

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
NOVEMBER 22, 2016

PRESENT: Becky Doyle, Chairman, David Lage, Tim Johnson, Joanne Meshna

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

76 Cedar Ridge Drive: Dennis Lambert, owner of 76 Cedar Ridge Drive, stated he and his wife bought the property in 2009. He introduced Christopher LeMay and Sarah Delacarta who are buying the property, and Matthew Cabana, the listing agent. Mr. Lambert stated it was their understanding that the road was all one continuous town-owned road. When the new buyers did their title search it was found it was a private road from the beginning of their lot to the end. Mr. Lambert stated they were at the meeting to have the Town accept the road as a Town-owned road (approximately 700'). The road is built to Class V standards. The road is essentially all one road and the condition of the Town-owned part and the private part is all the same. The Town accepted 2,100 feet of the road in 2004. The Town plows in front of their house to the end of the road. They have cut back weeds along the road and down a repair to one of the culverts in the private part of the road. The Town plow trucks have to go to the end of the road to turn around safely.

Selectman Doyle stated there are two means for the Town to accept a road: one is to petition the Selectmen to accept the road and the second is to put a warrant article on the ballot which requires twenty-five signatures. RSA 231:28 outlines the process for petitioning the Selectmen. Selectman Lage questioned why the balance of the road was not accepted at the time the 2,100 feet was accepted. The Selectmen will need to look into why that happened. He asked the owners if the deed had anything in it referring to the private road and Mr. Lambert stated his did not. There is a road maintenance agreement filed with the subdivision. Selectman Lage added each homeowner should have signed a private road agreement prior to issuance of an occupancy permit. A homeowner's association has not been formed.

Selectman Doyle stated those interested need to determine how they want to proceed – by petition or by warrant article. The Board will also do some research.

Fire Chief Hiring Committee: Selectman Johnson explained he and Eric Maxwell had a question with regard to the Fire Chief job description. The question is in regard to the requirement for experience as a fire department officer. The Committee had a one year requirement and the Selectmen had recommended three and when it came back it was five. It was agreed to change the title to "Preferred Experience". The ad will be placed on the NHMA website, the Town's website and the State Fire Department site. The Town is not to put it on the Life in New Ipswich website.

Fire Department: Selectman Johnson asked the Fire Chief and Building Inspector to meet with the Board to clear up the Fire Inspector position. Selectman Lage stated they should meet and determine who is going to manage what and then come to the Board. Joanne will schedule them in two weeks to meet with the Board.

Xfinity: A letter from Xfinity explains prices have been increased and they will be notifying customers.

Nonpublic session from last week: Selectman Doyle stated there were some decisions made during last week's nonpublic session: Jonathan Sawyer has been hired on the Highway Department, snow plowers with CDLs are needed, and flex time has been instituted in the Highway Department.

Minutes: Selectman Lage made a motion to approve the November 15, 2016 minutes and nonpublic session minutes of the same day. Selectman Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Disabled exemption: The Exemption for the Disabled grants an exemption of \$50,000 from the assessed value of the property. The qualifications are the same as those for the elderly exemption. Selectman Doyle made a motion to add a warrant article to adopt the Exemption for the Disabled as provided by the Board of Assessors to the 2017 warrant. Selectman Lage seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Veteran's Tax Credit: The adoption of the All Veterans Tax Credit would extend the Town's existing Veteran's Tax Credit to all qualified veterans that have served a minimum of 90 days of active duty. The effect of this is to eliminate the requirement of serving the 90 days of active duty during a specified qualifying period. Selectman Johnson made a motion to add a warrant article to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b known as the "All Veterans Tax Credit" to the 2017 warrant. Selectman Doyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Solar exemption: The Board of Assessors recommended "A solar exemption 100% of the assessed value with a \$20,000 max." Selectman Lage stated the solar panels are assessed and if the exemption is approved, the tax burden is spread out among the other taxpayers. The costs can be recouped from the utility company for what they sell back. Selectman Johnson stated the RSA does not define owning or leasing it for tax purposes so it will be taxed either way. Selectman Doyle stated that because someone makes an investment in their home or property the rest of the taxpayers should not bear the burden of spreading that tax increase out among the taxpayers. It cannot be tax neutral because the property is improved and that means the share of the property tax should increase. They can sell the power back to the grid and get a federal tax exemption. Selectman Johnson noted the Assessors made the recommendation of \$20,000 max for a solar exemption. He was in favor of a warrant article for solar, wood energy and wind powered energy.

Selectman Doyle made a motion to not include a warrant article to adopt the provision of solar energy or wind powered energy system on the ballot for 2017. Selectman Lage seconded the motion and it passed with two in favor and one opposed.

11 Temple Road: Selectman Johnson made a motion to execute the deed for 11 Temple Road. Selectman Lage seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Employee meeting: The Board will hold the annual employee meeting on December 8, 2016 at 12:00 noon.

Holiday luncheon: The holiday luncheon will be held on December 22, 2016 at 12:00 noon.

At 8:15 p.m. Selectman Johnson made a motion to enter into a nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3 II.(a). Selectman Lage seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

At 9:00 p.m. Selectman Johnson made a motion return to public session. Selectman Lage seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Selectman Doyle announced the nonpublic session minutes were not sealed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Meshna, Town Administrator

Board of Selectmen November 22, 2016 minutes approved by:

Rebecca M. Doyle, Chairman

David S. Lage

Timothy Johnson II