

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
APRIL 17, 1997

Regular meeting of the Waterboro Board of Selectmen

Present: Bob Fay, Denis Abbott, Dale Witman, Brenda Charland, Pat Sicard, Patti Berry, Bob Gobeil, Millard Genthner, Mike MacAlevey.

DISCUSSION

Bob Fay says we have to set up a meeting with the Fire Dept. about getting an article for special town meeting regarding bringing the dept. under town government. We should contact MMA and invite them to be there at this meeting for their help. We could prepare the article that night. The meeting will be set up for the 29th of April.

The selectmen's meeting on May 6 is moved to May 7th because of the school budget meeting on the 6th.

Pat S. asks about meeting with DOT on setting speed limits. Fred will be at the meeting with DOT. The law is only DOT can set speed limits. Mike MacAlevey says we can set speed limits and if DOT "blesses" them, the state troopers will enforce them. Bob Fay thinks that DOT shouldn't use a formula to set speed but check the actual road conditions first.

Dale Witman starts a discussion about restructuring employees. Passes out a letter that he wrote to Bob Fay and Dennis Abbott confidentially. Says this is an issue with a lot of difficulties surrounding it considering projected overdrafts of some accounts. As a result of actions out of town meeting, we have serious reorganization to be done. Dale says if his motions are voted down he hopes another, hopefully better motion will take it's place so that this issue may be solved, not postponed.

Bob Fay says we are dealing with last year's town meeting right now, not this year's. We are facing an overdraw in the code enforcement office. Do we reduce the amount of hours and pay until the end of the year. \$4,149.00 for insurance is out of place, it should come out of the insurance account. Sharon's hours for assessing work is coming out of the wrong account. The overdraw is \$2,000.00 to the CEO account considering all adjustments. As a board, we are going to have to structure what is part time next year. Do we go in next year with an overdraw, or cut hours till the end of the year. Dale says he doesn't have the ambition to go to special to cover the overdraw. He says we should act in the same direction as town meeting vote. We should do this immediately to alleviate the overdraw.

Pat S. says a piece of Sharon's duties, secretary to assessor with not money allocated to that department, she thinks is a major part of the shortfall, now we are left trying to pick up the pieces. Dale says that it is accurate that secretary to the assessor was established

with no funding, and town meeting people have no desire to fund it. It concerns him to go to special town meeting asking for funds.

Dennis says we got ourselves into this. We got a message from town meeting. We have state labor laws we have to address. We have a commitment in writing with Mr. Stanley for pay and insurance with nothing stating that this is relative to funding. Do we have an obligation.

Dale wonders if we delete the full time position and change it to part time will that require an application of employment.

Bob Fay questions are permits down? Pat S. says yes they are. Bob asks so what is going on for work up there.

Pat S. states that Ralph has spent a lot of time with people interested in buying Brunetti's. There is more than just doing permits. Oil spills etc. Bob Fay says he would like to see the written letter of offer.

The insurance figures get moved to sum sufficient account. This year it is a fixed number. Insurance is now being book kept in separate accounts so we can see what each dept. actually costs.

Bob Fay asks if we lay someone off and pay their insurance can they still get benefits? Everyone present believes that would be considered income.

Dennis states, \$6,337.50 is needed to cover that dept. for wages alone until the end of the year. (includes \$4800 for CEO/\$1537. CEO assis.) Takeout 10 hours for assessing and 15 for planning board. The projected income is \$5270. Just in wages we the projected shortfall is \$1700. How much of the secretaries pay went to the Water Dept.? The water bills were going out of CEO office Jan. this year until Dianne went back upstairs in September. Dale says we've brought in \$32 in 17 days, double that is \$660 a month in revenues. This time of year has a direct impact on projected revenue, can only accurately assume \$650 a month but we are just now getting into nice weather so it could be more.

One possibility is to redirect assessing for the remaining two months. In doing that it will require that individual to train and require Bob K. and possibly Sharon to train her, where will the money come from to pay for that time?

Bob asks does that letter of offer sent to Ralph constitute a contract by the dept. of labor.

Dale says there was a vote on March 18 to have Patti become trained in assessing. Patti has spent no time training with Bob K. Pat S. has been out sick or on vacation and there has been little time to train.

Bob Fay says the question is how many hours do we drop back, if we choose to do that, or lay-off, or close the office, or go to special with an overdraft. Last year we originally went to special for \$5000. And then decided on \$2,000. To cover CEO. Bob says we hired a certified CEO, we knew we'd have to get more money. The question is do we go to town meeting with an overdraft or cut office back; and is this leaving the door open for legal recourse; and if we do cut back, will that cover the overdraft?

Dennis states that year to date that dept. has spent \$35,035. \$4,400 is committed to the employee for insurance when hired. Also spent \$4,305 for 10 hours a week on assessing. If we debit out the insurance and assessing, considering they weren't accounted this way last year, we've spent \$28,800. (last year we spent \$31,100) If we do nothing we will end up spending \$35,180. Vs. \$31,112 last year. The real difference is \$4068.

Dale says \$28,000.00 is the actual dollar amount. Dennis says in 1996 year we didn't have enough money for code enforcement office and we went back to special for \$2,000. We never made any adjustments for this fiscal year, we did exactly what we did the year before. Dale says that other candidates for CEO wanted \$17-22 per hour.

