

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
November 18, 2008

Selectmen in attendance: Judith L. Churchard, Robert W. Frizzell, Jason A. Cole

The meeting was opened at 6:07 pm.

Selectman Cole made a motion to accept the minutes of the 10/21/08 meeting as written; Selectperson Churchard seconded and all were in favor.

Discussion:

- Selectperson Churchard spoke to town attorney, Alan Shepard, in regard to the old section of Center Rd. which serves as Kip Devoll's driveway. The question is whether the town is responsible to maintain it or not. Mr. Shepard will investigate this.
- Selectman Cole will call Mike Webb at Norton Insurance in regard to the policy change request for new Rescue equipment.
- So. Maine ATV Club – Selectperson Churchard spoke to Ed Coleman, Trail master, in regard to payment to the ATV club. The Conservation Commission sends the grant money to the town and in turn, the town pays the ATV club. Mr. Coleman was informed that before the club receives any payment, he must furnish the Treasurer, Cynthia Arroyo, with invoices for the work being done.
- Selectperson Churchard urged all attending the meeting to call Senator and Representative Nass to oppose elimination of Tree Growth Reimbursement by the State. She also urged all to get involved in School Board budget meetings.
- Selectperson Churchard asked CEO, Brian Rainaud, to shut down the old Town Office on Little River Rd. He will do it this coming weekend, 11/22.
- Laura Bragg had the Selectmen sign an appointment paper for Andrew Noyes, Junior Lieutenant on the Fire Department.

Selectperson Churchard made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:27 pm. The Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 6:31 pm.

Karen Gerrish/Paul Andrade/Sandy Fletcher/Tom Ledue: Came before the Selectmen in regard to the Selectmen's Office located at the Lebanon Elementary School. Superintendent Andrade inquired about the possibility of sharing the office with staff at LES. He explained that they would like to have access to the office for a meeting space when it's vacant. Principal Ledue and Assistant Principal Fletcher both expressed their concern that there is no place to have a private disciplinary conversation or a confidential meeting with students and/or parents in the school. They also said the town would get priority if the office was needed.

Laura Bragg, Town Clerk, expressed some facts that need to be considered: All vital records are currently stored in the safe and must remain there. The State installed a fax line for use only during elections. Two years before the Hanson School was built there was an agreement that the town would sell the land for the school at \$10.00 per acre in exchange for keeping the Selectmen's Office.

There was quite a bit of discussion with pros and cons for the use of the office and Selectperson Churchard concluded that the Selectmen and Laura would go look at the space and discuss further. Principal Ledue said he would arrange to have anything moved that needed to be.

Plowing of Elementary Schools: Road Commissioner, Ray Davis, asked Superintendent Andrade if other towns in the school district plow the elementary schools. The Superintendent said the district is responsible for the Hussey School, middle school and high school, and the towns do the elementary schools. Selectperson Churchard said it is under consideration that the town won't plow after this year. Laura Bragg suggested using a sand/salt mixture instead of just salt to save money. Superintendent Andrade said they would try this and re-evaluate in one year.

Department Head Meeting: Selectperson Churchard explained the guidelines for creating department budgets.

- Department heads are responsible for their budgets and must stay within the budget. If they start running out of money then they need to stop spending.
- A sample budget was handed out.
- Budgets cannot increase from last year.
- Will cut money in the budgets on an individual basis.
- There will be no more revenue and surplus in the budgets. All revenue and surplus will go into the Town budget.
- The auditors want budget referendums written with actual amounts and not X amount of dollars plus revenues.

Selectperson Churchard said in order for the tax rate to drop by \$1.00, a cut of \$500,000.00 needs to be made in the budgets.

Laura Bragg – Town Clerk: Spoke to Senator Richard Nass in regard to URIP money. He will find out if the town is still going to get it.

Tom Cravens – EMA: Nothing to report. Selectperson Churchard said approximately \$51,000 has been received from FEMA for the August storm. There is an EMA meeting at the Town Office on Monday, 11/24 at 6:00 pm with Bob Bohlman from MEMA.

Kim Anderson – Librarian: Working with Steve Endsley to put new pages on the redesigned Town website. Kim needs a way to track books when someone else is working at the library. At the present time there is one family who has 80 books out and there is no way to find out which books they are. The program she is looking at has a capacity for 5,000 books and the library now has 2,500. The program will cost approximately \$700.00.

