

**TOWN OF NEW HAMPTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OFFICES
NEW HAMPTON, NH 03256**

March 11, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Selectmen Paul Tierney, Charles Bartley and Kenneth Mertz were present.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Town Administrator Barbara Lucas was present. Chairman Paul Tierney was participating by conference call.

CALL TO ORDER:

Selectman Bartley called the regular meeting of the Board to order at 6:08 p.m. Selectman Mertz was sworn in for a three year term. Congratulations were offered by Chairman Tierney as well as Selectman Bartley.

WORK SESSION:

- Manifests, bills, requisitions, purchase orders and leave request forms
- Building Permit – None
- Septic System Review – None
- Current Use Application – None
- Home Occupation Form – None
- Intent to Excavate – None
- Intent to Cut – *Richard & Kathryn Garon, Tax Map R-3, Lot 9A*: This was approved by the Selectmen.
- Veterans Credit – None
- Elderly Exemption – None
- Misc. Correspondence – None

A Piper Mountain invoice for \$500.00 for annual web hosting was approved by the Board.

APPOINTMENTS:

Cindy Hallberg-Torsey
Gylene Salmon
6:00 PM

Mrs. Torsey who serves currently as Town Treasurer and was elected Town Clerk/Tax Collector on March 9th, submitted her letter resignation as Town Treasurer effective at 12 PM on March 14th. She will be sworn in on Monday March 15th as Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Gylene Salmon, as her current deputy will fill her vacancy as Treasurer to the end of her term in 2011. Under RSA 669:69 the Treasurer's vacancy shall be filled by an appointment by Selectmen, unless under RSA 41:29-A, as in this case, there is a deputy treasurer. Mrs. Salmon has agreed to serve as Treasurer until the end of Mrs. Torsey's term in 2011. Because Mrs. Torsey will not be able to take up her duties as Town Clerk/Tax Collector until March 22nd, Alisa Schofield and Carolyn Gailey have offered to cover the office until March 22nd. This was acceptable to the Board.

A motion to accept Mrs. Torsey's resignation was made by Selectman Mertz, seconded by Selectman Bartley and the motion passed. Mrs. Torsey

provided Mrs. Salmon a copy of the investment policy which was developed last year, and Mrs. Salmon has confirmed she does not currently have any personal accounts at Franklin Savings Bank. With the Boards' approval she asked if she could assist Mrs. Salmon with the transition. The Board discussed any possible conflicts of interest, and noted that Mrs. Torsey will not take up the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's duties up until March 22nd and so until that date, there is not a problem with her providing support to Mrs. Salmon. Mrs. Torsey noted the Bank and investment firm do need letters from the Selectmen as soon as is possible to remove Mrs. Torsey's name and transfer the accounts to Mrs. Salmon's name. Mrs. Lucas will prepare those letters.

Mrs. Salmon did note that she was on two accounts at Franklin Savings – one for the Police Explorer's account, and the other is the Emily Wingate Leukemia Fund, but one is overseen by the Bristol Police Department and the other is Emily Wingate's personal account. The Selectmen duly noted the information and did not have a problem with this.

Mrs. Torsey prepared two letters for Selectmen to sign to authorize her to do motor vehicle and boat registrations and prepared a municipal agent agreement and contract for their approval. The letters were read into the record:

To whom it may concern, this is to let you know that on March 15, 2010 we have a newly elected Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Cynthia M. Torsey. Cynthia was previously the Town Clerk/Tax Collector in Franklin. She did attend the training on the new boat program that is being implemented on March 22, 2010. Since Cynthia has attended the training program the Town of New Hampton would still like the new program to be installed as scheduled. Sincerely, [Signatures of the Board of Selectmen]

The second letter read as follows:

This to let you know that as of March 15, 2010 we have elected Town Clerk Cynthia M. Torsey in the Town of New Hampton. Since Cynthia is currently a municipal agent and has been since 1989, the Board would be grateful if this transition would be a smooth one. Attached are a Municipal Registration Agent Application and a Municipal Registration Agent Contract. Sincerely, [The Board of Selectmen, Town of New Hampton]

Selectmen Mertz and Bartley signed the letters and Mrs. Torsey will fax them tomorrow.

