

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2016

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

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

Souhegan Valley Ambulance Candidate: Jim Hicks introduced Steven Levesque as being interested in serving on the Board of Trustees of the ambulance service as a replacement for Dixie Blease who resigned. The Town of New Ipswich appoints three people to serve on the Board. Mr. Levesque owns his own company located in Ayer, MA. He has had a lot of experience serving on boards for different organizations. Jim noted that Steven brings business experience to the Board which will be very beneficial. Selectman Lawrence made a motion to appoint Steven Levesque as a member of the Souhegan Valley Ambulance Service Board of Trustees. Selectman Lage seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jim also addressed the question posed regarding twenty-four coverage of the ambulance. Currently the bay is staffed from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and another attendant is paid for being in Greenville or New Ipswich at that same time. From 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. attendants are paid to be on call. The majority of the calls are from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. They have been having a lot of overdose cases. With the availability of Obama Care, hardship cases are down.

Jim stated going to twenty-four coverage would mean hiring more people and equipping them. By paying per diem, costs are kept down and benefits are not provided. He estimated the cost of providing twenty-four coverage to be in excess of \$200,000 a year.

Pipeline Task Force: Wendy explained that the SEC had requested advance public comments on rulemaking. They are seeking input on appropriate setbacks to mitigate potential health and safety impacts, pipeline decommissioning plan requirements, specific criteria to maintain property owners' ability to use and enjoy their property, property-related sound and vibration impact assessments and application requirements to ensure quality construction that minimizes safety issues. Current Site 300 regulations do not consider pipelines or the associated facilities such as compressor stations and pigging stations. Working with the Pipeline Task Force, Wendy prepared a list of comments for consideration which includes references to technical documents on what other states are doing. She stated she wanted to send out the comments in a formal letter from the Selectmen but SEC has to have them by the 29th and the Task Force to finish it in time. Wendy spoke to Pam Monroe at SEC and she is willing to accept the comments from the Pipeline Task Force and then have them sent as a follow-up letter from the Selectmen. Wendy asked for permission to send the comments to the SEC from the Task Force and follow-up with a letter from the Selectmen next week. Joanne will e-mail Selectmen Lage and Doyle and provide comments by Thursday afternoon. Selectman Lawrence did not have a problem with the comments.

Wendy spoke on the Coalition's 91-A request of DES for information submitted to them by Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline. On Friday, February 26, members of the Coalition and Attorney Kanoff will be at DES to review the requested documents.

Selectman Lawrence stated Bob Boynton informed him he had been approached by the Pipeline Citizens Group and they had wanted a meeting with the Pipeline Task Force and Selectmen and Rick van de Poll. Wendy stated the Task Force would like to identify vernal pools that are in the pipeline path. The opportunity for identifying the pools is coming up soon (end of March, beginning of April). The Task Force has talked about reaching out to affected landowners (approximately 50-60) for permission to go onto their property. The landowners can send their response by email to Joanne. The next step would be for a wetlands scientist to agree with what the volunteers identified as vernal pools. They are reaching out to wetland scientists to determine the cost. They would not be delineating the whole route but just specific sites. There are about a half dozen volunteers to do the work.

Selectman Doyle asked if there was an accurate amount the Coalition will charge this year so it can be determined how much money is available for the wetland scientist. Wendy will get the final number.

Wendy continued that Rick van de Poll is one of the scientists they would talk to as well as Jeff Littleton. The Task Force would like to find out if they can come out and do the verification and what the cost would be. Wendy thought it was premature to have Rick come in and make a presentation. Selectman Doyle asked if there was an outline of the scope of work for the services. Once that is determined, they need to talk to more than just one scientist. Wendy stated at the Pipeline Task Force meeting next week they will write an outline of the work to be completed.

Another thing high on the Task Force's priority list is air monitoring. Wendy is meeting this Thursday with a group from Temple. They have identified a not-for-profit group called Toxic Action that have grants available for air monitoring. They also have grant money for other types of monitoring as well such as water and soil sampling and base lining.

Conservation Commission: Karen noted Bob had informed Kleta, Lisa and Karen they would come onto the Commission as alternate members. He is looking at the terms of the membership.

Elizabeth Pogorzelski: Selectman Lawrence read a letter from Liz announcing her resignation. With her new job as assistant principal and going to school for her doctorate, she does not have enough time to handle the Pool Director position. She offered to help the new Director any way she could. Selectman Lawrence made a motion to accept the resignation with deep regret. Liz has been a great asset to the Town and pool for several years. David seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comcast contract: The current Franchise Agreement that Comcast has with the Town of New Ipswich expires on July 18, 2016. Joanne will schedule a meeting with Brian Christiansen from Comcast with the Board to begin the renewal process.

Minutes: Selectman Doyle made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15 meeting. Selectman Lage seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Septage: A letter was received from Randall Heglin, Director of the Jaffrey Department of Public Works, stating in calendar year 2015, the Jaffrey Wastewater Treatment Facility accepted septage from 297 addresses in New Ipswich totaling approximately 395,500 gallons.

Senator Kelly Ayotte: A representative from Senator Ayotte's office will hold office hours here on Tuesday, March 1 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Ordinance Governing Work in Public Ways: The Board discussed the draft ordinance prepared by Selectman Lage. Selectman Doyle will draft her comments for next week's meeting.

Interlocal Trust: A refund in the amount of \$3,553.70 was returned to the Town from Interlocal Trust, the Town's employee health care carrier, for the year ending June 30, 2014. Upon review it was determined the Town was paying for insurance at that time and the money was deposited into the general fund.

RFP for paving: Once a budget has been approved in March, an RFP should be ready to be sent out for paving. The Selectmen want to see the RFP before it goes out and asked to see the template first.

Job descriptions: Job descriptions for the Director of Parks and Recreation and Coordinator were reviewed. Selectman Doyle will work on them with suggested changes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Meshna, Town Administrator

February 23, 2016 Board of Selectmen minutes approved by:

George H. Lawrence, Chairman

Rebecca M. Doyle

David S. Lage

