

Minutes

Albany NH Selectmen's Meeting

July 24, 2013

At 5:30 p.m., the Selectmen's meeting was called to order. In attendance were Jack Rose, Sara Young-Knox and Kelly Robitaille. Also present were Lee Grant, June Johnson, Rob Nadler, Peter Carboni, Leah Valladares, Steve Knox, Ed Foley, Susan Sullivan, Wendell Dicey, Cort Hansen, Josephine Howland, Joe Ferris, Steve Solomon and Mike Martin. The following business was conducted.

Regular Business:

- Reviewed & approved July 10 minutes-Jack made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Sara seconded the minutes and all were in favor.
- Signed checks totaling \$74,505.49.
- Reviewed & approved three septic designs.
- Reviewed & signed letter of appreciation to John Arruda of Best Regards.
- Signed form of utilization of inventory of property form.
- Signed property tax payment schedule.
- Discussed properties to be deeded/Sign waivers as necessary-See Below
- Reviewed letter from Department of Safety regarding criminal history checks for hawkers and peddlers-Sara motioned to table this issue for further review. The TA would like to pass it by Sheriff Richardi for an opinion as to what to do. Jack seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- Reviewed invitation from Eastern Slope Airport Authority to attend their annual meeting.
- Reviewed letter from FEMA.
- Reviewed letter from NHDOT.
- Administrator report-See below
- Discussed meeting time-See below
- NonPublic Session RSA 91:A-3 (c)

Miscellaneous:

Jack congratulated the Mount Washington Valley Cal Ripken 12 and under baseball state champs. No team from the area had ever made it to the Regionals which were played in Marlborough, MA last weekend. Although they lost, Kelly reported it was a great experience for the team.

Susan Sullivan:

Susan came before the Board to discuss her property taxes. Her property is in danger of being deeded by tax collector's deed. She would like to set up another payment schedule as she has done in the past. She told the Board winters have been their toughest time of the year. They depend on sales and service of skimobiles. They are working their hardest to stay in business. Jack said he would like to work with Susan. Kelly said he wished there were more people like Susan that were willing to work with the Board. Sara made a motion to approve Susan's payment plan, Jack seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Ed Foley/Wendell Dicey:

Ed performs regular testing of the town's AED unit. He asked Fire Chief Steve Solomon if classes were available to train someone to use the unit. Steve replied yes, periodically. Ed said he would like to see more people trained and that is why the VFW donated the unit, adding they should be trained to be familiar with the device. Steve said the class is a four hour class that includes CPR and the cost is small. Steve added the class could be held right here at town hall. Ed asked if there were a difference in models. Steve replied yes but the actual devices would not be used during class. They use a simulator.

Ed presented the Board with the VFW sign they had made up at Gemini sign. Ed introduced Wendell Dicey who is the Senior Vice-Commander of the VFW who does outstanding work and will be the person to replace the reader board under the municipal sign. Wendell informed the Board of the work he will be performing and said the paint will match the sign they will be posting. The spacing between the signs will remain the same as it is now so everything will be in conformity. Jack asked if there would be any cost to the town. Wendell replied there will be no cost to the town. Ed added it is the appreciation for everything Albany does for the VFW. The VFW has met at town hall for the past 15 years and they try to do something for the town every year and they feel honored to do it. Kelly asked Wendell when he would start. Wendell said he was just waiting for the picnic sign to be taken down, which now has. He will begin shortly. Jack made a motion to approve the new sign and the work to be done to the municipal sign, Kelly seconded the motion and all were in favor. Ed and Wendell left the meeting.

Leah Valladares:

Leah presented a letter to the Board in response to the letter she received from the Selectmen requesting a drawing of their property and what it will look like once their garage is complete. This drawing was promised to be submitted by the end of April by Alan Valladares but was not. Leah's response for not submitting the drawing in April was that life happens and we all get busy. Kelly told Leah that many calls have been yielded regarding their property; it had been a while and the Board wanted to know what was going on. Jack said he didn't anticipate that much earth being removed from the site. Leah replied there has not been more than 1,000 cubic yards removed from the property and they are still within the exempt status. Leah referred to the drawing submitted with the building permit application and said at this time, this is our plan.

Sara noted that Leah said the driveway was to be re-graded and she has a concern with the drainage of the driveway and Route 16. Leah replied the state has discussed the issue with them and there has always been a problem with their driveway washing out. Sara suggested getting an engineer's drawing. Leah asked if the town were willing to pay for it. Jack replied the Valladares' would be responsible for the cost. Leah told the Board this drawing is what they have for now and they are doing no more than what was intended. The driveway has been a problem. It is something that will be addressed. Peter Carboni said when the permit was issued they had spoken about the entrance and using the same entrance as the mobile home entrance. He added it's an acceptable entrance but feels if more earth is to be removed, the entrance will be impossible to use as the grade would be lowered to two to one. Leah asked Peter to e-mail her that information so she could get a response from her husband. Sara said the Board will take this into consideration and if there is any further questions, the Board will address it back to the Valladares'. Leah asked what further questions would there be. Peter said the driveway is acceptable right now but if the excavation continues, he could not see how it would remain acceptable and the town may have to request a surveyor's map. Leah asked who would pay for that. Jack replied Leah would. Kelly said there was a timeline issue and when is it going to be complete. Leah replied her building permit expires in October. Kelly said if we all agree this drawing is acceptable and it is done by October, we should be fine.

Steve Solomon/Mike Martin:

Sara told Mike and Steve she knew there is a plan to be executed regarding safety at Lower Falls but she wondered what the timeline of the plan is and is there anything that can be done beforehand. Mike acknowledged there have been many accidents and there are concerns. He would like to keep

Lower Falls open for July and August and then begin to execute the plan. Steve handed out a list of emergency responses just to Lower Falls from 2008-present. Since 2008 Conway Fire has responded to 35 river accidents at Lower Falls. 16 people self-rescued and required EMS care, 18 people were rescued by Conway Fire personnel. Five people have died.

Mike feels it is important to recognize the water safety plan at many sites. A plan is being followed to educate visitors, place signage and create public awareness. Videos to educate visitors is streamed by many of the hotels in the area. Education is a strong point to communicate that there is a hazard. As you look at the transition from the parking lot to the water area a person would be more receptive to the signage and that is where it is being placed. Also, increased contact with people coming into the booth where the fee is charged to park. Mike calls it unmanaged recreation because the river can be accessed anywhere from the falls to below it. It is difficult to secure that. The goal is to restructure the falls to put people on defined paths with signage. Mike went on to say that they are challenged because they can only tell people the information so many times.

Sara suggested the possibility of putting out certain colored flags to warn of the severity of the river. Steve pointed out there is no standard in place such as by the ocean. Mike said they are not in the position to standardize and manage rating systems. They will try to educate about the moving water. Sara thought there was more signage on the kiosks a few years ago. Mike presented sample signs to be used saying they offer visual cues that also would warn a non-English speaking person.

Steve said many solutions have been discussed such as placing netting at the bottom of the pool at Lower Falls but it would catch so much debris that someone would have to be hired just to keep the net debris free.

Mike said a single entry point to the falls has been discussed and may be implemented along with a walk out point below the falls to prevent sight seers from crossing the rocks. Kelly thought that was a good idea. Visitors would have to enter and pass by all of the signage.

Jack asked if Lower Falls was the worst area for emergencies. Steve replied it is the most concentrated area.

Joe Ferris thought a short and sweet, to the point sign providing shock factor should be posted and not just one sign but posted every 20 feet.

Kelly asked how victims communicate the need for help. Steve replied someone would have to drive out until they reach a place with cell phone service or if a forest service worker were on site, they can radio Conway Fire. Kelly noted there was talk a while ago about getting cell service to that area but nothing came of it. There are many dangerous places and it would be nice to be able to communicate.

Mike told the Board it is tough to change behaviors but they are trying to get the education out there. Sara asked if there was anything the Board could implement as far as an ordinance. Mike replied the ordinance regarding the non-use of alcohol takes away a lot of the danger.

Sara wondered if the funding may be taken away for the plan with numerous delays in federal funding recently. Mike said no the money will be available but didn't know if the money would fund the full project. They will prioritize the project list. It will begin hopefully after August. Mike noted the challenge of the higher population areas and is hoping to have more face to face contact with visitors to educate them.

Steve said on a personal side, he realizes he cannot stop his children from going to a river. He is teaching his kids to self-rescue when in danger.

June Johnson thought placing signage regarding state lakes and parks may divert visitors away from the dangerous places. A new person to the area may not know they exist.

Lee suggested signage such as the former moose signs noting how many people have died. Steve replied those signs were taken down because of complaints it was not sensitive to those who had lost their lives.

Josephine Howland asked what the average number of deaths were per year. Steve replied one a year at Lower Falls.

The Board thanked Mike and Steve for their time and information. Mike and Steve left the meeting.

Deed Discussion:

Sara made a motion accept the Guppy deed, the Coffman deed, the Boucher deed and the Emerson deed, Kelly seconded the motion and all were in favor. Kelly made a motion to waive all other deeds, Sara seconded the motion and all were in favor. Sara made a motion to hold a tax sale in order to sell the deeded properties, Jack seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Sign Violation:

Kelly asked if a sign permit application was received by Clancy of 1984 NH Route 16. The TA replied no but they had been in to town hall to get information for the application. It has not been submitted as of yet. Another letter will be written.

Meeting Time:

Jack asked Sara if she discussed with her boss if she could come in early and leave early one day a week. Sara said she cannot leave early because one of her jobs is to answer the phone and she must be available until 5:00 to do so. Jack asked what Sara suggests. Sara said she would like to meet at 5:30. Jack asked Kelly what he could do. Kelly said the latest he could meet would be 4:30 and for numerous reasons he could not do 5:30. Sara asked Joe Ferris for input. Joe asked Kelly if Lisa had a job yet. Kelly replied she has two standing offers and there is numerous reasons he cannot make a 5:30 meeting time. Jack said he really wished Sara could do something. Sara replied she could not. Jack said he could not believe the company was so hard crusted that Sara couldn't leave early. Sara said she could do 7:30 a.m. Jack replied it would be near impossible to have state people into a 7:30 a.m. meeting. Kelly said he was trying not to be the bad guy and has allowed the 5:30 meeting time for four weeks. He cannot continue. Sara said she is not going to take it personally if she is voted against. Jack said he cannot vote for 5:30. Kelly made a motion to change the Selectmen meeting time to 4:30 p.m., Jack seconded the motion. Kelly and Jack were in favor, Sara was against.

NonPublic Session RSA 91-A:3(c):

At 7:00 p.m. Sara made a motion to move into nonpublic session citing RSA 91-A:3 II (c). Kelly seconded the motion and all were in favor. Roll call was unanimous in the affirmative.

At 7:10 p.m., Sara motioned to move into public session, seconded by Jack and all were in favor.

At 7:11 p.m. it was determined that the minutes shall not be publicly disclosed. Sara motioned to seal the minutes, to not publicly disclose the minutes because it is determined that divulgence of the information will likely affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the Board. Kelly seconded the motion and all were in favor.

JR____
SYK____
KR____

At 7:15 p.m., Sara made a motion to adjourn, Kelly seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Vizard
Town Administrator

DRAFT