

Minutes must be kept of all public meetings and must be available to the public upon request not more than five business days after the public meeting. A business day means the hours of 8 am to 5 pm on Monday through Friday, excluding national and state holidays. The minimum content of meeting minutes includes: (1) names of members present; (2) other people participating (it is not necessary to list everyone present, however); (3) a brief summary of subject matter discussed; and (4) any final decisions reached or action taken. There is no legal requirement to accept or approve the minutes. Even if minutes have not yet been approved, they still must be made available not more than five business days after the public meeting. When the five business day deadline is reached before the minutes are approved, they can be made available to the public with a notation that they are a draft version.

Taken from "*Knowing the Territory*," a publication from the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

## **Minutes**

### **Albany NH Selectmen's Meeting**

#### **July 2, 2014**

At 4:26 p.m., the Selectmen's meeting was called to order. In attendance were Rob Nadler, Jack Rose and Kelly Robitaille. Also present were Rick Hiland, Lee Grant and June Johnson. The following business was conducted.

#### **Regular Business:**

- Reviewed & approved June 18 and June 24 minutes-Kelly made a motion to approve June 18 minutes as submitted, Rob seconded the motion and all were in favor. Jack made a motion to accept June 24 minutes as submitted, Rob seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- Signed checks totaling \$5,288.05.

#### **Steve Solomon (Conway Fire Chief):**

Steve gave a report of statistics to the Board that entailed Albany emergency calls, the percentage of calls that went to the National Forest and the cost of what Albany is paying per thousand of assessed value in comparison to Conway Village District and non-district properties. Rob liked the report, noting it was very detailed and he can understand that Conway is paying almost double what Albany does. Rob pointed out that Albany has no ownership in the Fire District nor any voting powers and should not be expected to pay the same.

Steve replied there is no real way to make it equitable for all entities but a solution must be found. Rob is curious about the total numbers of calls and the cost per call for Albany, Conway Village, and out of district calls.

Steve said the majority of calls is, of course, in Conway and that is why the station is located where it is. Rob asked how the Fire District is connected to the water precinct. Steve replied the Fire District is part of the water precinct. They handle water, sewer, fire, ambulance, sidewalks and parks. The Commissioners oversee all of it.

Rob told Steve there are a few properties in Albany that are part of the district and pay additional taxes. Do other properties have the option to tie into the water and sewer system? Steve said the district would have to extend its boundaries which would require a vote of Albany, Conway, Bartlett and the Village District in order to do so. Steve added they may sell water anywhere but can only give sewer service to those within the district boundaries. Rob asked if Albany were to go to an assessed value formulation, these few properties within the boundaries should not have to pay the district twice. Steve said their assessed value would be removed from the calculation.

Rob asked about Eaton and when did they pull out from their contract. Steve replied in 2001 they ended their contract and because they did, homeowner's insurance rates went through the roof.

Jack asked Steve if he has a number yet for Albany. Steve said no but he has hired two more firefighters which in turn has increased his budget. Revenues are down and they are in the process of reviewing court action for those who are not paying for their ambulance bills. The law makes it difficult to collect as the Department cannot directly bill insurance companies. It takes a lot of time and effort to take a person to court and even if they are awarded the claim, it doesn't mean they will receive it. Judges tend to be sympathetic to people and allow them to make a payment plan. Steve added that they usually start off paying but slowly stop. Then it's another effort to take them back to court.

Rick Hiland suggested hospitals have been known to chase people for money as is done in Bow, NH. Steve said he is very familiar with that situation and they have an outside company who does this for them but they are not as aggressive as they would like. He said they would be better doing it themselves but they don't have the manpower to do it.

Rob asked Steve if he applies for grants. Steve replied he applies for grants all the time and has been quite successful with a lot of new equipment since he has become Fire Chief. Rob asked Steve if it was just a benefit and not a part of their regular budget. Steve replied yes and it is not part of the budget.

Kelly asked Steve if Albany is in store for a big increase. Steve said he is trying to make it an even pay scale and it has to be figured out. Rob pointed out that Albany contracts for a service and we pay for that service. We don't have any representation or ownership. Maybe Albany could be offered some representation. Steve replied that would probably require the creation of another district. Rob would like to look at all the avenues and what other towns pay per call. Steve said ambulance service is all over the board. He will get Brookfield's formulation. They provide service for Wakefield.

