

**Town of Tamworth
Selectmen's Meeting
December 6, 2007**

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

Meeting Convened: 5:00 pm

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

Department Head Updates

Police Department—Chief Poirier passed out statistics for November. Since Chief Poirier is the acting Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) director for the Town, Tom asked if he would coordinate with Pine Tree Power on winter outages and what support they can offer. Chief Poirier commented during the first storm a lot of people were plowing the snow from their driveways into the roads, which makes it very dangerous for drivers and the road crews. This is a poor practice and people need to be considerate and not plow into the roads.

Highway Department—Bruce Robinson reported on the clean up after the snowstorm. The grader went off the road on Pease Hill, but we were fortunate no one was hurt.

As the health officer, John asked the Board's permission to give his \$500 salary to Dan to cover the gasoline expense for the next few weeks. *Willie moved to transfer the money from the health officer to the police department; Tom seconded; motion passed with Willie and Tom voting aye; John abstained.*

Public Comment

Pat Farley thanked Willie for putting the no school announcement on the Town website. She asked about putting a link to the WMUR website. She also recommended putting an announcement on the Exchange to let people know when the link is put there.

Willie asked Bruce about communication with the School Department on road conditions and Bruce explained how it has been working.

Tom, John and Willie all spoke about their different positions and the approach each of them plan to take toward the 2008 budget. Costs are growing and Tamworth's tax rate is about ready to go over \$20. Tom commented on his five percent budget cut proposal that the Town will soon be hearing more about. Ultimately the Town voters will decide. Cassandra reminded everyone the tax rate is derived from a combination of revenues, tax base and finally the expenses. Dave Farley said he would love to see more people at the school budget meeting, the Town public hearing on the budget and at Town Meeting this year.

Building Notification

Pine Tree Power manager, Russ Dodd, attended the meeting to explain the building permit filed this week. Due to the legislation passed last year on renewable portfolios sponsored by the Department of Environmental Services (DES). The new standards and requirements must be met for pollution equipment. About the only physical change will be in back of the plant where a giant catalytic

converter about the size of three tractor-trailers standing on end will be placed. Mr. Dodd mentioned the asset management department will meet with the Board to discuss the expiration of the payment in lieu of taxes agreement (PILOT) in March. He also noted the Tamworth plant is getting close to a must-run facility; Cassandra gave him a copy of the approved building permit

Several questions followed from the public regarding how the PILOT works as opposed to the utility tax rate Pine Tree Power will be paying starting in 2008. The State will set the utility value so many of the questions cannot be answered yet, however, utilities pay a different tax rate.

Public Transportation Implementation

Beverly Raymond, Tri County Community Action Program; Carroll County Transit Operations Expansion, North County Transit director, briefed on a preferred service plan proposed for Carroll County. The system would provide a flexible standard bus route and a demand response system. The system will be partially funded by the federal and state government and state. By 2009 or 2010 they are interested in putting one bus in the Tamworth/Sandwich/Moultonborough area with a volunteer service to operate from the stops on the route. Because this is federal and state subsidized, volunteer vehicles will need to be handicap accessible. Ms. Raymond answered several questions from the Board and the public and left a warrant article for \$3000. Willie reminded her she would also have to provide a petition with a minimum of 25 signatures from Tamworth registered voters to support the warrant article. The Board thanked her for the informative presentation.

Veteran's Memorial

Dave Haskell, Snip Ross and Walter Palmer came before the Board. Dave thanked the Board for signing the easement with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Eastern Slope (UUFES) to allow electric and water lines to be connected to the Veteran's Memorial.

The group then asked for permission to display the beautiful hand made wooden case containing the names of the Tamworth residents currently serving in the military. Discussion ensued about the nameplate at the top the case. Dave supplied information supporting the military conflict name used on the plate. Willie asked if the names in the case contained everyone currently serving, even if the people have not deployed to the combat zone. *Tom moved to accept this plaque with the designation as engraved; John seconded; motion passed with John and Tom voting aye and Willie voting nay.* Willie finished the discussion by declaring his great respect for the Veterans of this country and the Town, which began with his Father who served in the military.

Administrative Matters – Cassandra Pearce

Minutes from the public session of the November 29, 2007 board meeting were presented for approval; *John moved; Tom seconded; unanimously approved.*

Minutes from the nonpublic session of the November 29, 2007 board meeting were presented for approval; *John moved; Tom seconded; unanimously approved.*

Intent to cut for Map 205, lot 28 was presented; *John moved; Tom seconded; unanimously approved.*

Request for petition for installation of two new stub poles on Philbrick Neighborhood Road was presented; *John moved; Tom seconded; unanimously approved.*

A warrant for Chocorua Village project in the amount of \$2,553.15 to come out of Department of Transportation (DOT) funds was presented; *John moved; Willie seconded; motion passed with Willie and John voting aye; Tom abstained.*

A warrant for Chocorua Village project in the amount of \$6500 to come out of DES funds was presented; *John moved; Willie seconded; motion passed with Willie and John voting aye; Tom abstained.*

Committee Updates

Tom reported the planning board will have a regular meeting December 12, 2007 and will be reviewing procedures and budgets.

Cassandra checked with Lisa Remick about the next long-range planning committee at Brett School. The next one is scheduled for Monday, December 10, at 5:30 pm. Lisa said they communicate with all of their members by e-mail, so apparently they don't have Tom's correct e-mail address. Tom will begin attending again.

John reported the capital improvement program (CIP) committee met December 5, 2007. They scheduled a regular meeting January 14, 2008 at 7 pm and two hearings. The hearings will be January 23, 2008 at 7 pm at Brett School and January 26, 2008 at 10 am at Brett School. They asked the Board to comment whether they would be in favor of changing the position of the road agent from an elected to an appointed office. The Board will not take a position because it is not a money position they control. Willie and Tom also asked John to make sure CIP Chair Herb Cooper present the committee's final recommendations for a formal vote by the planning board before a hearing is held.

Willie reported the ordinance review committee (ORC) is reviewing home town warrants from 1957 to present to see if any ordinances were passed or are being implemented as if they were properly passed. This is a very involved process that won't be resolved for a while. They are also waiting to hear back from all boards and committees about any suggestions on the letter presented at the last Board meeting.

The Board agreed to put the discussion of the purchasing and fraud policies off until next week

There being nothing further to discuss, Willie moved to enter non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 II A & C; at 7:14 pm; John seconded; unanimously approved.

Tom moved at 7:24 pm to recess non-public session and return to public session; John seconded; unanimously approved.

Willie told Cassandra he will provide her with the minutes from the Board's meeting with Peter Schmidt on December 5, 2007.

There being nothing further to discuss, a motion to recess and reconvene at the Tamworth Fire Department was made by John at 7:30 pm; Tom seconded; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda K. Jones
Finance Administrator

William Farnum, Selectmen Chair

John Roberts, Selectmen

Tom Abugelis, Selectmen