

**Town of Tamworth
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
September 19, 2013
Town Office**

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: John Roberts (at 4:21), James Hidden, & Steve Gray

OTHERS

PRESENT: Town Administrator Cassandra Pearce, Police Chief Dan Poirier, Rosalind Gray John Gotjen, Steven Steiner, Pat Farley, Damon Steer, Senator Jeb Bradley, James Gallagher, David Little, Bruno Siniscalchi, and Alan Labrie (@4:40).

Selectmen Hidden called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

DEPARTMENT

HEADS:

Chief Dan Poirier: stated he had nothing to report, and asked if the Board wanted to get the Flex time policy discussion out of the way. Selectman Hidden stated he wished to defer the discussion until Selectman Roberts was present.

Pat Farley: (Economic Development Committee): Stated there was no meeting in August, however there was a meeting in September with much discussion. They are working on a team leadership program that will run all year working on all facets of Town Government. Hoping to start in May of 2014 but are still in the planning stages at this time.

SELECTMEN

UPDATES:

Selectman Gray stated he attended a Conservation Committee meeting and that two easements will be coming before the Selectmen shortly. He also attended the CIP meeting where they held the public hearing for the proposed 2013 CIP report. It was approved with some changes and will be presented to the Planning Board on 9/24/13. There were very little in attendance, and the changes came from the Board. He also attended a LGC Budget & Finance Workshop.

Selectman Hidden said he attended the Economic Development meeting already spoken about by Pat Farley, and he attended a Rescue Squad Meeting where they appointed two new members.

ADMINISTRATION: The Board approved and signed the following items:

- A driveway permit for Map 414 Lot 22
-

Motion made by Selectman Hidden to approve & sign a payroll manifest in the amount of \$ 17,852.35 with authorization for a transfer in the amount of \$11,510.40 for direct deposit (included in this amount), and an additional transfer of \$ 5,746.42 to be transferred for the Federal tax deposit (not included

in the amount above). Motion was seconded by Selectman Gray and passed by a vote of 2-0-1 (Selectman Roberts absent at this time).

Motion made by Selectman Hidden to approve & sign the accounts payable manifest in the amount of \$ 418,696.89. Motion was seconded by Selectman Gray and passed by a vote of 2-0-1 (Selectman Roberts absent at this time).

Motion made by Selectman Hidden to approve & sign the accounts payable check register in the amount of \$418,696.89. Motion was seconded by Selectman Gray and passed by a vote of 2-0-1 (Selectman Roberts absent at this time).

Motion made by Selectman Hidden to approve and sign the minutes of September 5, 2013. Motion was seconded by Selectman Gray and passed by a vote of 2-0-1 (Selectman Roberts absent at this time).

Motion made by Selectman Hidden to approve and sign the non public minutes of September 05, 2013. Motion was seconded by Selectman Gray and passed by a vote of 2-0-1 (Selectman Roberts absent at this time).

Notice of meeting was received and hereby announced that the NH DOT will be holding a meeting on 9/26/13 at 7 pm (doors open at 6:30) at the Tamworth Town House, to take input on the Bridge over the Bearcamp River on Route 113/Tamworth Road.

Selectman Roberts present.

CHOCORUA RIVER DAM:

Senator Bradley announced that he and James Gallagher from NH DES were present to discuss the Chocorua River Dam and the letter the Selectmen had written him requesting he start a bill to have the State take the dam over. Senator Bradley turned the floor over to Mr. Gallagher who explained how many dams there are in the State, how many are privately owned and how many are State owned, and the inspection process. He then began discussing the latest inspection on the Chocorua River Dam, and the work it needs. He also discussed what criteria the State looks at before taking on a dam. Because this dam would not create a water benefit, no boat access, and is not good for fishing it would most likely be listed to be removed if it was taken on by the State. He feels if the Town pursues Senator Bradley to create this bill to have the State take over the dam, Senator Bradley is really going to have a hard time getting the bill to pass. Selectmen Hidden had no questions after the presentation was given. Selectman Gray asked about a private owner contracting work with the State to repair the dam. The State can no longer do the work on these dams. Selectman Roberts asked if the land owner can drain it at any time if they want to. Mr. Gallagher said yes, however, they have to notify Fish & Game first and hold a public hearing. Selectman Roberts stated he does not want to see it drained but he also does not feel the State should take on the burden of the dam. Rosalind Gray asked if the Village District was established and took it over who

