

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
March 24, 2009

Attendance: Selectmen Ernie Brown, Craig Evans and Clifton Camp
Staff: Ed Nason CEO, Pam Frazer Assessor Clerk, Marilou MacLean, Dick Peckham Moderator & Jennifer Sonricker Admin. Assistant
Public in attendance: 4
Reporter: Gigi Giambanco

The meeting convened and was called to order by Ernie Brown at 6:30 p.m. A moment of silence was held in memory of Ed Nason's father.

Reorganization of the Board:

MOTION: Craig made a motion to nominate Clifton as Chairperson for the next year, seconded by Ernie. A vote was taken; all in favor, motion carries.

MOTION: Clifton made a motion to nominate Craig as Vice Chairperson for the next year, seconded by Ernie. A vote was taken; all in favor, motion carries.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from February 24, 2009 and March 10, 2009 reviewed.

MOTION: Ernie made a motion to approve minutes from March 10, 2009 as written, seconded by Craig. A vote was taken; all in favor, motion carries.

MOTION: Ernie made a motion to approve minutes from February 24, 2009 as written, seconded by Craig. A vote was taken; all in favor, motion carries.

Public Comments:

Dick Peckham questioned the status of driveways associated with recently subdivided Fluckinger lots. While sitting on the Conservation Commission 2 wetlands applications were submitted to DES for culverts on driveways. He noticed work being performed on the upper driveway that did not have a wetlands permit associated with it. Ed addressed this; explaining the parent (original) lot does not require a culvert for the driveway, thus no wetlands permit is required. When approving the subdivision the Planning Board required culverts be installed on the subdivided lots. Ed explained that a driveway permit has been applied for and approved for the driveway being installed on parent lot.

Janet Murfey explained the stonewalls in front of her residence were damaged by plowing and wondered if it was possible for them to be repaired. Ed explained that she would need to speak with Todd Nason at the local State shed because her property is on a State road and it falls under their jurisdiction.

Report of Town Officials:

Admin. Asst. Nothing to report.

Assessor Clerk Pam presented the Selectmen with a current use change application for Kennedy; map 15 lot 3, a total of 65 acres is being placed in current use. The Selectmen signed the application.

Pam reported on Transportation Advisory Committee meeting she attended recently. She explained they are looking into buses for the tri-county area. They have applied and received a grant for the buses, 8 buses will be free as a result of the grant money. The committee is in the process of developing routes. It is unknown if Brookfield will be part of the map system. The population priority is the elderly, disabled, those below the poverty level and lastly other interested parties. Operational budget for the first three years is estimated at \$1,000,000/year. This will be picked up by the State and County. The County portion will come from County taxes. Their goal is to be up and running by 2010. Ernie thanked for Pam attending these meetings on behalf of the Town.

Tax Collector N/A

Forest Fire Warden N/A

Treasurer Marilou presented checks to the Selectmen to be signed. Marilou requested all invoices be submitted the Sunday before Selectmen's meeting; she will then cut the checks and bring them to the Selectmen's meeting for signature.

Trustees of The Trust Funds Ernie requested a meeting be held with the Trustees of the Trust Funds and Cemetery Trustees, Clifton will call the chairs and schedule a meeting.

Town Clerk N/A

Emergency Mgmt. Director N/A

CEO N/A

Road Agent Ed reported that cold patching could begin as early as next week if good weather continues. After that culverts will be opened up and cleaned prior to spring rains, ditching will then follow. Gravel roads are typically addressed in June.

Moderator Dick reported there was a 42% voter turnout at March 10th election. There were 87 voters at Town Meeting.

Dick asked the Selectmen to consider changes to future town meeting dates, a change would need to be voted on by the people, he suggests holding the elections on the 2nd Tuesday in March and the Town Meeting on the following Saturday, having both on the same day makes an extremely long day for the moderator. Dick also suggested a salary for the Moderator. The Moderator currently gets paid minimum wage for the actual hours worked during elections; nothing for conferences, scheduling workers and setup. He suggests a salary of \$500/year.

Dick reported that a special State Senate Election is going to be held on Tuesday, April 21st. The moderator and Supervisors of the Checklist have not formally been notified, when Dick called the Secretary of States office it was explained that he would likely not be notified. He was made aware of the date by the Town Clerk receiving absentee ballots

for the election. Dick is giving the Secretary of State 5 working days to respond before filing a formal complaint.

Dick asking for the Selectmen's help to count votes after the election, he had not budgeted for this special election and would like to keep costs down. The polls will be open from 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM.

Planning Board Clifton thanked Ed for being Chairman for the past year and congratulated Janet on nomination to Chairperson for the upcoming year. Janet provided a progress report from last night's meeting; the Planning Board has begun updating the site plan document. They have developed several sub-committees to focus on key priorities with planning board members as chairs. Two main priorities this year are commercial and home occupations.

Archivist Nothing to report

Conservation Commission N/A

Cable Committee Clifton provided an update; Time Warner is stringing lines along Lyford Road and Route 109.

Parks & Playground N/A

GWRSD Ernie provided a brief update regarding recently approved renovation and expansion to KRHS & middle school complex. They are currently working with the architect on bond and project plans. The goal is to start construction on the fields and multipurpose building in the fall, the renovations to High School, Middle School and Vocational School (Voc is pending state funding) will likely go out for bid in the spring of 2010 with the project being completed in time for start of school in 2012. Public hearings will be scheduled to discuss the layout; they are looking for feedback from teachers, administrative staff, parents and students.

Road Committee N/A

Agricultural Commission Clifton explained that Andy Tapper has decided to resign from Ag. Commission, he would like to stay on as an alternate. The Ag Commission would like to request the Selectmen appoint Nate Weeks to fulfill the remainder of Andy's term. The Ag Commission also requested Art Wheeler and Stephanie Hillis be appointed to 3 year terms, they were originally appointed to a 1 year term that expired at March Town Meeting. The Selectmen would like a formal letter from the chairman of the Ag Commission regarding appointments but agreed to make motions pending letter.
MOTION: Craig made a motion to appoint Nate Weeks to replace Andy Tapper, filling the remainder of his term, pending a letter from the chairman, seconded by Ernie. A vote was taken; all in favor, motion carries.
MOTION: Craig made a motion appoint Art Wheeler and Stephanie Hillis for a 3-year term to the Agricultural Commission pending a letter from the chairman, seconded by Ernie. A vote was taken; all in favor, motion carries.

Heritage Commission Craig attended a workshop in Concord regarding funding for public buildings. He will also be attending a workshop on Friday with Ron Prior regarding establishment of Heritage Commission. Craig has 5 people interested in serving on the Heritage Commission.

MOTION: Craig made a motion to appoint Ron Prior, Susan Brown, Carolyn Chase, Marilou MacLean and Craig Evans as Heritage Commissions members, seconded by Ernie. A vote was taken; all in favor, motion carries.

There was a brief discussion regarding need for Selectmen's Rep to the commission and if it is ok for Craig to sit on the commission as a voting member. It is Craig understanding that Selectmen can sit on the commission as a member as long as there is not a conflict. Craig will call LGC to confirm. Discussion continued regarding Selectmen's Reps having voting privileges. Craig will call LGC to obtain an answer regarding voting rights of Selectmen Representatives to all boards & committees.

Other N/A

Old Business

Special event regulation: Craig read a statement that has been added to the draft; in summary the language reads if the event being held is not permitted by zoning it is prohibited. There was discussion as to whether this language was necessary. Town Council has agreed that it is not needed but also feels it is a good idea. Lengthy discussions ensued regarding new language. It was decided to leave the language for further discussion during public hearing.

MOTION: Craig made a motion to accept draft of special event permit as amended and to select a date for public hearing, seconded by Ernie. A vote was taken; all in favor, motion carries.

Clifton suggested Ernie seek initial opinion from LGC regarding language and possibly other Attorneys in order to clarify whether language is needed. *Public Hearing was set for Tuesday, April 28th at 6:30 PM* (to be followed by regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting).

Town Cane Policy: Craig suggested the policy be changed to include long-term residents that have moved into licensed assisted living facilities outside of town but within a specific demographic area. Brief discussion ensued as to whether this should also include those living with family members not just facilities. Craig will draw up proposed policy change to be presented and April 14th meeting for discussion. With passing of current cane holder the Selectmen will meet to review possible candidates and make selection.

New Business

Town Salt Barn: Money has been raised now a conceptual design/plan is needed in order to go out for bid. Clifton asked for Ed (Road Agent) to work with the Road Committee to come up with a plan including possible location to be presented at April 14th meeting. Ed suggested the Selectmen give thought to what they would like to do with the existing salt shed building. Craig encouraged the road committee to look into the big picture regarding the location of the new salt shed.

Town House Fix-up: Clifton requested the Heritage Commission take on the task of determining what needs to be done to the Town House to ensure its future use, with special attention to cracks to the building's ceiling.

Website – Cemetery updates: Craig has collected data to be posted on the website regarding town burial grounds; he will forward the information to Jim Murfey for posting. The information will be posted on the history page under 'burial grounds database'.

Mileage Reimbursement:

MOTION: Craig made a motion to keep the mileage reimbursement rate at \$0.45, seconded by Ernie. A vote was taken; all in favor, motion carries.

Health insurance group discussion: Craig explained a benefit of LGC membership is ability to join their group health insurance plan. He explained that it doesn't have to be a

benefit but could be offered as an option; the individual would pay the premium but receive the group rate. The town would hold a small administrative role but there would be no cost to the town. Craig is asking for permission to talk to board/commission members and employees to see if there is interest. If there is enough interest he will call LGC to receive additional information and schedule a presentation. Craig was encouraged to research.

Resignations & Bulletin board in front hall: Due to length of tonight's meeting these items will be discussed at the April 14th meeting.

Other: Jim Murfey spoke regarding Art in the barn, an annual event held by the Gaffney Library. They are running into difficulty finding a suitable barn to hold the event, if unable to locate a barn he requested using the Town House for the event, this would be a last resort. The Selectmen approved the use of the Town House.

Mail Reviewed

MOTION: Craig made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ernie. A vote was taken; all in favor, motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Sonricker
Administrative Assistant