

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
JANUARY 26, 2016

PRESENT: George Lawrence, Chairman, David Lage, Becky Doyle, Joanne Meshna

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Bob Boynton: Bob noted there had been a question at last week's meeting about what was going on under the power line and if it was permitted. Eversource Energy did file two wetlands utility maintenance notification documents approved by NH DES. Virginia Notter asked if there was any record of where the vernal pools are located. Bob responded the only way to get the location of vernal pools is by on site field inspection verified by a wetland scientist which gets submitted to the State.

DES has recommended that each Town have a list of mitigation projects so when it comes time for mitigation the Town can submit the projects based on the size of the impact. At this time we do not know what the size of the impact is going to be so the amount of money we will be getting is not known. The best way to handle this is to take options to buy on various pieces of property. Then when the impact takes place the impact is matched to the property. Culverts are problematic according to the State. If the culvert is truly undersized, they can be replaced, but if they are in disrepair or need replacement because of traffic, etc. they would not qualify. A wetlands scientist would need to make that determination. Bob already has a couple of properties that have agreed to a down payment with an option to buy in a year. The funds would come from current use. He checked with NHMA and RSA41:14-A gives the Selectmen the right to buy and sell property. Selectman Doyle asked Bob to put together for the Selectmen a list of properties the Commission would like to put an option on to buy, and the rationale for buying those properties.

The Wildlife Action Program provides layers of valuable habitat in Town with scoring of highest and lowest impact. There is some impact where the pipeline will go mostly on the Temple/New Ipswich line. The amount of impact is not determined. The Commission will come up with a list of areas of concern.

A member of the audience questioned how a fire would be controlled and where would the water come from. Selectman Lage responded if there is a fire at the compressor station, it would fall under the local Fire Department and NFPA requirements. The Fire Department could require a cistern or fire pond. There is no plan yet. Also asked was if there has been any water, air or soil testing in New Ipswich. Bob responded the Commission has done some water testing in Furnace and Willow Brooks. Selectman Doyle noted there is data on air quality on the internet. The schools have public water supplies and do their own testing. The trailer park also has a public water supply and Bob noted the pipeline will intersect some of that water supply. Ms. Notter asked if there was any money available for water testing and Selectman Doyle responded there is no money available currently; however, if the budget passes, there is a small amount available. Bob noted a lot of the impacts from the pipeline are considered temporary impacts and would not be mitigatable.

Vachon Clukay & Company PC: Mr. Jared Vartanian, CPA, from Vahcon Clukay presented the 2014 audit to the Board. This is the first year Vachon has done the audit. There have been no new accounting policies adopted and application of existing polices have not changed. The franchise fees were overstated and that was corrected. The issue of the pool funds was resolved. Usually the financial statements are prepared by them but our financial statements were prepared by the Town's accounting consultant which delayed the process somewhat.

Selectman Lage asked if the controls in place are good and if there is anything we should be doing now to prepare for the 2015 audit. Jared responded the controls in place are good. A recommendation was made to have Roger covered when he is on vacation so bills are paid in a timely manner and no interest is charged. Internal controls were examined and there were no significant deficiencies. With regard to the financial statements, the information the Town provided was fair, accurate and can be relied upon. Gatsby Statement 45 was to be implemented in 2009. This would require the Town to record a liability for unemployment benefits. A third of his towns are not in compliance with this Statement and he did not see this as an issue. The fund balance is where it should be.

The Trustees of the Trust Funds should have a specific investment policy involving credit risk. Jared will forward an example of a policy.

The 2015 audit will be scheduled in May. Vachon's quote was \$13,000 which did not include the financial statement preparation. Jared noted a ball park amount for preparing the financial statements is \$2,000. Selectman Lage made a motion to retain the current auditor. Selectman Lawrence seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Pipeline Task Force: Karen Miller reported the Task Force Committee did not meet last week. House Bill 1101 has been rescheduled for February 2. This Thursday the House, Science and Technology Committee are meeting to discuss HB 1140, 1472, 1148 and 1174 all relating to the pipeline.

Kenny Lehtonen: Mr. Lehtonen was present to discuss a building permit application for Old Beaver Road. The Selectmen had received a letter from Attorney Davis requesting no building permits be issued until the owner of the subdivision brings Arrowhead Lane into compliance with the approved plan.

Mr. Lehtonen submitted a copy of a plan which stated Arrowhead Lane is proposed as a 16 foot gravel common driveway. He stated he had taken measurements and pictures of the road. The road is paved and measures 12'6" to 12'8" wide with 2 feet of shoulders on each side. This exceeds the 16' gravel outlined on the plan.

The Selectmen agreed that based on the information on the plan and the photos provided the 16' gravel driveway is in place. Joanne will send a letter to Attorney Davis responding to her letter and noting the conditions of the road meet or exceed the requirements. The Board of Selectmen approved the processing of the building permit for Mr. Lehtonen.

Heritage Commission warrant article: Attorney Mayer reviewed the warrant articles and suggested the article for the Heritage Commission include the number of members and that they are appointed by the

Selectmen. The Selectmen agreed on a five member Board and will amend the article at the Deliberative Session.

Meetings: The Deliberative session is on February 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mascenic High School. The State primary is February 9 and the Selectmen will meet on Monday, February 8 at 6:00 p.m. rather than on Tuesday, February 9.

Deputy salaries: The Selectmen agreed to make an amendment at the Deliberative Session to increase the deputies' salary for tax collector, town clerk and treasurer to \$14.00.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Meshna, Town Administrator

Minutes approved by:  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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George H. Lawrence, Chairman

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Rebecca M. Doyle

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David S. Lage