

APPROVED 07/09/2009

At 6:05 pm Gates called to order. Present were Selectmen Donald Gates Jr, Brett Hunter, and Greta St Germain; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson; and Police Chief Neal Janvrin. The meeting was held in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall.

Chief Janvrin arrived early thinking the meeting with the Teamsters Representative was early. He was advised that the 7:30 appointment with Mr Richard Laughton had been cancelled by Mr Laughton. Laughton was advised in an email exchange to contact the Town to set another appointment time.

Selectmen began reviewing the agenda and mail folder.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the minutes for 11 June 2009. Motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to approve the minutes for 11 June 2009. The vote was unanimously approved.

2. The Tax Collector is away at the races and not in her office tonight, so Carlson did not have any updates on the tax deeds. Carlson did outline the status of some of the tax issues earlier discussed and some payments that had been made. There was no information available as to actually which properties the Collector may present deeds for. This will be an agenda item for July 9th.

At 6:30 pm Sergeant Jason Larochelle came into the meeting.

3. Selectmen discussed the Personnel Policy updates and talked about work session plans. St Germain had the most recent draft of the NH LGC personnel policy and it will be copied for all to review. Selectmen will begin reviewing the Town's draft as well as the LGC Guide. A work session for an hour at the beginning of each meeting will be set aside for the policy manual.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the payroll manifest \$19,910.72 and accounts payable manifest \$59,169.59 for the current week. Hunter moved to approve the payroll manifest of \$19,910.72. St Germain seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0. Hunter then moved to approve the accounts payable manifest in the amount of \$59,169.59. St Germain seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

It is noted for the record that Board members reviewed and signed the accounts payable manifest dated June 19, 2009 in the amount of \$32,876.65 on Thursday June 18, 2009.

2. Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence.

3. Hunter moved to approve an excavation tax levy warrant for 2008-2009 on parcel 02-151.002 in the amount of \$198.08. St Germain seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

4. Selectmen reviewed a \$1M Tax Anticipation Note for signature. This generated considerable discussion about the Town's need to borrow funds, and the fact that the School had come forward with a new request after the Town had just borrowed all the funds that were indicated as needed to get the District through the summer.

Gates moved to approve the \$1M TAN with the conditions that a strong letter be sent to the SAU Office and School Board regarding this process. Hunter seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

The Town has to spend \$250 each time a new TAN is borrowed, as well as a considerable amount of staff time in preparation. The SAU Office had been in contact with the Town Treasurer and indicated that the last \$1M was enough to get the District through the month of August.

The Selectmen expressed their displeasure at the handling of this matter as three weeks ago the Town was assured that the process had been handled with the last TAN when the Town recently borrowed.

5. Selectmen reviewed an Intent to Excavate for parcel 02-151.002 for tax year 2009-2010 owned by PJP Co Inc. Motion was made to approve this Intent by Hunter. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

At 6:50 pm a motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to enter non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A: 3 II (a). The roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

At 7:05 pm motion was made by Hunter to return to public session. St Germain seconded and the vote was unanimously approved on a roll call 3-0. Motion was then made by Gates to seal indefinitely the minutes of that session. Hunter seconded and the roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

At 7:10 pm Renee King came in to the meeting with new candidate Morgan DeShaw for Parks & Recreation summer staff. Morgan was introduced to the Board and told the Board about herself.

King placed a call to Mrs Lyons and learned that Lauren Lyons would be in shortly. The board talked with her about the importance of the Town's summer program and assisting in the care and education of children for the summer.

King and DeShaw left the meeting at approximately 7:20 pm.

At 7:20 pm Chief Janvrin returned with Sgt Larchochelle and Candidate Greg Huard. Huard was introduced to Board members.

Janvrin outlined the thorough screening process used to investigate Huard's background as well as other information pertinent to his hiring. He provided information about Huard's career indicating that he was a full-time certified police officer, a DARE Instructor, field training officer, and a trained school resource officer, coming here after most recently working in Allenstown for the past seven years.

If appointed, Huard would replace the vacancy created by the recent resignation of full-time officer Christopher St Onge. Huard would be working in mid-July and be eligible for insurance benefits for August 1st.

Chief Janvrin recommended to the Board appointing Gregory Huard in follow-up to the previous conditional offer of employment now that all of the final documents are in order.

