

**Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 20, 2012**

Present: Chairman Bowles, Selectman Krieger and Selectman Ives.

Chairman Bowles called the Meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Selectman Krieger moved to accept the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 13, 2012 as written; seconded by Selectman Ives. All were in favor. Motion carries.

- I. Chairman Bowles stated for the record that he signed eight pistol permits.
- II. The Board received a past due ambulance bill for review. Selectman Krieger made a motion to send the following ambulance bill to collection: account #52073 in the amount of \$309.00, seconded by Selectman Ives. All in favor. Motion carried.
- III. The Board began their review of correspondence.
  - a. The Board received an email from Nobis Engineering regarding the November 2012 post-closure inspection.
  - b. The Board received a letter from the Loudon Planning Board regarding the LaPadula subdivision. The Planning Board agrees with revoking the subdivision. Chairman Bowles stated that they need a letter from the Conservation Commission and then they will move forward with public hearings.
  - c. The Board received a memo from Bob Fiske and a bill from Kit Thorstensen regarding the gutter repair at the safety building. The gutters have been repaired and a recommendation made that the roof be power washed to exterminate growth and the boots on the penetrations through the roof need replacing.
  - d. The Board received a copy of a check received from ESMI for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Host Community Fee in the amount of \$21,262.72.
  - e. The Board received a letter from Upton & Hatfield regarding rate increases for their office.
  - f. The Board received an email from First Stage Divers, LLC regarding using Clough Pond for a dive, offering a free try SCUBA next summer and an offer to do an underwater beach clean-up. The Board agreed that using the beach would require a resident sticker which they would not give to a non-resident. The divers wouldn't need a sticker to access the pond off the boat ramp. This request will be forwarded to the Clough Pond Association. Selectman Ives stated that they would need to be sure that this person carries liability insurance.
  - g. The Board received a copy of the Planning Board meeting minutes of November 15, 2012.
  - h. The Board received a copy of the Planning Board Zoning Workshop meeting minutes of November 15, 2012.
  - i. The Board received a copy of the John O. Cate Memorial Van Association meeting minutes of August 30, 2012.

- j. The Board received an email from NRRA regarding backyard composting. Chairman Bowles said that Steve Bennett usually puts something in the Loudon Ledger about this in the spring. Selectman Ives commented that Mr. Bennett does a good job.
- k. The Board received a thank you from the Young at Heart for the refrigerator that was bought for the Community Building.
- l. Miscellaneous correspondence.

IV. The Board met with Bryan Christensen from Comcast.

- a. Mr. Christensen explained that Comcast and the Town are coming off a 20-year franchise agreement that the Town entered into with Comcast predecessor Continental Cablevision in 1992. Mr. Christensen explained that the first step to entering into a new franchise agreement would be to figure out what the community is interested in. Selectman Ives asked what percentage of the town is covered now. Mr. Christensen said that he is getting a town assessment done; this would tell them how many miles are unserved and how many houses are on those miles. Mr. Christensen said this is a lengthy process but something they are used to doing. Selectman Ives asked what the criteria is used for determining where to stop it. Mr. Christensen said that they use the franchise agreement which is 20 homes per aerial mile or 25 homes per underground mile. Mr. Christensen said that it is a business decision when looking at extending coverage; it costs about \$30,000.00 per mile. Selectman Krieger asked what options the town has other than Comcast. Mr. Christensen explained that Comcast owns the infrastructure in Loudon, anyone can come into the town and offer cable service but they would have to build their own infrastructure. He said there are satellite providers DirectTV and Dish in the state and there is Fairpoint. Chairman Bowles said that most people that speak to him are more interested in the internet than the cable. Mr. Christensen stated that the franchise agreement is strictly a video franchise; phone, internet and home security are not subject to the franchise. Selectman Krieger asked what can be done about the monthly cost. Mr. Christensen said that pricing and programming are not subject to local control, they are a free market thing. Internet and telephone are regulated at the state PUC and the FCC. Selectman Krieger asked what would happen if they said they want 100% of the town covered or they weren't going to do a contract. Mr. Christensen stated that they would examine it and if they don't agree they would end up fighting. Chairman Bowles asked what happens when there aren't enough houses in a mile. Mr. Christensen said that if it meets the density requirements Comcast pays, if it doesn't meet the density Comcast contributes \$1,400.00 per home and then they have to be creative and figure out who is paying for the rest. Mr. Christensen asked if he could come back to the Board the first of the year with the assessment. The Board agreed. Mr. Christensen stated that there are Comcast trucks around town working on the assessment.
- b. Mr. Christensen stated that he wanted to talk to the Board about the Comcast Cares Day. Mr. Christensen stated that the Town received the check with a letter that said the funds must be used for field maintenance only. Mr. Christensen stated that Comcast is getting calls from someone in the soccer program in Town and it's making Comcast a little nervous. Comcast has to sure that the Selectmen are acting as fiscal agents and are not just passing the money on to the soccer or other program. He

has a letter stating exactly that and asked the Board to sign it. Chairman Bowles agreed stating that the money is in the general fund and nothing will be paid with that money unless it is approved by the Board.

- V. The Board discussed pending items.
  - a. Chairman Bowles said he looked into a complaint by a resident of Foster Road. Chairman Bowles will draft a response to the complainant.
  - b. Assessor Dave Wiley would like to meet with the Board and the property owner of 474 Lower Ridge Road to discuss the property. The office will contact Mr. Wiley and Mr. Harris to set up that meeting on a late Thursday afternoon.

Selectman Krieger wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. Chairman Bowles and Selectman Ives agreed.

Selectmen Ives stated that they observed the Fire Chief Search committee meeting earlier today. He said that they have a very good committee that has put in a lot of effort and he thanks them for that. Chairman Bowles and Selectman Krieger agreed and said that Chief Wright has also put in a lot of work.

Selectman Ives moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. Seconded by Selectman Krieger. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Dustin J. Bowles, Chairman

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Robert P. Krieger, Selectman

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Steven R. Ives, Selectman