Bob says he is curious as to what is happening in that office anyway. There has been no overview of zoning as was discussed when Ralph was hired. How is the time being spent? Dennis states in fairness to Ralph this should be discussed with him in executive session. Bob asks for a meeting to be set up with Ralph next Tuesday at 6:30. Bob would like an opinion from MMA in regards to employment office.

Dale says the bottom line figure we are dealing with is \$2200.00 or \$6200.00 including insurance.

Dennis says the only way to wash this account is to shut down that office. 10 weeks equals \$6300 in wages. Dale says if we acted we could at least minimize the overdraw. Bob Fay says it is bothersome morally, all three selectmen knew when they hired Ralph they would need to get more money. Dennis says they knew insurance was an issue and a policy decision was made to move assessing duties upstairs. It made logical sense to move assessing upstairs. Dale concurs and says it has worked very well but that is a mute point given the direction of town meeting. Dennis and Bob say that assessing should stay in that location.

Bob Fay asks Pat to find out how binding the letter of offer to Ralph is. We will deal with this after council meeting. Bob says to remember that although it may look good to the people from town meeting if we cut hours, we will still have to go to special town meeting for more money. Dale says his intent is not to impress anyone, the intent is to resolve this issue. Bob says he was not implying that. Bob says that these people knew their jobs would change after July 1, they did not know their job could change prior to June. We are going to town meeting with an overdraw. Dale says that 1/3 of the cost of that department is for operating expenses, \$10,000.

Bob says we will deal with this next week. The date for Special town meeting was decided for May 27th at 7 p.m. Dennis won't be here next week for council meeting.

Dennis asks was there anything we didn't address at town meeting that we should bring to special. There was a request about a Lake Arrowhead lot, and for a discontinuance of a road. We should check into those.

Bob says if we go to special with an overdraw on accounts the money will come out of surplus. Dale says it greatly saddens him to be the author of the letter to Bob and Dennis, but it was taken directly out of town meeting minutes.

Discussion of **RWS** begins. Bob Fay states we are all familiar with the article in Casco Bay paper. Dennis asks is there a comment from RWS on what is true or not. RWS policy has been to let these articles die. We know they are being fined, obviously they are in violation. Bob wonders if it would be beneficial to the Town of Waterboro to write an article saying we object, as a member, and publicize it. Dennis says he would like to have a face to face meeting with them and possibly invite Hollis and legislators. Bob Fay says because of the structure of Regional Waste, it does as it pleases. A municipality could not get away with what that board is doing. Dennis says it is a quasi-municipal organization. The structure of the board is supposed to be representative of municipalities. The board of directors has some influence over the executive board. Bob Fay says the cost is going up and up and there are some bad decisions, Gorham is one. Dale says we should have a face to face meeting, come out with our opinion even if the effect might be minimal. Bob Fay says if these complaints are true we should make a loud complaint. Dennis says we made a 23 year agreement in hopes that knowing operations cost would go up and it would help suppress the growth of costs by sharing the costs with 20 other towns. Mike MacAlevey says there is nothing stopping RWS from renegotiating. CMP is going to sell out all electricity manufacturing and probably outsiders will buy them out, so all dams will be owned by whoever. RWS might be bought out and decisions might not be made locally anymore.

Bob Fay would like to meet with the person they interviewed, thereat RWS with Hollis, and Chuck F. and Eric Root. Dennis would like municipal officers to meet at RWS and try to understand the cost structure. DEP is at much in error as RWS. In 1988 there was a request for license and have not got an answer yet.

Millard will contact the Hollis selectmen and will set up a meeting with RWS. He will also contact Morris Sinclair who represents Ogunquit, Lyman and Limington and ask him to contact the select people from those towns and invite them to this meeting. Dennis would like to meet at RWS.

Discussion of **Town Roads**. Bob says we are discussing speeding and winter roads. He's not sure a lot can be done about that. Dale says We can reiterate our concern to law officials who will be here next week at council meeting. We will be meeting with Roger Gobeil from DOT about speed limits in town. Mike MacAlevey states that the Sheriff's Department got a grant to do a survey of the county to find out what the needs are and the # 1 complaint was speeding.

There is one remaining road project to be done this year. The road review committee has not yet responded to the letter that was sent out by the board of selectmen. We need to have a forum on what we are going to pay for rates. Bob Fay says he thinks we should pay state rates plus \$1.

We have \$33,000 allocated to spend on Ossipee Hill Road. Why did we spend \$6,000 on gravel when he own our own pit. Last year on one road project alone, we paid \$9,900 to Waterboro Sand and Gravel. We need to set a policy for the future and find out why that was done at all, Bob says. Dale says the road review committee is an advisory board to the selectmen, not the road commissioner. Bob Fay says we need to write up what selectmen's influence is and make it a policy. We need to revisit the purchase order policy and pass it along to the road commissioner. We need to understand what we pay for rates, we need to understand what the plans are for Ossipee Hill Road. We need to meet with Fred on these things and regarding Emery Road and seal coat and tar account.

The trailer that is used for the lawn tractor was stolen. Bob asks do we know who left it out? It has been out all winter. It is insured. It was stolen sometime after Tuesday this week.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion for adjournment at 9:30.

APPROVED Date: 4/29/97