Rescheduled Appointments:

Appointments for tonight with Metrocast and Mr. Finlayson have rescheduled for the 25th.

DISCUSSION:

Humane Society

A letter from the NH Humane Society was received, asking for consideration

to provide services to residents of New Hampton. Mr. Tierney noted that the current contract with the kennel covers only taking dogs brought in by the Police, but when citizens bring in animals it is usually to the Humane Society. He asked that it be tabled until he is back next week. This was acceptable to the rest of the Board.

Central Street Bridge

Mr. Tierney had written up a summary report of position statements from meetings regarding the sidewalk and railing issues. He prepared a draft letter to SEA & Winterset, which was reviewed by the Town Attorney. It will be sent to Bristol for review and concurrence before it is signed by Mr. Tierney and sent. Paul Weston will advise the response from Bristol, possibly as early as tomorrow. If Bristol concurs the letter will be sent out as soon as Mr. Tierney can sign the letter. Mr. Bartley made a motion to accept the letter. Mr. Mertz asked for the addition of a comma under Article 13 which was corrected, and Mr. Mertz seconded. The motion passed.

With regard to the expansion joint: there are concerns regarding salt and sand in the expansion joints and exposure to the steel. A question has been raised regarding their proper installation on both the Bristol and New Hampton sides of the bridge. On March 12th Mr. Boucher and Mark Bucklin will be meeting with Ed Welch (SEA representative) to review the situation.

Don Drake

After discussion by Mrs. Lucas and Mr. Drake, a payment proposal was presented to the Board. It would be signed by Mr. Drake and his daughter as co-owner of the property. Mr. Tierney gave his approval. Mr. Mertz made the motion, Mr. Bartley seconded and the motion to approve the letter, sign the agreement and send it to the Drakes was passed.

NH Electric Coop Abatement

Monday morning is the telephone conference call meeting with the Coop and Mr. Tierney confirmed he would be present for the meeting.

Mr. Tierney ended his phone call with the Selectmen at 6:42 PM.

*Kevin and Cheryl Drake
345 N. Route 104*

The State DMV request form for a retail dealer's license for the sale of vehicles at Mr. Drake's new location on Route was reviewed and the denial was signed by the Selectmen. Mrs. Lucas spoke with Mr. Drake who stated he wanted to go back to the DMV and revise his paperwork with the State. He may come back to the Board. Mr. Mertz spoke with Mr. Drake regarding his kiosk sign and referred him to Mrs. Lucas. Mrs. Lucas spoke with Mr. Drake and answered his questions regarding the signs.

Timber Tax Warrant

The warrant was prepared for \$335.90 and approved by the Selectmen.

George Sansoucy

A copy of a letter from Mr. Sansoucy to Jae Whitelaw regarding the NH Electric Coop interrogatories and response was reviewed by the Board. A conference call on Monday is scheduled.

Mr. Bartley asked about the Board's use of mediation and arbitration on this matter and other matters that come before the Board. He asked this discussion be scheduled for a future Selectmen's meeting as a methodology

to reduce time and costs in these matters.

*Abatement Request
Larry Ballou
Tax Map R-4, Lot 56*

The owner is deceased and the matter concerns the mobile home only, which is not in livable condition. The original application was submitted late and denied by the Board. Mrs. Lucas presented an abatement based on hardship for balance due in the amount of \$99.98. Mr. Mertz made a motion to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Bartley, the motion was approved.

