

MINUTES

Selectmen's Meeting

August 6, 2018

Town Hall

6:30 PM

ATTENDEES

David Stickney

Leo Enos

Leon Rideout

Ed Samson

Alan Savage

Don Williams

Michael Nadeau

Tara Giles

Lucy Wyman arrived late. Patrick Hackett arrived at the close of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Leo Enos.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE

OLD BUSINESS

1. Review and approval of July 16, 2018 Selectmen's meeting minutes.

Motion was made by L Enos and seconded by D Stickney to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2018 meeting.

Motion carried.

2. Department Head Update – none
3. Sign various paperwork

- Appointments – Tanya Batchelder as Inspector of Elections Republican Party; Mario Audit and Maxwell Hodgedon as Part Time Police Officers (have served before).
- Fireworks Permit – Paul Hoffman for one evening between 8/9 and 8/17. Has been reviewed and approved by Fire Chief and Police Chief.
- Land Use Change Tax – putting land subdivided and conveyed to Eli Vincent by his grandfather Henry Ryder back into original parcel.
- Intent to Cut – property located on tax map R15, Lot 37 (5.36 acres) and Lot 38 (6.78 acres). Property owner Janet Savage, Forester is Forrest Hicks. Total cut 12.14 acres.
- Solar Exemption Application – David Pitre, 42 Reed Road. Property qualifies for solar exemption.
- Federal and State Forest Land Reimbursement Form – this is an annual thing. North Region Headquarters, R01, Lot 028 & 029, 12.60 acres valued at \$249,500; Weeks State Park, R23, Lot 001 & 001, 425 acres valued at \$490,300; White Mountain National Forest, R01, Lot 001 & R20, Lot 001, 1601 acres valued at \$674,600. These are the current net assessed valuations.
- Abatements – Roy and Mary Goulet, 298 Rogers Campground Road, they no longer have a camper there, abatement is \$75.00; Colin Christie, 109 Gore Road, building only, building he was taxed on is no longer his and should be added to Alden's land parcel, abatement is \$28.00.

APPOINTMENTS

Lucy Wyman re: Trees in Cemetery

Ms Wyman stated that she was present to discuss the trees in Wilder Cemetery. Jeff Gilman, GMS Insurance, brought his concern about the trees to the town office. The selectmen brought that concern to a Cemetery Trustee meeting. A vote was taken to remove the bank of trees (20+) bordering GMS. Ms Wyman said that since that meeting she hired Peter Hoag, Arborist from Tamworth, NH, to inspect the trees in Wilder Cemetery and he tagged and numbered the trees in the cemetery and has assessed the healthy ones. He has marked 5 to be removed. She said that the cemetery sets on land that is all sand. Ms Wyman said that there is a real concern for erosion when trees are removed.

Ms Wyman stated that she had contacted the NH Municipal Association regarding the liability issue as GMS has brought their concerns to the Town regarding the trees. She read to the board the response she received from the NH Municipal Assoc.

Ms Wyman noted that the Cemetery Committee needs to establish a perpetual care plan for Wilder Cemetery.

There is a quote for the removal of trees from Classens Tree Service of Thornton, NH. Ms Wyman also noted that the Garland Mill has been contacted about taking the trees for the mill perhaps reducing the cost. She said the Southworths prefer to deal directly with Classens.

L Rideout noted that taking out certain trees will put the other trees at risk during storms. Ms Wyman said that the arborist has taken that into consideration.

Ms Wyman questioned how the town would pay for the initial tree removal and for the annual pruning and tree removal if necessary. The cemetery has been ignored for many years.

E Samson stated that by taking only the outer trees it limits the strength in the remaining trees especially the white pine. He said another huge risk is by the ballfield. Colonel Town has a plan to remove the grandstand, rebuild the playground and create a picnic area. The trees could put this plan at risk. Mr Samson said that the cemetery has not been taken care of, things have been left to deteriorate which makes catch up expensive. He said that grave stones are in bad shape (broken and/or fallen over). Mr Samson said that Faith Kent created the most accurate diagram and description of all the graves in Wilder Cemetery and that document is at Weeks Library.

It was noted that a member of the Methodist Church voiced a concern about the new growth infringing on the church. Ms Wyman stated that the pines and birch by the Methodist Church is a long term plan – thinning things out.

Ms Wyman stated that removing a lot of trees in one spot will destabilize the integrity of the cemetery. Her suggestion is to do a little at a time.

It was explained that the Cemetery Trustees voted to remove all the trees that are problematic. There was discussion regarding whether or not there could be a new vote. Ms Wyman asked the Municipal Assoc and there can be a new vote. She would like to rescind the original vote and vote again. The trustees will meet on Wednesday to decide.

L Rideout said the selectmen will need to know ASAP what is needed. He asked for an update at the next meeting. He urged the trustees to keep moving forward.

Ms Wyman had two other issues to bring before the selectmen not related to the town cemeteries.

- Plans for Municipal projects on wall at town hall. She noted that this has been done in other towns/cities. Architectural drawings of what the town will look like when project is completed.
- How to get word out to public. She suggested live streaming selectmen’s meetings. She said this is done in Gorham and Campton and is quite expensive. She said that she contacted Jeremy Noyes, IT person for WMRSD. WMRSD live streams the school board meetings. Mr Noyes informed her that it can be done inexpensively. He provided her with a description on how it can be done which was along to the selectmen. There was concern that people might not be as willing to participate in meetings if they were live streamed.

L Rideout thanked Ms Wyman for her input.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Water and Sewer rate changes – motion and vote.

This was discussed at a previous meeting however minutes never reflected a motion and vote.

Moved by D Stickney and seconded by L Enos to approve the new base fees for water/sewer units as follows:

- Bond payment is \$79,000 twice a year with 60% or \$47,400 from sewer and 40% or \$31,600 from water.
- New base fees for water (increase of \$30 per unit) - \$110 Residential, \$180 Commercial, \$230 Residential flat rate, \$280 Commercial flat rate.
- New base fees for sewer (increase of \$45 per unit) - \$125 Residential, \$195 Commercial, \$245 Residential flat rate, \$295 Commercial flat rate.

L Rideout stated his opposition to the motion. He said he feels that the increased penalizes the elderly etc.

Motion carried – 2 yes, 1 no.

OTHER BUSINESS

L Enos asked about extending the ATV routes on Route 2 from the green bridge to the Cabot and on Route 3 from Northwoods Manufacturing to Dalton Mountain Motor Sports.

L Rideout said that it can be considered but there will have to be a public hearing.

A Savage noted that the main roadways were supposed to be interconnectors to the trails only. He said the ATV groups should be working on the trails.

A Savage asked about the bidding process for winter sand. He noted that the bid specs make Carroll Concrete the only eligible bidder. He disagreed that washed sand was the best way to go. He noted that it was not a competitive bid process.

Moved by D Stickney and seconded by L Enos to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried – meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Oleson

Signed/Date: _____

Leon Rideout

David Stickney

Leo Enos

Board of Selectmen