

**Town of Tamworth  
Selectmen's Meeting  
December 13, 2007**

**Selectmen Present:** Chairman William Farnum, Tom Abugelis and John Roberts

**Meeting Convened:** 5:06 pm

**Town Employees Present:** Administrative Assistant Cassandra Pearce, Chief Dan Poirier, Road Agent Bruce Robinson, Recording Secretary Linda Jones

**Department Head Updates**

*Police Department*—Chief Poirier reported everything was going fine and asked to move into nonpublic session on a personnel matter.

*Willie moved to enter non-public session under RSA 91 A: 3 II A & C at 5:07 pm; John seconded; unanimously approved.*

*At 5:16 pm the meeting returned to public session.*

**Public Comment**

Donald Pepin opened public comment by asking a question about the tax rate and varying degrees of changes in 2003 to 2004 in the school rate when Tamworth went to 100 percent valuation. During the discussion about the tax rate and the School District impact on the taxes, Tom handed out the sheet he received at the school committee meeting he recently attended. The handout was a result of the citizen's advocacy committee study headed by John Cleveland and was a summary of budget observations about the School district over the last five years. Tom asked Dave Farley to comment on the sheet and the school's proposed 2008 budget.

Pat Farley asked if the list of people on the various Town committees and boards could be posted on the website.

Pat Farley asked what the break-even point would be if a department under-budgeted for the year and a special town meeting had to be called to approve a higher appropriation. Willie said he would try to find out what the cost of a special meeting would be.

**McConarty Property**

Stephen McConarty reported Irene Garvey could not make the meeting because of the weather. Bryan Berlind, chair of the conservation commission, outlined Mr. McConarty's proposal to give the Town a 14-acre conservation easement. John Mersfelder from the conservation commission spoke about the 300-foot setback from Bearcamp River; Mr. McConarty is not willing to include this in the easement that he is willing to give to the town. Mr. McConarty realizes that he will have to pay the costs of this transfer. The wetlands board has approved the driveway; the

driveway is through part of the easement. Mr. Mersfelder said this piece is a building block toward expanding the conservation zone. The Board encouraged the conservation commission and Mr. McConarty to pursue the matter further. Mr. Mersfelder reminded Mr. McConarty there will have to be a public hearing after the survey and paperwork is completed.

Cassandra asked Bryan about the conservation commission's warrant for the 2008 Town meeting. He and Mr. Mersfelder explained the money raised through the warrant would be used to build stewardship fees to defend easements. The monitoring of easements is currently being handled on a volunteer basis.

Bryan brought up a 103-acre tract of land opposite current easement land near Lord's Road that is owned by Cersosimo Lumber Company. They have approached the conservation commission about selling the land to the Town. Bryan and Mr. Mersfelder both spoke about the pros and cons to the piece of land and outlined the proposal made by Cersosimo. Since the land is in current use, the loss of tax money would only be about \$240 if the Town owned the land. *Willie made a motion to have the conservation commission investigate the offer further and bring their findings back to the board; John seconded; the motion passed with Willie and John voting aye and Tom voting nay.*

### **Committee Updates**

The capital improvement program (CIP) committee and the ordinance review committee have not met since the last Board meeting, so there is nothing to report. Tom reported on the school meeting under public comment in the minutes. Tom reported the planning board finalized their 2008 budget at the last meeting and is reviewing the draft policy on procedures for appointed committees.

Pat Farley asked if the Board talked about the status of the Chocorua Village Project before she arrived and Tom Abugelis recused himself from the meeting at 6:30 pm. Willie and Cassandra briefed that Faye, Spofford and Thorndike (FST) are waiting for the wetlands permit to be received from the state before the bid package goes out. There are six packages ahead of us waiting for review. January 22, 2008 is the target date to go out to bid. Tom returned to the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Bruce Robinson arrived at 6:36 pm to report on the status of the highway department. He had been working on the grader most of the day so it would be available for the storm. Most of the work is a result of age, not from the accident.

### **Administrative Matters**

Minutes from the December 5, 2007 meeting were presented; *John moved to accept the minutes as presented; Tom seconded; unanimously approved.*

Minutes from the December 6, 2007 2:30 and 7:30 pm meetings were presented; *John moved to accept the minutes as presented; Tom seconded; unanimously approved.*

Minutes from the December 6, 2007 nonpublic meeting were presented; *John moved to accept the minutes as presented; Tom seconded; unanimously approved.*

Minutes from the December 6, 2007 5 pm meeting were presented; *John moved to accept the minutes as presented; Tom seconded; unanimously approved.*

A tax abatement request for Map 217, Lot 50 was presented; *John moved to approve; Tom seconded; unanimously approved.*

A tax abatement request for Map 216, Lot 20 was presented; *John moved to approve; Tom seconded; unanimously approved.*

A 2007 equalization certificate for 2007 sales analysis was presented for approval; *John moved to approve the certificate; Tom seconded; Willie asked how many sales qualified. Cassandra reported 62 out of 115 qualified, due to family sales, trust to trust or not-at-arms-length transfers and foreclosures; the amount remained high, but sales coming in now are reflecting a different market. Unanimously approved.*

The office received a request for the 2008 Farmer's Market directory; Willie volunteered to give it to Bob Streeter and Peg Loughran.

Joel Clement, the Town data processing technician, came in to talk about the back up process for the Town's data and the replacement plan for aging computers. Discussion followed about various methods of backing up data, a computer replacement policy and the costs associated with each. *John made a motion to purchase a new server for the town office not to exceed \$3500; Willie seconded; motion passed with John and Willie voting aye; Tom voted nay.*

The Board discussed a potential contract for the Town House floor and encumbering the \$10,000 in the 2007 budget toward the contract. The Board would like to meet with Parker Roberts about the contract at the December 20, 2007 meeting.

The Board meeting for December 27, 2007 was cancelled; some of the Selectmen will be attending a meeting in Concord that day.

The policy on fraud was developed and wording was discussed. *Tom moved to accept the Town's policy on fraud as edited; John seconded; Willie asked if they should have a public hearing on it or an open discussion period? The Board has the authority to set this policy, so the effective date will be January 1, 2008 and Cassandra will have the final draft available at the December 20, 2007 meeting; unanimously approved.*

Discussion on the Town's purchasing policy was moved to the December 20, 2007 meeting.

The Board decided to meet at 3 pm on December 20, 2007 since that will be their last meeting for the calendar year. The first business will be a non-public session on personnel matters. Second will be the fraud and purchasing policies.

*Willie moved to re-enter non-public session about a personnel matter under RSA 91 A: 3 II A & C at 7:41 pm; John seconded; unanimously approved.*

*The Board returned to public session at 8:16 pm.*

*There being no further business to discuss, John moved to adjourn at 8:20 pm; Tom seconded; unanimously approved.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda K. Jones  
Finance Administrator

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William Farnum, Selectmen Chair

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John Roberts, Selectmen

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Tom Abugelis, Selectmen