Steve assisted in getting legislation passed to have insurance companies not just pay the customer but add the Fire Department's name to the check. Collection has gotten better since.

Steve said he will discuss everything that was spoken about today with the Commissioners. He will get back to the Selectmen with a report of volume by district and what they pay per call. Steve concluded by saying he was sure there will be some back and forth throughout the year but something will be worked out in the end.

Steve left the meeting.

Rob said it would be beneficial to gather all the facts including what it would cost to contract with another town, maybe Tamworth or Madison. What are the possibilities?

### **Town Administrator Report:**

Edward Guppy called today. He wanted to know if the Selectmen would still be willing to negotiate with him to get his property back at 2008 Passaconway Rd. after it has been taken by Tax Collector's deed. Edward will be writing the Board a letter seeking their authority to allow him to buy his property back.

JoAnn Reis of Tabor Circle called the office to say people are speeding in the neighborhood and a child may get hit. She suggested the Town place a speed bump on Tabor Circle to slow people down. After consultation with Curtis, he

does not recommend a speed bump. The Selectmen accepted Curtis' recommendation.

Curtis is working on Albany road standards. He would like Burr Philips to look them over for his approval, but wondered where in the budget that would come from. Rob said the Selectmen approve the road standards so it may come from the Selectmen's budget. Jack would like to seek out other engineers for an estimate of what they may charge. We don't need personal opinions entered into the road standards, just an approval. Rob suggested calling HEB Engineers. Rick Hiland suggested contacting UNH. Rob agreed saying maybe they may do it for free.

Rob asked if Curtis is responsible for cutting back limbs on trees that are hovering over town roads. Passaconaway Rd. has limbs that have grown in obstructing driver's line of sight. The town line sign is tilted from the winter weather and plows. Rob asked if Curtis could fix it.

Curtis inspected the raised culvert on Bald Hill Rd. He will be fixing it. He drove up Moat View Dr. to see the damage from the construction of a new driveway and did not see any. After Kathy spoke to him, he realized he was not looking in the right area. He will go back this afternoon.

Kathy will be on vacation the week of July 14. There will be no Selectmen meeting on Wednesday, July 16. Rob made a motion to hold a Selectmen meeting on the fifth Wednesday of the month in place of the missed meeting on July 16, Jack seconded the motion and all were in favor.

#### **New Business:**

Assessor Jason Call recommends denial of Fairpoint's tax abatement application. They are assessed according to the law which Jason feels is fair and equitable. Rob made a motion to deny the abatement application, Kelly seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Jason is completing work on one more abatement application. He hopes to finish it within one week.

Kathy contacted Minuteman Press to see if they could digitize our town seal. They went through their records and did not find a digitized version of the Albany town seal but could put something together. Rob wondered if a picture of the covered bridge could be added in the center of the seal.

#### **Old Business:**

Rob asked if Intervale Lock had submitted their proposal for changing the locks on town hall offices. Kathy replied no, she has not heard from him.

The blinds for the service windows have been ordered.

Jack asked about the status of the Munro property on Bald Hill Rd. He did not see any progress in the removal of the dilapidated mobile home. Jack thought a deadline should be imposed as Jon has had enough time to clean up the property. Rob thought the Board should send him a letter asking of his plans and if he doesn't complete them soon, the Board will impose a deadline. If the cleanup is not done, the town will pay to have the cleanup finished and the property owner will be charged.

**Website Planning:**

There has been no communications with Carla this week. Rob asked to have the map of the town forest placed on the website in numerous places. Many people have been asking about it.

**Enforcement Issues:**

The political sign posted at 2628 NH Route 16 has been removed and the property owner has been made aware of the sign ordinance.

Rob noted an unpermitted sign posted at 2659 NH Route 16 as he passed by this morning but it appears to have been taken down this afternoon. If the sign is to be permanent, it must be permitted.

Jack stated he spoke with Profile Motors and told them to keep the vehicles away from the setbacks.

At 5:35 p.m., Jack made a motion to adjourn, Rob seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Vizard  
Town Administrator