Hunter then moved to appoint Gregory Huard as a full-time police officer for the Town of Fremont based on Chief Janvrin's recommendation. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

At 7:30 pm Huard, Janvrin, and Larochelle left the meeting.

Fire Chief Richard Butler came in to the meeting at this time. He just checked in with the Board on current Department happenings. He said he had one person signed up for Firefighter I and three signed up for Firefighter II. He is having some members measured for new gear and discussed current budget matters.

10. Selectmen reviewed and approved an Intent to Cut for 2009-2010 tax year on parcels 02-148.001; 02-146.002; 02-147; and 02-144.

Guerwood Holmes came into the meeting at 8:30 pm.

St Germain began by apologizing to Holmes for the call he received from a salesman two weeks ago regarding the Town's interest in acquiring a backhoe. She said she had begun looking into the Town's purchase of a backhoe as a place where the Town might realize some savings, and that the dealers had been given explicit instruction to contact her. She said that the dealer had been overzealous in contacting the Town's Road Agent when he could not reach her. She said she was sorry the situation worked out the way it did. She had discussed this with the Board members at their June 11th meeting, but no information had yet been discussed with Holmes.

Holmes then asked if an email he sent to Carlson had been shared with the Board. It had not, and Carlson circulated it for members to read. In the email dated 12 June 2009, Holmes outlined that he had received a call from the backhoe salesman asking questions about what the Town was looking for in a backhoe. He said he had politely answered the salesman's questions but went on to say he was upset to get a phone call like that and wondered what he had done wrong. He said they charge fair prices and that someone is not happy. He asked for the whole thing to be put on the table before too many people get all upset over someone or a group, trying to ruin a good thing.

Holmes said that he could have been asked about the cost of a backhoe and shared this information with the Board instead of learning about it as he did. He said there were many things to consider in addition to the purchase price of equipment, including hiring an operator to run it, the cost of benefits, and how it would be used (or the operator's time used) on a full-time basis.

Holmes asked St Germain how long she had been in Fremont and she replied six years. Holmes said he had been in Fremont 69 years and attended his first Town Meeting at age 12. He said he had been involved in town affairs for many years and had seen many Selectmen come and go. He suggested that in a few years St Germain may also be gone.

Guerwood said there will always be a gathering of residents who don't like him or the highway department in particular, and that there has been discussion about how things should be done.

There was general conversation related to the Budget Committee's getting a highway study committee together, and it is unknown if anything other than individuals on the Budget Committee have done research in this regard.

It was suggested this research/information gathering needs to be done and used to educate people about the Town's needs, and the comparison ways things are done in other similar communities for Fremont.

Selectmen said that this research and study is not a reflection on what Holmes does for the Town, but that the Board has to be able to answer questions and provide information to taxpayers about how and why things are done as they are.

Holmes asked about the study committee that the Budget Committee was going to put together to review highway options including purchasing equipment. He said he would participate in such a committee and also suggested his brother Leon Holmes Sr knew a lot about equipment and the Town's needs, and should also be contacted.

St Germain stressed accountability and tracking the towns expenses. When asked about reducing the amount of time the backhoe is used (to save funds); Holmes said a lot of work was done thus far, and that he had a beaver problem on Karlin Road, involving a culvert yet to do; as well a water problem on North Road near the intersection of Karlin Road (near Hunter's home).

Selectmen stated that rumors are ugly and the Town needs to know what is going on day to day and how the Town spends its tax dollars. There was agreement that our roads look good and there is no debate about the work that the Highway Department does.

Carlson stepped out of the meeting at approximately 9:00 pm.

Selectmen talked with Holmes about the scope of work put together for North Road. There was discussion about the work, and Holmes said that his offer to fix the wall was to fix the small area he disturbed to its original condition, and the scope has gotten much larger than that. He said he would rather that the work go through his insurance company.

Carlson returned to the meeting at approximately 9:20 pm.

Selectmen directed Carlson to let the Miller's know about this, and to ask them for a copy of their estimate, and send both off to Guerwood's insurance carrier. The Board suggested using the original estimate from Tomasz Masonry as that was the lowest, and encompassed all of the damaged areas.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday July 9, 2009 at 6:00 pm.

It is noted for the record that the Board will meet in a non-meeting forum with legal counsel on Thursday July 16, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Hunter and seconded by Gates to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator