



Town of Hopkinton, NH

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**SELECTMEN
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY JULY 5, 2011
5:30 pm
APPROVED JULY 18, 2011**

Chairman Jim O'Brien called a regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:36 PM on Tuesday, July 5, 2011.

Present:

Jim O'Brien, Chairman
Tom Congoran, Selectman
Bryan Pellerin, Selectman
Neal Cass, Town Administrator
Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant

Absent: George Langwasser, Denis Goddard

Public present: Merle Dustin, Janet Krzyzaniak, Ken Wilkens, various seasonal campers from Sandy Beach

I. ADMINISTRATIVE

The Board approved the following:

Vendor Disbursement and Payroll Manifests
Building/Use Permit
For Review – Selectmen's Notes and Correspondence
For Signature – Petition and Pole License, Intent to Cut Map 208-25, 209-2, 210-7; Right to Bury

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Public Meeting of June 6, 2011. Selectman Pellerin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Congoran to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting of June 6, 2011.

VOTE: O'Brien, Congoran and Pellerin voting
in favor of the motion; no votes against; motion
passes; 3-0.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Non Public Meeting of June 6, 2011, Session I. Selectman Pellerin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Congoran to approve the minutes of the Non Public Meeting of June 6, 2011.

VOTE: O'Brien, Congoran and Pellerin voting
in favor of the motion; no votes against; motion

passes; 3-0.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Non Public Meeting of June 6, 2011, Session II. Selectman Congoran made a motion, seconded by Selectman Pellerin to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting of June 6, 2011, Session II.

VOTE: O'Brien, Congoran and Pellerin voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; motion passes; 3-0.

There was not a quorum available to vote on the Non Public and Public Minutes of June 20, 2011. Those minutes were tabled until the next meeting on July 18, 2011.

III. PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Don Lane appeared for his appointment. Mr. Lane informed the Board he is submitting his resignation from the Senior Recreation Council and as Vice Chair of the council.

Mr. Lane is also in to speak with the Board about the sign at Houston Fields. He states the committee has hit a wall. They currently have \$700.00 in donations for the lighting of the sign, with a promise for another \$200.00, however, that leaves them \$700.00 short. The total amount of donations received for the sign and lighting were approximately \$6,000.00. The project could be finished with conventional lighting; however, solar lighting is what the donations were made for. Mr. Lane is asking the Board to contribute to the fund. The other option would be to do nothing. Selectmen O'Brien thanked Mr. Lane for the work done so far. Selectmen Pellerin reminded the Board that Mr. Lane came before the Board several months ago and asked for a donation. At that time, Mr. Lane was asked to continue fund raising and then if they were short to come back before the Board. Selectmen Pellerin made a motion to approve funding for the remaining balance of approximately \$700.00 to finish the solar lighting for the sign at Houston Fields. Selectmen Congoran seconded the motion.

VOTE: O'Brien, Congoran and Pellerin voting in favor of the motion, no votes against; motion passes; 3-0.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Merle Dustin stated the Bandstand has been washed and painted and it looks great. She would like a letter of thanks to go out to Mr. Lewellen.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cass presented the bids for the generator. Mr. Cass also thanked Tom Yestramski for his help. The low bidder was Gemini. Mr. Yestramski stated that Gemini had sent in the wrong information. After much discussion, the Board agreed to review the bids. Mr. Yestramski asked for copies of Gemini's bid and specs. Discussion ensued with regards to having the generator and installation being separate bids.

Mr. Cass presented the bids for the Highway Roof.

Selectmen Congoran made a motion to accept the lower bidder, E. Guimond Construction, LLC for the Highway Roof. Selectmen Pellerin seconded the motion.

VOTE: O'Brien, Congoran and Pellerin voting in favor of the motion, no votes against; motion passes; 3-0.

Mr. Cass presented the Board with the 2012 Budget Schedule. He also explained it follows the same schedule as last year. A discussion ensued with regards to changing the fiscal year and the amount of work that would need to be done. Selectmen Congoran stated the Board needs to think about how it would fund such a change.

VII. PUBLIC APPOINTMENT CONTINUED

Charles Giacobbe is in along with several seasonal campers from Sandy Beach to discuss the tax bills that they received. Mr. Giacobbe read from a prepared statement (no copy of statement was given). Mr. Giacobbe spoke to the fact that the campers were blindsided by the tax. As seasonal campers, they spend money at the local business.

After Mr. Giacobbe read his statement, Chairmen O'Brien thanked him for his comments and proceeded to explain why their structures were being taxed. The porches, decks, which are attached to the trailers are permanent structures and as such are subject to tax. NH Law allows towns authority to tax all permanent structures. It has been a law for awhile however, we have only recently changed assessor and they recommended that we tax those permanent structures. The Assessor tried several time to contact Sandy Beach so that he could get in and assess those structures that were there as of April 1. The town had asked for the names of the campers, however, Sandy Beach was not forthcoming, until all the bills were put in their name and only then did they supply the town with the names and addresses. The management at Sandy Beach was aware of this in the fall of 2010.

John Martin stated recreation vehicles are not taxable as property. He further stated the Town was risking damage to local businesses, and they do not receive services. He further stated the Town should be prepared for those seasonal campers to become residents. The town needs to back off.

Sue Trembley inquired if the campers were registered, does that mean they are exempt? Mr. Cass will look into. Selectmen Pellerin stated many factors go into determining whether the structure is permanent or not. Some of those factors include a porch, decks, and fences. All factors of that type give the appearance of being permanent.

Many seasonal campers stated their names were not on the bills and therefore not their responsibility. It was also noted seasonal campers sign a contract, in which there is a clause about taxes. Some of the campers stated the bill is not the issue, but the campers are angry by the treatment of the town. One camper stated they are not allowed to use the library, fire and police do come, however, there are no road signs within the campground. Mr. Cass stated it is the campground's responsibility to put up signs.

Campers also believed that if the Town continued to tax those structures at Sandy Beach, the campers will leave and Sandy Beach will close down. There was a question to depreciation of the trailers.

Selectmen Pellerin stated he believes the town has the right to tax those permanent structures, however, he also feels that proper notice was not given to the seasonal campers. Selectmen Congoran agreed proper notice was not given. The board would like a full board present before making any decisions with regards to continuing with the tax. The Board discussed abatements.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

Horse Riding Sign-Resident on Kast Hill road would like to have a warning sign put up with regards to horseback ridings. She will purchase the sign and would like to know if the Public Works Department can put it in the ground. Selectmen Pellerin made a motion to approve the individually funded Horse Riding Sign to be installed by the Highway Department on Kast Road. Selectmen Congoran seconded the motion.

VOTE: O'Brien, Congoran and Pellerin voting in favor of the motion, no votes against; motion passes; 3-0.

Town Administrator Updates:

- Sue Strickford's retirement reception was well attended.
- A letter from Susie Reid was delivered by hand to the Town Hall today. The house at 84 Main Street, Hopkinton and was inquiring about an abatement. Mr. Cass will respond.
- Mr. Cass received an e-mail from Jan Levesque requesting a waiver from a civil forfeiture with regards to dog registration. Ms. Levesque states she use to live in Hopkinton, she then moved to Wolfboro and has since returned to Hopkinton. Her dog is not currently registered here. Selectmen O'Brien stated if the dog was registered in Wolfboro then we can waive it, however, if her dog is not registered there, then it needs to be registered her and the civil forfeiture stands.
- August 11, 2011 will be the joint school/town cookout. It was a great success last year.
- Retirement Systems rates are effective this week.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, motion by Selectman Congoran, seconded by Selectman Pellerin to adjourn the meeting. Vote 3-0 in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan
Administrative Assessing Assistant

These minutes are not official until approved by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting.