

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
AUGUST 12, 2014

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Town Office.

Judy Spring: Ms. Spring submitted an invoice to the Board last week for two realty signs that had been destroyed by the Highway Department. She stated that one of the signs was located on private property but the Town has been widening the road at that site and hit the sign. It was determined that the smaller sign was in the Town's right-of-way and therefore the Town is not responsible for it according to State law. Ms. Spring asked that in that case the signs be taken to the Highway Department where people could pick them up. Peter Goewey, Director of Public Works, responded that he had not been notified so had not investigated the incidents when they happened.

Ms. Spring also stated she has observed Highway personnel texting when plowing; however, she was not able to identify who it was or what truck they were in. Peter asked if that is observed that he be notified along with the truck number which is printed on the side and the date and time. Ms. Spring also saw Highway personnel directing a back hoe as he was talking on his cell phone. Peter will address the issue with his personnel. Further, Ms. Spring noted that Highway personnel were plowing beyond a reasonable and safe amount of hours. The Selectmen responded that they had addressed that issue by approving the hiring of part time personnel at an increased hourly rate of pay.

Ms. Spring reported that a truck is being taken home to Greenville by a Highway person and she did not see the need to do so, and as a taxpayer did not want to pay to drive the truck home. Peter responded that the truck is only taken home in the winter during foul weather predictions; by doing so his worker is able to keep track of the road situation and added the Town vehicle is only used for official use. Ms. Spring also questioned the non-use of the leased excavator and Peter responded the excavator had not been used for a few weeks because one person was on vacation and another had resigned and there were other areas that had to be addressed. He added he had used the excavator a few days himself on North Road.

Ms. Spring stated the bids for the roadwork had not been done on time. Peter responded usually he does not get bids but goes around to companies for estimates. This time he had three bids that were considered. The Selectmen noted bids cannot be requested until after the March meeting and the amount of money to be spent on the roads is determined. Ms. Spring added the roads should not have gotten as bad as they are and noted for the past two years there had not been a very well organized plan for the roads. The Selectmen responded there is a Road Committee that determines what roads are to be paved.

Selectman Doyle stated there is ongoing talks with managers to try and make improvements. In this case, Peter will address these concerns with his staff. Ms. Spring stated she had come to the Selectmen with legitimate concerns but did not feel changes would be made.

With regard to the invoice for the two signs, the Selectmen agreed the smaller sign was in the right-of-way and not the Town's responsibility and considered splitting the cost of the second sign. However, since there was disagreement as to whether the smaller sign was in the right-of-way, the Board agreed to split the total cost for the two signs of \$125.50 between Ms. Spring and the Town. The Town will pay her \$62.75 for the signs.

Pool donations: Selectman Lawrence read a list of donations to the Town Pool totaling \$1,434 and the donation of computer equipment from SCORE in Keene. Selectman Lawrence made a motion to accept the donations listed in the Pool Director's e-mail of August 7, 2014. Selectman Doyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Minutes: Selectman Doyle made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2014 meeting. Selectman Lawrence seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Selectman Doyle made a motion to accept the minutes of the non public session of August 5, 2014. Selectman Lawrence seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Highbridge pre-construction meeting: A pre-construction meeting for the bridge work will be held on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. Bob Boynton added he had spoken with Mark Moran, the Contract Administrator for the project, and the plan for a lookout on the Town property is still in the plans.

Pool: Selectman Doyle announced that the pool salary account is running low by approximately \$3,000 because of the lack of rain and keeping the pool open. The pool is scheduled to close in two weeks. If the pool closes a week early, \$1,200 will be saved. The Pool Director expects low usage during the remaining two weeks. Selectman Doyle made a motion to close the pool one week early. Selectman Lawrence seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Smithville Cemetery: Representative Coffey spoke with Bettina Eames at Loureiro Engineering regarding location of the pipe at the cemetery . She referred the Town to someone who can assist. There were questions regarding the pipe and Selectman Lawrence and Peter will go to the site to determine some of the answers.

David Cotzin: Selectman Doyle announced that she had contacted the Town attorney today regarding a statement on the part time snowplowers and raises, and he will be forwarding his response in writing. Mr. Cotzin asked who was on the Budget Committee and the Selectmen did not have the final names as yet.

Children's Fair: Selectman Lawrence announced that the Children's Fair will be held on Saturday, August 16 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the New Ipswich Congregational Church grounds.

Bob Boynton: Bob reported on a property where a 100 foot long by 10 feet wide bridge was being built over wetlands and there were no erosion control barriers in place. Selectman Doyle recalled when the applicant was before the ZBA and the project was to be built during the winter months. Bob questioned if there should have been a permit approved for the bridge as a structure. Chief Carpenter questioned the public safety of the bridge and if emergency vehicles will be able to access the dwelling once it is built. Currently there is no policy in place for monitoring of the construction. Bob was advised to meet with Woody on the issue.

Bob also reported that he had met with Russell Salo regarding his property at 63 King Road. Mr. Salo submitted a plan for plantings along the stream and that work should be done by the end of September. The Building Inspector will be addressing the issue of the pillars for the fence and if they require a building permit.

1473 Turnpike Road: All information regarding cleanup of this site has been referred to the Town attorney who will be sending the mortgage company a letter.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Meshna, Land Use Manager

August 12, 2014 Board of Selectmen minutes approved by:

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George H. Lawrence, Chairman

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Rebecca M. Doyle