

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
May 12, 2009

PRESENT: TammyJo Girard, Evan Grover, Dennis Abbott, Cindy Moore, Jon Gale, Nancy Brandt, Pam Witman, David Lowe, Willis Lord, Pam L'Heureux, John Kustron, Clint Andrews, Ann Fisher, Dustin Holden, Bob Gobeil, Mark Lepper, Mike DeAngelis, Frank Allen, Dianne Holden, Dave Woodsome, Tina Cote, Brenda Edgerly, Doug Foglio, Alicia Fisk, Kerry Thorne, Tina Smith, Julie Giles, and Nancy Johnson.

Opened meeting at 6:00 p.m. by Selectman Abbott with Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminded everyone to keep recycling.

Selectman Grover reported that they had the fire wise brush chipping day on Saturday in Lake Arrowhead with three (3) chippers and were able to clear a lot of brush.

Reported that they are starting up the Senior Luncheon's again with the first being held on Thursday at the snowmobile club.

APPOINTMENTS

6:00 – John Kustron spoke on behalf of the Lion's Club and their Personal Energy Transportation Program. Stated that the program is just getting underway and they have produced two (2) so far and have enough material for thirteen (13) more at a cost of \$250 each to produce but the current workshop is already to small. Asking to locate a 40' trailer box behind the current building temporarily. They will keep the wheels on so it doesn't require a building permit. Stated that this will be the main location and hope to have satellite workshop. Explained that they have to accumulate 40 units to ship. They would need 1,000 to 2,000 sq. ft to do it all in one location. Will add to the agenda to vote later in the meeting.

Motion by Selectman Girard and seconded by Selectman Grover to add discuss/vote on Lion's request as item #6 under New Business. Vote 5-0-0.

Motion by Selectman Grover and seconded by Selectman Girard to add workshop with Finance Committee at the end of the meeting. Vote 5-0-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Reported that she has been busy working on finishing the budgets.
2. Has the paperwork to be signed for the bond. Interest changes each year as follows: 2010 – 5.58%, 2011 – 3.34%, 2012 – 2.08%, 2013 – 2.08% and 2014 – 2.08%.
3. Reported that they are ready to start on West Rd. as the signs are up and should start in the next 72 hours.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

1. Selectman Grover reported that he spoke with Pastor Barry of Lakeside Community Church about using the church for town meeting as the High School is not available because of graduation. Will know tomorrow if it is available.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion by Selectman Grover and seconded by Selectman Gale to appoint Bob Gobeil to the Old Home Days Committee and Parks & Recreation Committee. Vote 5-0-0. Motion by Selectman Girard and seconded by Selectman Grover to appoint Jeanne Grant to the Cemetery Committee. Vote 5-0-0.
2. Motion by Selectman Grover and seconded by Selectman Gale to accept the resignation of Roland Denby from the Planning Board with regret and noted that he will be missed. Vote 5-0-0.
3. Motion by Selectman Gale and seconded by Selectman Girard to accept the payment agreement for Map 21 Lot 23A. Vote 5-0-0.
4. Discussed the budget and Selectman Girard recommended allowing the employee who has requested be reduced to 24 hours which would save \$8,000, \$650 from office supplies, \$500 from Selectmen's salary and restore the Treasurer to 32 hours. Stated that Code Enforcement Revenues are down 75% so far this year. Selectman Grover stated that he would like to see everyone at 32 hours. Discussed pulling the Water District out of town hall. Selectman Abbott noted that for \$33,000 you can restore all to 32 hours. Selectman Gale stated that you can put the Deputy as an LD1 and restore all to 32 hours as well as put \$30,000 back into ditching. Selectman Grover stated that if reducing any hours should do across the board. Selectman Girard stated that Parks & Rec. has summer camps and during school vacation has gymnastics camp so can't cut him back and Selectman Grover agreed that there are times that he needs to work more than 40 hours but could cut back during his slow periods and Selectman Abbott noted that this is why they are doing the furlough days. Mike stated that they need to look at each one individually. Selectman Gale stated that you can't take salaried people and turn them into hourly employees and Selectman Grover explained that we are only taking about the town hall employees. Selectman Girard stated that they are back tracking, she believes the budget is the best they can do and should move forwards. Selectman Moore stated that she likes putting the Sheriff as an LD1 override, everyone could be restored to 32 hours and put money back into ditching. Julie addressed the board stated that they in fact have six (6) salaried employees and provided them with the paperwork from her original hire indicating that she is also salaried. Selectman Abbott stated that he would like to sit with the Finance Committee and hear their recommendation. Selectman Gale stated that he doesn't like an LD1 override but thinks it is the simplest way. Selectman Abbott stated that we can continue the meeting until tomorrow night is we want and vote then.
5. Motion by Selectman Gale and seconded by Selectman Grover to accept the Asian Taste Liquor License. Vote 5-0-0.
6. Motion by Selectman Girard and seconded by Selectman Gale to allow the storage trailer with Code Enforcement approval. Vote 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussed the Solid Waste Ordinance and Willis stated that he told Kevin Roche that there are still a couple of things that need to be discussed. Selectman Abbott will get with Clint. Scheduled the Public Hearing for Tuesday, June 2nd.

OTHER

1. Motion by Selectman Grover and seconded by Selectman Moore to sign the warrants for bills and payroll. Vote 5-0-0.
2. Motion by Selectman Grover and seconded by Selectman Moore to accept the minutes of 5/5/09 as written. Vote 5-0-0.
3. Selectman Abbott read the reminders.

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Schedule Candidates Night
2. Discuss Water District Contract
3. Location of Town Meeting

Took a brief recess waiting for the Finance Committee to arrive for the workshop.

SIGNED:

1. Warrants for bills & payroll
2. Minutes of 5/5/09
3. Appointment Papers
4. Payment Arrangement
5. Concealed weapon applications

Reconvened at 7:30 p.m. in a workshop with the Finance Committee to discuss budget issues. Tina stated that she is hoping to have 90% of the recommendations ready at Monday's meeting. She is still struggling with the justification in reduction in some staff. She realizes that code revenue is down but not seeing the justification in reducing the hours because she certainly does more than just building permits and the Treasurer is salaried. Questioned when the Finance Committee will know what the warrant will look like and stated that by bringing everyone down to 32 hours would save \$116,000. Selectman Gale stated that does not make sense. Tina questioned how it would save money if a couple people are here so you still have to hear and/or air condition the building. Selectman Abbott stated that salaried will have to complete their duties and therefore will take 12 furlough days. Selectman Girard stated that she understands they are going to be cutting services but looked at the various positions and which would have the least impact. Tina questioned running an open warrant so the citizens can decide if they want to reduction or not and Nancy explained that they would need an LD1 override vote after each article because you don't know which one will put you over the limit. Selectman Abbott stated that the board has the responsibility to the taxpayers to present the best possible budget. Brenda stated that she has never seen a year like this year and they should put a little faith in the Selectmen. Had hoped not to focus on just one area of the budget this evening. Selectman Abbott stated that the board is not in total agreement with the budget and it will be a very emotional town meeting. Dianne questioned quarterly tax payments to help with cash flow. Selectman Abbott stated that there is nothing that says we can't do that except a vote from the townspeople. Will check with MMA to see if any other towns are doing this. Mark stated that he agrees with Brenda that the board knows what it takes to run the town office. Felt that it seems like it makes sense to do the LD1 for the Deputy and put all employees back to 32 hours and money back into ditching. Tina stated that Ruth has offered to eliminate her retirement match and move that money into books. Selectman Gale did not think you would want to change personnel policy for something like that. Mark stated that have talked about Parks & Rec. being self-sufficient but now is not the time and they do provide a marvelous service. Mike explained his programs and expenses. Mark also stated that our insurance hasn't been put out to bid in a long time, it has become more competitive recently. Also noted that he had noticed in reading our policies that there is no coverage for sexual or physical abuse other than Torte Claims to which Mike stated that he can not live in fear of lawsuits. Tina stated that she would like to see them totally self-supporting and Mike explained that they can not be with the amount of staff. Discussed potential new revenue such as a tubing park. Tina stated that they are comfortable with what they have so far but are split on the town hall hours. Questioned when they will see changes and Selectman Abbott explained as soon as they have them they will be made available to the Finance

Committee. Selectman Gale questioned if there is more information to gather making tomorrow night necessary.

Motion by Selectman Girard and seconded by Selectman Gale to come out of the workshop. Vote 5-0-0.

Motion by Selectman Girard and seconded by Selectman Gale to add to the agenda to discuss/vote on budget items. Vote 5-0-0.

Motion by Selectman Gale and seconded by Selectman Moore to put the Contract Deputy on LD1 and restore \$34,000 into employees wages and put \$34,217 into additional ditching. Selectman Grover questioned if they have been fighting putting employees at 32 hours then why can we now do it. Selectmen Gale explained that he thought the reduction in hours would not affect the welfare on service to the public so are now reinstating the services and felt this is the least of the evils. Selectman Girard stated that in February it was agreed that we shoot for no LD1 override. Selectman Abbott stated that he was opposed to the ditching when the money was coming from surplus but this is a more fair proposal. Selectman Gale felt this is the cleanest solution. Selectman Grover stated that by cutting two (2) other positions could restore without an LD1 override and noted that the auditor said we could spend up to \$300,000 from surplus. Vote 2-3-0 with Selectmen Abbott, Grover and Girard opposed.

Motion by Selectman Grover and seconded by Selectman Moore to cut the Town Planner and Town Administrator to 32 hours leaving a \$5,000 difference to come from surplus. Vote 1-4-0 with Selectmen Gale, Moore, Abbott and Girard opposed. Motion by Selectman Girard to allow the employee who has requested be reduced to 24 hours do so which would save \$8,000, \$650 from office supplies, \$500 from Selectmen’s salary and restore the Treasurer to 32 hours. Seconded by Selectman Gale. Vote 3-2-0 with Selectmen Moore and Grover opposed. Selectman Grover felt that they are crippling town hall by doing this. Tina Cote stated that \$5,000 is minimal to restore these positions. Doug suggested that the \$38,000 for Town Planner be an LD1 override. Also stated that they could increase overly and take out of surplus without an LD1 override. Motion by Selectman Girard and seconded by Selectman Moore to go beyond 9:00. Vote 5-0-0. Motion by Selectman Grover and seconded by Selectman Moore to restore the 32 hours and raise \$34,000 out of surplus. Vote 5-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selectman Girard and seconded by Selectman Moore to adjourn at 9’10 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.

APPROVED:

Date: _____