*N.E Forestry Consultants,
Inc. – Shaun Lagueux*

A limb had fallen from the trees close to the Town Offices. The Forester was asked to assess the situation. He noted the tree closest to the town offices is a matter of concern because it leans over the road. Although it appears to be healthy it does have a strong root system. Two smaller trees do show some sign of rot, and should be considered for removal although they do not present a risk at present. He stated he had a few general concerns, but did not see anything that warrants immediate action on the part of the town.

FOLLOW UP ITEMS

Phil Wolfe

An email and attached application from Mrs. Lucas regarding the Selectmen's denial of a building permit after the fact of construction on Mr. Wolfe's property was reviewed by the Board. The addition was also within the setbacks. The email noted the options to Mr. Wolfe to address the issue. It is not known if he has made an application to the BTLA on this matter.

Jeffrey Sawin

A letter regarding Mr. Sawin's abatement appeal for 2009 was reviewed. It requested information in support of his appeal to be received by the Board by May 17th, 2010.

G10 LLC

As a follow-up to the zoning violation letter for the sign, Mrs. Lucas advised that the Prior Attire sign at the stone yard was removed and replaced with a "coming soon in late spring" sign, indicating it would be on the premises. This means the sign is now in compliance.

Notice of Public Auction

A notice of Public Auction for property on Fire House Lane was brought to the Board's attention. Mrs. Lucas noted the Board had discussed a proposed home occupation application recently with the resident at that property.

Teresa Montague

Ms. Montague's resume and letter dated 3/5 was received requesting consideration for any openings for assistant Town Clerk. The letter will be kept on file with the Board. Mrs. Lucas explained the Deputy Clerk's position and any assistant positions are based on the recommendations by the Town Clerk, but are appointed by the Selectmen.

*Legislative Alert
Telecommunications Poles*

Mrs. Lucas brought a Legislative Alert dated 3/8/10 regarding the taxability of telecommunications poles to the attention of the Board. Mrs. Lucas noted her conversation with George Sansoucy indicated that if this legislation passes, he could do the assessments for the Town.

2010 Census

The Board received notification regarding the mailing/delivery of census

forms.

New Hampton Connection

Mr. Bartley asked that discussion regarding reinstating the print publication for the edification of non-computer users on town issues be discussed at a future Board Meeting. Mr. Bartley has some ideas which he will discuss to do this with little or no cost to the town. Mr. Mertz noted that this has been discussed before during the budget preparations.

*Conservation Commission
Minutes and 3/8 agenda*

Mr. Bartley is the Selectmen's Representative to the Conservation Commission. He has not been receiving agendas or meeting dates and has not attended in some time. Mrs. Lucas will check into ensuring he receive the notifications.

Citizen Concern

Mr. Mertz had a discussion with the resident regarding the laws and the limits on the town regarding materials stored/left in yards. This is an issue that is regularly in the minds of the Board members, but there are limits as to what can be done beyond the junk yard laws.

LCG

Mr. Bartley will attend a dinner hosted by LGC in Plymouth. The Executive Director recently retired and a new head has not been selected as yet.

OTHER BUSINESS

Letters to the NHPDIP and Franklin Savings Bank regarding the change of Treasurer with the resignation of Mrs. Torsey and assumption of duties by Deputy Treasurer Mrs. Salmon on March 15th, 2010 was reviewed by the Board.

Chairman's Position for 2010

Mr. Bartley asked that he not be considered as Chairman of the Select Board for the coming year. The issue will be discussed more fully at a future meeting of the Board when all the members are present.

MINUTES:
*February 25th and
February 18th*

Motion to approve the last two sets of minutes was made by Mr. Mertz and seconded by Mr. Bartley. The motion passed.

Mr. Mertz noted that a concerned citizen approached him at the Town Vote and asked if minutes could be posted again.

Downed Power Line Safety

A power line safety meeting was attended by Mr. Mertz and Mrs. Lucas. The bottom line is that downed lines are never safe.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None was heard.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Selectman Mertz to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Bartley. The vote passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin J. Harmon