

Minutes
Nottingham Selectmen's Meeting
October 5, 2015

6:30 PM Chair Bonser opened the meeting and asked all those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Mary Bonser, Donna Danis and Mark Carpenter

Others: Town Administrator Chris Sterndale, Secretary Dawn Calley-Murdough, Jim Robinson

MANIFEST SIGNATURE:

Motion: by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Carpenter to approve the September 28, 2015 accounts payable and September 29, 2015 payroll manifests.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

OUTSTANDING MINUTES:

Motion: Mr. Carpenter, second Ms. Danis to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2015 meeting as amended.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

SELECTMEN BOARD/COMMITTEE/LIASON REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Ms. Danis reported committee members attended the NHMA Budget Workshops and reviewed the information they received. There was minimal new information presented.

Planning Board: Ms. Danis reported the public hearing for the sub-division regulations updates to the Zoning Ordinances took place on September 23rd. There were a few questions, specifically from the Conservation Commission to make sure they have the ability to review plans before they were approved. Mr. Colby explained which departments and boards/committees would be able to review the plans for comment before approval. Checklists and forms are being created to identify which groups will need to see different types of plans, in addition to a sign-off sheet indicating their review has been completed. Mr. Carpenter thought it was part of the previous process and Chair Bonser stated the Fire Department should also review some plans.

Ms. Danis reported the other comments were grammatical in nature and the Board approved the updates unanimously.

The Planning Board Secretary has contacted an individual for an estimate on the cost of completing a study/review of the impact fees and process and whether or not the Town should continue the collection of impact fees.

Mr. Carpenter stated it might be helpful for the Planning Board to know what, if other surrounding towns collect impact fees and if so, the amounts and distribution percentages.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR/DEPARTMENT REPORTS, MAIL & SIGN ITEMS:

Fire: A fire exercise will take place on Saturday, October 10th on Rogier Place (off North River Lake); the road will be closed and residents should not be worried. The department's annual open house will be on Saturday, October 17th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Senator Ayottes: Staff from the Senators office will be available on October 13th to hear questions and concerns from citizens.

Flu Shots: A flu shot clinic will be held on Thursday, October 15th from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.

Administration: The Town is looking for an individual interested in being hired to shovel snow at both the Community Center/Town Offices and the Library during the winter months. The

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Town also needs a general handy man if anyone has general building maintenance experience, for items such as repairing/installing gutters, vents, etc. Any one interested should contact the Town Administrator.

Highway: A broken axle on the grader will need to be repaired.

Financial/Budget: The Selectmen signed the NH Department of Revenue Administration form, MS-535 Financial Report of the Town. The data was previously submitted to the DRA in mid-September and only signatures were needed.

Mr. Sterndale reported Avitar suggested \$150,000.00 for the overlay, higher than in the past few years because it is a revaluation year and possible settlement of the Fairpoint valuation appeal, but the Selectmen can choose another amount. Mr. Sterndale also asked the Selectmen to consider using any of the fund balance to help offset the 2015 tax rate.

Mr. Carpenter asked about the historically amount set for the overlay with prior revaluations and a historical comparison of the overlay amount and what has actually been used for abatement payments. Ms. Danis asked if there was a maximum amount the Town wanted to keep in the fund balance.

It was stated the Town currently is close to \$1.3 million in the fund balance and the recommended percentage is 8% to 17%; the Town was a little over 8% during the prior year budget setting. The Selectmen could choose to deposit the excess 2015 revenues which would bring the town closer to 10%. Mr. Sterndale would try to gather the historical comparison of overlay and amount used of the overlay.

Chair Bonser stated the Selectmen have usually made the decision about using any of the fund balance to off set the tax rate once the preliminary rate is received.

Mr. Sterndale reported information is still needed from the school before the tax rate is set, but it should be soon.

Pole License: Mr. Sterndale presented a pole license for Selectmen signature.

Mr. Sterndale also reviewed that based on received legal advice and request of the Assessing Coordinator the Selectmen will hold a public hearing next month to revise the pole license form, to include new and additional data/information requests on the form for assessing purposes; this change is, in part, a response to the current appeal by Fairpoint.

Motion: by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Carpenter to allow PSNH dba Eversource Energy be granted a license to erect and maintain poles and structures, with wires, cables, conduits and devices thereon, together with sustaining, strengthening and protecting fixtures, in the public ways at 83/32S Garland Road in Nottingham.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Sterndale stated he would provide the Selectmen with the information about the legal recommendations and the form changes to prepare them for the hearing.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:00 pm: Jim Robinson – Paving Gile Road: Selectman Carpenter recused himself as he lives on the road in question.

Mr. Robinson presented his citizen petition to pave the remaining 1.5 miles on Gile Road for the Selectmen to review; which may become a citizen warrant article. Chair Bonser read the petition into the record.

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Mr. Robinson explained the reason for the petition, providing written and photograph information. The petition was submitted in accordance to the Nottingham Subdivision Regulations, Article 9, Section 7.1. The intent is to minimize dust, erosion, and run-off conditions that might effect abutting or neighboring properties. Paving Gile Road could also improve aesthetics, reduce dust, prevent washboards and washouts, helping to reduce the loss of time and money on home and vehicle maintenance. It may also accommodate safe access to residential properties, ease access for school buses, US Mail/parcel delivery services, pedestrians, bicyclists, children, disabled, elderly and emergency services. It could also improve usability in an inclement weather event and reduce the likelihood of flooding while serving as an emergency thoroughway for Route 152.

Ms. Danis asked why only a portion of the road was paved. Mr. Robinson stated he was originally told it was dirt because it is a scenic road, but there are other scenic roads that are paved.

Chair Bonser stated she wanted to discuss the matter with the Road Agent before making a decision.

Mr. Robinson stated his personal business is also impacted by this issue, as his shop is located at his home. The increased dust at the corner of the road has caused damage to the equipment he works with and instruments he works on, causing a potential loss of income.

Mr. Carpenter stated he would not give his opinion so as to maintain integrity of the process, but asked the other Selectmen to consider some objective input: the request should not be incremental to the budget, at most it should be prioritized as part of the existing Highway Construction/Reconstruction Budget. with the exception of encroaching onto the private property which should be handled separately. Consider whether a paved or dirt road is safer for the school buses, because it may cause additional traffic and increased speeders versus paved roads are likely safer to traverse for busses. Consider that Gile Road is the contingency road allowing transportation from north of town to south of town when Rte 152 floods. Mr. Carpenter stated the decision should not be made based on increased personal vehicle maintenance issues as the dirt road was accepted by residents at time of purchase and tax rates for land are slightly lower than land accessible by paved roads. Finally, the two Selectmen have three possible options in response to the request: to do nothing, to plan for paving as part of the CIP and regular road construction, or consider paving a smaller portion of the road near the corner and Mr. Robinson's property which is directly at the corner of Gile Road and Route 152.

Mr. Robinson stated he has discussed the possible paving of the road with the Road Agent and it appears a lot of the base work has already taken place for possible paving, except for the drainage. The road has used significantly more now than in prior years; the road has been widened and dust seems much more of an issue since the last flood.

The Selectmen decided they would schedule a meeting with the Road Agent, and provide an answer as soon as they can.

Mr. Carpenter re-joined the Selectmen.

7:15 pm: Parking Ordinance Hearing: Chair Bonser opened the hearing and reviewed the reasons for considering a change to the parking ordinance and read the proposed ordinance into the record.

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No public citizens were present to make comments. Chair Bonser closed the public comment portion of the hearing.

The Selectmen discussed the fine amount, fine process, enforcement of payment of the fine, signage, the consideration of towing illegally parked vehicles, posted signage, and additional wording changes to determine how rigid the enforcement should be.

The Selectmen determined if they wanted to change the amount of the fine it would require an additional hearing and it could mean an increase in all parking fines.

Mr. Sterndale reported the fine amount hasn't changed but it can be if the Selectmen want, non-payment of or objection to the fine would need to be determined but typically is through the court system or the DMV, there is a difference in violations between prohibiting parking and permit parking and it may not include towing of a vehicle, and towing would be applicable in certain situations.

Mr. Carpenter stated he would like to know how the sign will read so that the ordinance will read as more firm than a suggestion. Ms. Danis and Chair Bonser wanted to consider the change and see how it affects the situation.

The Selectmen agreed to see how the updated ordinance and monitoring/issuing of tickets would work in the next year and asked citizens using the beach to let the Town know how and if the new process and signage is working. The Selectmen also agreed to have signage created to identify that permits are required and towing is possible.

Motion: Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Carpenter to adopt the new ordinance to prohibit parking on public ways where signs are erected, as read by the Chair, effective upon signature of the Selectmen.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Chairman Bonser closed the public hearing.

Motion: by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Carpenter to hereby designate the town beach access road and parking area as "Permit Parking Only." All vehicles must display a current Nottingham Municipal Services sticker or be subject to ticketing.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Recycle Center Hours: Mr. Sterndale reviewed there does not appear to be a specific reason for choosing the months the Recycling Center is open for Summer Hours and Winter Hours. In addition to center staff asking why they are open late without having customers. Mr. Sterndale asked to shorten the Summer Hour season and try to connect the dates that could be more easily remembered.

After discussion the Selectmen decided Summer Hours would take place from May 1st through September 30th, starting in 2016. Winter Hours will take place from October 1st through April 30th.

Mr. Carpenter asked to have the other Selectmen review the article written by Kathy Cinfo about the swap shop and Mr. Sterndale stated he would give them a copy. The article would run in the next Nottingham Newsletter.

Sale of Town Property: Mr. Sterndale reported the information wasn't received today but may be presented at the next meeting.

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Town Website: Mr. Sterndale reported he would provide the Selectmen with information about proposed changes to the town website

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business,

7:39 PM Motion: by Chair Bonser, second by Mr. Carpenter to adjourn.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Calley-Murdough