
- h. The Board received copies of the October property transfers for review.
- i. The Board received copies of past due ambulance bills for review. Selectman Bowles moved to forward past due ambulance account #40475 in the amount of \$510.10, account #40066 in the amount of \$533.30, and account #39942 in the amount of \$486.30 to collections. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield. All in favor. Motion carried.

- VI. The Board met with Carole Soule to discuss HB 1442 which grants the municipality the option to allow land under qualified farm structures to be assessed at a lower rate than market value.
 - a. Ms. Soule stated that she is in the process of building this type of structure in a current use area and it will be used strictly for agricultural purposes. She stated that she currently has 50 head of Scottish Highlanders and needs to build a covered feed bunker. Chairman Ives stated that this issue needs to be voted on at Town Meeting by the legislative body before it becomes adopted by the Town. Ms. Soule said she was aware of that and was asking the Board to put the process in motion. Chairman Ives stated that this information will be forwarded to Town Counsel for his opinion and the Board will keep Ms. Soule updated. Discussion ensued regarding the option for Ms. Soule to submit a petitioned warrant article if the Selectmen decide they do not want to proceed with this issue. Ms. Soule stated that she also has an existing building that she would like to include in this exemption if it passes.

- VII. The Board continued their review of weekly correspondence.

- a. The Board received FEMA fact sheets from Fire Chief Burr for review as well as a training certificate.
- b. The Board received copies of the 2009 dues assessment from Central NH Regional Planning for review.
- c. The Board received notice from DOT of the completion of the building demolition on Route 106.
- d. The Board received a scholarship thank you card.
- e. Carol Soule was recognized from the audience. She asked the Selectmen about looking into setting up a committee to research farming as she has been advised that other towns are doing. Chairman Ives stated that the Selectmen had just set up the Energy Committee and would like to see how that goes first.

VIII. Chairman Ives recognized Maryanne Steele of the Loudon Communications Council from the audience.

- a. Mrs. Steele asked the Board for clarification on the reasons that the Selectmen have declined to put the initial budget submissions in the Ledger. Chairman Ives said he was not speaking for the Board, but he felt that the information had not gone in the Ledger prior to the Selectmen's review before and does not see the reason to have it go in now. He said that he felt the Board needed to have time to review the budget submissions and work on any adjustments before it goes out to the public. Mrs. Steele stated that the intent of the information being included in the Ledger is so that questions can be asked prior to Town Meeting, and so people can see how the budget process works. She discussed past Town Meetings and stated that people need to see how the town budget process works so they will be aware that their biggest portion of their tax bills comes from the County and School budgets. Mrs. Steele discussed the Right-To-Know Law. Chairman Ives said that the Selectmen have asked Town Counsel for an opinion on this issue and were advised that it does not become public information until the budget is complete. Mrs. Steele asked if the Board would put that information in a letter to the Communications Council, based on their response from Town Counsel. Chairman Ives agreed that a letter could be forwarded to the Communications Council. Discussion ensued regarding the Communications Council's desire to get the information out so people understand the whole process. Chairman Ives said that he is concerned that if the preliminary information is printed in the Ledger people will be basing their questions or concerns on information that may have changed during the budget process and feels it would be best to publish the budget information that the Board plans to bring to Town Meeting. He said it could be very confusing if people are working off of old information, which could create even more issues. Chairman Ives said the budget hearings are held for people to get their questions answered prior to Town Meeting. Mrs. Steele said this information in the Ledger would be for those who

cannot attend the budget hearings. Selectman Maxfield stated that after the department heads submit their proposed budgets the Selectmen review them and sometimes reduce or adjust the submitted budgets during this review. Chairman Ives said he does not feel that this issue will be resolved tonight; that the Communications Council asked for the budget submissions and the Selectmen denied the request. Mrs. Steele asked for an explanation of the rationale behind the decision. Chairman Ives said the Board has given a verbal explanation this evening, they do not want to be adversarial or confrontational, and are willing to write the letter that Mrs. Steele asked for. Mrs. Steele reviewed the mission statement for the Communications Council which states the objective is to inform the citizens. Chairman Ives said he is in favor of submitting the completed budget prior to Town Meeting for inclusion in the Ledger. Selectman Maxfield said that in the past the budget has been adjusted right up to the last minute and has also been adjusted at Town Meeting. He discussed an article that the Communications Council provided the Selectmen for review and said when the Selectmen requested that some of the editorializing be removed from the article the Communications Council ignored their request and printed the article without the changes. Mrs. Steele said the Communications Council reviewed the Board's request. Chairman Ives advised Mrs. Steele that they would be forwarding a letter to the Communications Council as requested.

- IX. Chairman Ives recognized John Plummer from the audience.
 - a. Mr. Plummer asked about the Greenview Drive road petition and how it could become a town road. Chairman Ives said that the Selectmen have received the petition, that it is being forwarded to Town Counsel for review, and until they have received recommendations from Town Counsel, the Board will not be making comment on the petition.

Selectman Bowles moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 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