

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of September 27, 2010
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order in the Selectmen's Office of the Town Hall at 6:30 pm by Chairman Mark Heitz. Also in attendance were Board members Peter Broderick and Charles Hart.

Non-Public Session

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Broderick and second of Selectman Hart, it was unanimously voted to adjourn to non-public session under the provisions of N. H. RSA 91-A:3, II-c. The Board adjourned at 6:30 pm.

The Board returned to public session at 7:10 pm.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Broderick and second of Selectman Hart, it was unanimously voted to seal the minutes of the non-public session indefinitely.

Police Department Discussion

Police Chief Donald Briggs discussed with the Board his proposed amendments for the 2011 Capital Improvements Plan. The Planning Board has requested that all departments review their proposals with the Selectmen prior to presenting them to the Capital Improvements Committee.

Conservation Commission Discussion

Ernest Landry of FOKOS, and Alicia Robinson, Conservation Commission Chairman, discussed with the Board their proposal to reserve \$63,300 in the Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Landry noted that an additional 900 acres will need to be protected in order to attain the goal of the town's Master Plan to preserve or protect 25% of the town's land area. It's expected, as an estimate, that 5% of that land may be donated; 25% may be protected as a condition of land development; 38% may be acquired through grant opportunities, and the remainder will be purchased or protected through compensated easements. At a cost of \$5,700 to \$6,000 per acre, it's estimated that an additional \$1.2M (over and above the present fund balance of \$737,000) will need to be raised over the next 20 years. He noted that the amount is a moving target.

Mr. Landry also asked the Board's opinion of the means by which the acreage of the property to be conserved should be reached. He noted that the 25% figure is based at present on the state's figures of 19.9 square miles of land area with the 1.2 square miles of inland water areas excluded from the equation. Some of the properties listed as being conserved contain a portion of the inland water area (notably the newly conserved Tucker Property with extensive wetlands). Ms. Robinson noted the importance of conserving wetlands as well as upland areas. It was agreed that the presence of water bodies on the preserved parcels may need to be backed out of the totals figure at some point in order to comply with the Master Plan's goals.

Fire Department Discussion

Fire Chief Bill Seaman, Fire Wards Kent Walker, Kevin Schea and John Merrill, and Deputy Chief Marty Conlon were present to advise the Board that the Department's 1990 Utility Truck will require \$2,000 to \$3,000 in repairs in order to pass inspection. The truck has only 35,000 miles on it, but because it isn't used often there is a substantial rust problem. Mr. Merrill advised that the Fire Wards don't believe the vehicle is worth spending \$3,000 on so they have been considering several options. One is the purchase of a new vehicle at an estimated cost of \$30,000, which could be withdrawn from the Capital Reserve Fund with voter approval and would be used for inspections as well as for the uses covered by the present utility truck. Another would be to take over the former Road Agent's vehicle. The main uses to which the utility truck is put include transport of personnel, retrieval of hose following a fire, towing, and transport of the ice rescue sled, and the Road Agent's truck would be well suited to all of those purposes. Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire advised that he has been using his former truck as a highway utility vehicle and will continue to use it in that capacity until the new F450 dump truck

becomes available later this year. A third option would be to take over the Police Department SUV if they intend to replace it, which would allow its use both as the Chief's Vehicle and as the utility vehicle. That option would free up the present Chief's vehicle - a Crown Vic that probably has another two or three years of use remaining - for use as the inspector's vehicle. Mr. Heitz advised that he doesn't think the Police Department is considering replacement of the SUV at present. Selectman Broderick noted that, although he understands the need for a utility vehicle, the present forestry truck was purchased with the understanding that the utility truck wouldn't be replaced when it was no longer useable. He offered to discuss with Chief Briggs whether there is the intent to replace the SUV next year and to get back to Chief Seaman with his findings. Chief Seaman asked Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire whether he might be granted access to the former Road Agent's vehicle after hours in the event of an emergency. Mr. St. Hilaire advised that he will arrange that.

The Department then discussed with the Board the deteriorating condition and access problems at some of the fire ponds. Chief Seaman provided pictures of the fire pond that serves the Madison Avenue area, which he says is by far in the most serious condition. Trees, brush and debris have made the pond totally inaccessible and the pond banks are so eroded that his pumper picked up only mud the last time they had to use the pond. He advised that there are several ponds needing attention, including replacement of the pipes in some. The present pipes require adaptors to fit the town's hoses. New pipes would be 6" PVC standpipes. The Department also would like regular maintenance on the ponds to which the town holds easements, so that there will be access and a clear water supply when needed. There will need to be some funding mechanism. Selectmen agreed that the annual cost probably should be included in the public works budget. Chairman Heitz requested that Chief Seaman and Mr. St. Hilaire develop a listing of the ponds that require attention so that an initial budget line amount can be determined. Mr. St. Hilaire advised that fire pond maintenance represents an additional burden both for his budget and for his personnel and asked that the Selectmen take note that yet another responsibility has shifted to his department.

Chief Seaman then advised that School Board Chairman Kurt Baitz had spoken with the Historic District Commission concerning the demolition by controlled training burn of the Gilmore Cottage on the School District's Main Street property. The Commission initially had accepted that the cottage was to be burned, however they subsequently raised the question of lead paint and contacted the Department of Environmental Services concerning the proposed burn. The Air Resources Division is in the process of determining risk, and the School District has hired a private firm to come in for an evaluation. It's expected that Bill Timmons will have a monitor on site to measure levels of lead during the burn for the protection both of the trainees and the surrounding area's residents.

Highway Department Updates

Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire noted that he was submitting a purchase order for the Recreation Building to cover the kitchen, bathrooms, and heating and alarm systems. He advised the Board that he continues to think that overall cost could reach nearly \$100,000.00.

Mr. St. Hilaire advised that he has no additions to the Capital Improvements Plan over what was submitted last year for his department.

Mr. St. Hilaire advised that, due to the size of the project for the Great Pond Channel and Mill Road Outlet, the grant application initially submitted to the State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management will have to be submitted directly to another agency of FEMA. He advised that he feels the application still will have a good chance of approval.

Old Business

Selectman Broderick reported that he had visited the town property at 19 Sixth Street and agrees that the building presents a hazard and should be demolished. The town will arrange for it to be crushed in the spring of 2011.

The Board is awaiting an opinion from Town Counsel about steps to be taken concerning a town property on Towle Road.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion of Chairman Heitz and second of Selectman Hart, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the September 20, 2010 meeting with the following amendment: on Page 1, under the heading

"Highway Department Updates", the first paragraph - delete the words, "offer Portsmouth Ford the opportunity to match the specs of the Grappone truck and, if that's not possible,".

Correspondence / Review of Documents

The Board reviewed a notice from Exeter Hospital advising that they no longer will be affiliated with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Chairman Heitz noted that employees will have the option to change their coverage to Matthew Thornton.

The Board reviewed the resignation of Robert Grier from the Board of Library Trustees. Mr. Grier had been elected in March of 2010 to a two-year term.

The Board reviewed the notification of the Radiological Emergency Response Program allocation for 2011. Copies will be provided to Emergency Management Directors Richard St. Hilaire, Don Briggs and Bill Seaman.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm and the Selectmen retired to address administrative duties.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Grant
Administrative Assistant