

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
JULY 28, 2015

PRESENT: Becky Doyle, Woody Meiszner, Joanne Meshna

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

State Representative Coffey: Mr. Coffey informed the Board the proposed legislation to aid the Town and DES regarding the Smithville cemetery had been signed by the Governor. He asked if there was anything further he could do to help settle the issue. One suggestion he made was to remove the tombstones and replace them with flat markers that could be covered up if the need arose to drive over them. Selectman Meiszner noted he had not heard from Ed Rogers on the ball field site.

Mr. Coffey pointed out that at the entrance to Route 124 from North Road sight distance is impaired to the left because of the trees. Also, at the junction of Wilson Hill and Fox Farm Roads there is an island where the street sign is mounted. It cannot be seen because of the brush and needs to be cleaned out. Joanne will give this information to the Director of Public Works. Dave Cotzin added the brush has been removed at the intersection of North Road and Poor Farm Road and the stop sign is now visible.

Mr. Coffey suggested when paving Poor Farm Road aprons be put at the end of the dirt roads that attach to it to help prevent potholes in those areas.

Mr. Coffey referred to HB 572 which has been signed into law by the Governor. The legislation gives the SEC more power in the regulation of utilities.

A lawsuit filed by PSNH with the Board of Tax and Land Appeals has been dismissed. PSNH has 30 days to appeal to the Supreme Court. The lawsuit will affect the assessment method used for Kinder Morgan and other utilities.

With regard to the pipeline, Mr. Coffey stated he will prepare a written letter to be submitted to FERC.

John Coccozella, Little League: Mr. Coccozella explained to the Board that he stores Little League equipment in the garage at the Town field. He has been directed by Deb Holmes to remove his equipment by the end of August. He noted Little League has been using the storage area for years. Mr. Coccozella is looking for another place to store his equipment and a solution to the problem. He stated Little League might be willing to build something depending on finances. He noted the time frame for the move is difficult.

Selectman Meiszner questioned if the equipment could be stored off site when the season is over. Mr. Coccozella replied oftentimes there are fall games and further the Recreation Department is looking for a permanent solution. Selectman Doyle suggested a meeting with Deb Holmes to brainstorm and identify all the storage needs; the Parks and Recreation Department also does not have enough space for their storage.

Jim Murphy: Mr. Murphy attended last week's meeting. He had reported that the Postmaster would not be delivering mail to houses on Turnpike Road in the area where the State had just paved. The shoulders of the road needed grading and leveling off. Turnpike Road has been raised considerably. He asked the Selectmen to help with the issue.

Selectman Lawrence contacted Mark Moran at the DOT. The paving company realizes they have to come back and either put in new post office box assemblies so mail boxes can be remounted, relocate the boxes or add additional gravel or all of the above.

Eversource: An email was received from Eversource in which they state they will begin work on a transmission line in the existing right-of-way between Amherst and Fitzwilliam substations. The work is being undertaken to upgrade and strengthen its infrastructure across the state in order to reduce the possibility of service interruptions especially during severe weather. The work is to begin late July and continue through the fall. Abutters along existing right-of-way in New Ipswich in the vicinity of Tobey Highway, Green Farm Road, Stowell Road, Boynton Hill Road, Maki Road and Old Peterborough Road have been notified of the planned work. The email went on to state that this work is not related to the Northern pass project or proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline.

Governor Hassan Letter: A copy of a letter sent from Governor Hassan to the NH Municipal Pipeline Coalition was received acknowledging their concerns with the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline.

The Board recessed from 6:35 to 6:45 p.m.

Chief David Leel: Chief Leel reported Warwick Mills was working on Building Number 2 today in preparation of their move. The building will be used for dead storage. There will be no hazardous or flammable materials stored. Monadnock Security finished working on the alarm system today. The building is good to go. Chief Leel will follow up once the move is made.

Farm license agreement: Legal counsel has informed the Board the farm license agreement with Barrett Hill Farm is exempt from paying taxes to the Town.

Pipeline Task Force: Wendy distributed an outline of what she would be presenting at the scoping meeting on Thursday evening. She will be representing the Town and the Board of Selectmen. Wendy reported she had met this afternoon with Eric Tomasi, the FERC Environmental Project Manager, who has opened up a two way communication between himself and the towns who will work directly with him on filing.

Wendy continued that the environmental impact statement should address all the concerns for now and in the future to ensure concerns are addressed. The purpose is to create a certain number of conditions by which the approval of the pipeline can be given. She noted her concern is the timeline. The pre-filing scoping period ends August 31. The towns' concerns need to be sent to FERC in more detail in the next few weeks. FERC takes all concerns filed the end of August and these are the concerns that should be addressed in the application. FERC has no intention of extending the filing period beyond August 31.

Wendy discussed the presentation she will be giving at the scoping meeting on July 30.

At 7:45 p.m. Selectman Meiszner made a motion to enter into a nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Selectman Doyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

At 8:15 p.m. Selectman Doyle made a motion to return to public session. Selectman Doyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Selectman Lawrence announced that the minutes from the nonpublic session had been sealed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Meshna, Town Administrator

July 28, 2014 Board of Selectmen minutes approved by the Board:

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George H. Lawrence, Chairman

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Rebecca M. Doyle

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Woody Meiszner