Cynthia Arroyo – Treasurer:

- Picked up 25 weatherization kits from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension which are at the Town Office for residents to take if needed. As of today, there are 6 kits left. Cindy will try to get 15 more.
- Preparing foreclosure paperwork to go to Karen Smith. There are 50 foreclosures so far.
- General Assistance has been busy.
- Working on detail reports with Selectperson Churchard to distribute for budgets.

Laura Bragg – Town Clerk:

- The November election was the biggest we've ever had – 2,911 voters, 722 absentee ballots. There was a recount for Rick Burns and Richard Nass – Richard Nass kept his position as Senator with 50 more votes than Rick Burns.
- Thanksgiving baskets are being put together.
- Dog licenses are due.
- The storage facility is being moved from its present location at Goulet's to the Road Commissioner's old office. This move should save approximately \$1,000 per year in rental fees.
- The Christmas luncheon will be on Thursday, 12/18 for all town departments. Laura will send a letter to Department Heads.
- The State is talking about early voting which would reduce the number of absentee ballots.

Samantha Cole – Rescue Chief:

- Sharing the Rescue office with the Sheriff's Dept. The Sheriff's Dept. brought in their own equipment and upgraded some of the equipment in the Rescue office.
- They applied for a small grant to do CPR training in the schools at no cost.
- Defibrillators are installed at the schools and training has taken place.

Ray Davis – Road Commissioner:

- The shoulders are done and FEMA will come to inspect.
- August storm inspections are all complete.
- Need to get road tracking done. This will give a history of each road and what work was done.
- We cannot get any grants for No. Rochester Rd. because there is no cost history.

Jane Gerrish – Tax Collector:

- She heard lots of positive comments about Election Day and how things were run.
- Handed out a summary of taxes owed/paid to the Selectmen. \$2.4 million has been received; \$3.2 million is still owed.

Christine Torno – Excise Tax Collector:

- Rapid Renewal is up and running and has gotten some activity. This service is convenient for the public and saves \$1.00 on the fee by going online to register. It does, however, require a lot more reporting on Christine's part.
- Credit Cards – The customer is charged 2.95% on their bill for any purchase over \$69.00. VISA does not agree with this charge on anything unless it is payment for property taxes, so we do not accept VISA for any other type of payment.
- Mitten trees have been put in both schools and quite a few donations have been received.
- Rec. Dept. – Line dancing is going very well with about 30 people attending every week. The program ends 12/4 and will start again sometime in January.
- Teen Garden – Students from Noble H.S. needing community service were recruited to plant a perennial garden at the Town Office this fall. The project was 90% completed and a few more things will be planted in the spring. Nancy Wyman said the Garden Club will be happy to make a donation to the garden. Christine and Sue Collins put berries and greens in the planters in front of the office.

Ethel Lizotte – 911 Coordinator: Has assigned numbers to a few new homes, otherwise things are pretty quiet. She is also updating her 911 address list.

Ron Patch – Transfer Station:

- He was invited to the Lebanon Elementary School to give a speech on recycling. The students will make posters to put up at the Transfer Station. Papers were sent home with the kids to encourage parents to recycle.
- Revenues will probably be down because the price of iron has gone down.
- Ron gave a proposal to Selectman Frizzell suggesting that instead of charging residents to dispose of items which are normally charged \$2.00 to \$5.00, eliminate the Free Day. Items that would still carry a charge are sheetrock, shingles, tires and anything containing Freon.
- He would like to meet with the Selectmen to discuss the Transfer Station pass problem.
- Laura Bragg said that as a way to track revenues the Transfer Station should have numbered receipts and the receipt should be included with money turned in to the Treasurer.

Brian Rainaud – CEO:

- Three building permits for new construction issued and a few mobile home replacements.
- There is an issue on Indian Lake Drive with a resident cutting trees on his property too close to the water. Zeke is trying to mediate with Burke's Tree Service and the homeowner.
- He has sent letters to several people in regard to junk cars.
- Zeke is working on code issues more than new construction.
- Laura asked about the lot next to the Town Office and what the status is. He said the paperwork was given to Leon Blood who in turn will give to an engineer to draw up a plan for a walking path, parking area and fire pond.

Nancy Wyman – Planning Board Chairman: The Planning Board has not been too busy. Nancy will discuss the new budget with other members of the board.

Skip Wood – Fire Chief: Third graders from the Hanson School made posters for Fire Prevention month. The winner received a ride home from school in the fire truck. There have been a lot of requests for Toys for Tots.

Selectperson Churchard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm; Selectman Cole seconded and all were in favor.