

May 10, 2011
Selectmen's Meeting

Present: C. Guiry DMD Ch., A. Richards, R. P. McGinnity, & A.A. Milkovits

Also present: Press -Jessica Aguirre, Monadnock Ledger-Transcript, other residents

Meeting opened at 7:30 PM.

Vendor checks were discussed and signed.

Agenda:

Appointments:

1. Robert Larochele, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, was present at the Board's request. Several other members of the ConCom were also present as well as other ConCom supporters. Chairman Guiry began the meeting by explaining why there had not been any reimbursements for 2 expenses incurred by ConCom members. This matter had been researched by Town Counsel and because the expenses were for materials and postage to influence a vote at Town Meeting, they had to be disallowed. Next, Chairman Guiry discussed the hay lease that the ConCom has with resident David Baker. The ConCom has been treating the lease as a "trade in kind" with no money exchanged. Mr. Baker had agreed to pay \$630 for the hay lease but he was also working on different ConCom projects to offset the cost of the lease. He had agreed not to charge the ConCom for his labor for more than the hay lease so there would be a "wash". Chairman Guiry tried to explain that the auditors require posting the revenue and the expenditure on the Town books and there must be real money deposited in the ConCom account and a vote by ConCom authorizing the expenditure to pay Mr. Barker. During the meeting Chairman Guiry was interrupted several times by Pat Letourneau, who was representing the *Mason Grapevine*, monthly town publication. Mrs. Letourneau was taking exception to Chairman Guiry's discussion. Several others present also were on the defensive for the ConCom. The Selectmen tried to emphasize the importance of transparency for any actions of departments using town funds. There needs to be accountability.

Another item discussed was the vote at Town Meeting that changed the distribution of the Land Use Change tax from 100% to the ConCom to 20%. The group is still very angry about that vote and feels that they are losing money needed to maintain their projects. ConCom Chairman Larochele complained that the Commission did not have advance notice about the article and were very upset at the lack of communication. Selectmen reminded everyone of how many people in Town are facing foreclosure or other economic concerns and how the tax money helps the general fund. Chairman Guiry suggested that the ConCom use other methods to generate income for their maintenance of properties, such as selective timbering on some lots, selling firewood, etc. He cited a timber plan that had been developed by Jon Nute County Extension Agent for Lot B-15-1. Selectman McGinnity suggested that the ConCom meet with the Selectmen on another night to work through a list of priorities and form a mission statement. This provoked more antagonism from the group who were insulted that the Selectmen did not know what their mission statement is. Someone made the statement that the ConCom has sent their minutes to the Board for many years.

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This was not true as the only minutes that are given to the Board are the minutes to back up requests for expenditures. After more heated remarks and accusations from the audience, the Selectmen closed the meeting for public input. It was decided that the ConCom and the Selectmen will hold a joint meeting and hopefully work toward a better understanding of each other's missions and goals for the Town.

2. Chuck Anderson, co-owner of Mason Hollow Nursery, met the Board with a request. There will be a hosta tour on Saturday, June 25, 2011 that his nursery will be participating in. This will involve hosting about 400 people for the tour, transported by 7-8 busses. His request is for space for parking of the busses, two at a time that will be dropping off and picking up tourists. He originally requested that the busses be allowed to park on Scripps Lane for the short duration of the tour. Since there is a Town ordinance against parking on Scripps Lane, the Board denied that request. After more discussion, the Selectmen recommended that the busses park in the center of town, either at the Town Hall parking lot or the Mann House parking lot or in front of the school. Mr. Anderson is to contact Police Chief Hutchins for any traffic control needed for the tour or bus drop-off.

Selectmen reviewed the following:

1. Re: Blair – Building Inspector sent his report with photos on his inspection of the Blair property. According to the Building Inspector the property is improved from the last visit. The Selectmen will forward a copy of the report and photos to Attorney Little for his advice on this matter.
2. From DRA: 2010 Total equalized Valuation for Debt Limits - \$159,325,094.
3. Re: Letter of credit for use of the Town property for access to Kwiatkowski – Road Agent sent an email regarding his inspection of the area. Mr. Greenwood stated that the area is in the same or better condition than before the timbering. Selectmen will release the letter of credit.
4. Report from Road Agent: Concerned for fuel budget line, hired 2 new part time people, new truck is being used, new blower for patching crew and meetings with All States Asphalt concerning sealing some of the roads.
5. Building Permits: #11-04 Bibeault, lot H-62-1A, garage
6. House numbers: Mueller, lot G-31-1, 496 Depot Road
7. From Building Inspector: Problems and resolutions: Letter to John Hancock, lot F-22, for building a pavilion without a permit. Mr. Hancock has contacted the BI and will get his permit soon.
Email from Julia Carwellos concerning a neighbor's shed near her property line. She contacted Mr. Wilson on May 5th to tell him that the shed had been moved.
8. From B.O.A.: Revised Notice of Decision – approval for Maillets for a special exception, lot H-45-1, regarding section XX of the Zoning Ordinance.
9. Police logs
10. From Primex: Cap Program – Selectmen signed for 8% capped increase for worker's compensation insurance.
11. April expense report

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12. From D.O.T.: adjusted Highway Block Grant payment decreased to \$75,144.57, loss of over \$3,000 in revenue.
13. Planning Board unapproved minutes for April 27, 2011 meeting
14. Other emails, correspondence

Selectmen signed the following:

- Yield Warrants: \$3,611.42 for lots E-23, E-24; \$892.00 for lot G-65
- Intents to Cut: Edelblut for lot F-40; Bloom, Jr., etal for lot E-21

Selectmen voted to change the staff meeting to the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:30PM. This will precede the regular Selectmen's meeting.

Selectmen were told of an upsetting phone call from Roy Turilli, Jeds Lane to the office. Mr. Turilli had been denied his abatement due to not filing his inventory for 2010. He was very upset when he called, using foul language and making threats. He was told that his property would be put on the update list for the assessor but there would be no abatement.

Selectmen discussed other options for Town Counsel such as using the free legal service at LGC. Concern has been for some open, unresolved legal issues that the Town has. A letter will be sent to Attorney Little to request outstanding issues be handled in a more timely manner, or if the work can't be accommodated to so state so other options can be used. The Board will also check into legal services used by other towns.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Barbara L. Melton
Admin. Assistant