is taxed. The Village District is and that District is determined by the Town. John Gotjen asked if there was any funding available to a Village District or Private Group for repairs to a dam. There are none. Senator Bradley asked the Board for guidance, after the presentation he would prefer not to pursue legislation to take over this dam. Selectman Roberts stated he was in favor of saving the dam but not in favor of the State taking it over. Selectman Hidden stated after the presentation he was not in favor of pursuing legislation. Selectman Gray agreed.

TAP AUCTION:

Atty. Richard Sager was present to discuss a possible auction of tax acquired property with the Board. He showed the Board a website that he has and has used for other communities where he has done auctions. He explained his process and that all his fees are included in his buyer's premium. Selectman Roberts asked if he felt if there was any conflict since he is Town Counsel. Atty. Sager stated he would not be here if he felt there was a conflict. He feels this is all above board and is all very open. He does not feel he has any information that is not available to anyone else at this time. Selectman Roberts stated he just wanted that out in the open and on the record. The Board will consider his proposal and get back to him.

CONWAY

OFFICE SOLUTIONS:

Alan Labrie from Conway Office Solutions was present to discuss a diagnostic application that he would like to use, to see if they can save the Town some money on toner and ink. The software is installed on a computer and takes copy and printer counts and sends them a report. Selectman Roberts stated he has a concern with any electronic devices and is not sure about software being installed on Town equipment. Selectman Hidden stated he would like to review more information. Mr. Labrie will email the office the "white pages" which explain the program and may answer any additional questions. The Board will review and get back to Mr. Labrie.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Little presented the Board with a request for a csv file from the RSMS software which the CIP would like to include in their report. Selectman Roberts feels this information could be very misleading to the public because the Selectmen had decided not to use this program and the data is not accurate and is now out of date. Selectman Hidden stated the information is of no use to us in its current status and the Road Agent has provided the CIP with the list of projects for the next three years. Selectman Gray feels the information should be released. Mr. Farnum feels the information is public information and cannot be denied. Mr. Little was offered a list of roads with mileage and whether they are paved or unpaved. He accepted this list and stated he really needed it prior to next Wednesday. He asked if the Town was going to look into the Maine Road Program. The Board stated at this time they were going to wait to see how others make out with it.

John Gotjen reminded the Board about upcoming hearings being held by Ray Burton regarding the State's 10 year plan.

ADMINISTRATION: Discussed the Chocorua Project and a location for the northern gateway sign. The Board agreed to pursue a possible easement on the Canfield parcel.

Mrs. Pearce informed the Board that she had contacted the State regarding the Tax Rate setting and that at this time all the Town documentation is in, however, they are still waiting on State revenues, the County Rate, and the Schools MS-25.

A proposed budget memo was presented to the Board and approval to send the memo out was sought. The Board approved the memo as is. They also approved the worksheets used in years past for the Outside Agencies.

It was decided that insurance quotes will be obtained again this year. Each member of the Board is to come up with a company they wish the office to obtain a quote from. Quote will be sought for the same type of plan at this time.

Discussed the Affordable Health Care Act and the possible impact on the Town.

Motion made by Selectman Roberts to discontinue all comp time and remove it from the policy effective 1/1/2014. Motion was seconded by Selectman Hidden.

It was discussed that comp time is not a true figure of what it costs to run a department or cost to the Town. Employees should be paid overtime for hours worked over 40 (unless they are salaried) and should not be accruing comp time. The Board would like a list at the next meeting of current time accrued and a buyout amount by employee.

Vote after the discussion was unanimous.

Board would like notice sent with next payroll checks of the change.

Recess was taken from 6:58 until 7:03.

The Board discussed the Town Administrator position. The Board will be changing this to a salaried position effective 1/1/2014.

The Board approved the Town Administrator to have another part-time assistant come in next week while the Secretary is out.

Discussed having the Board review the current personnel policy since the comp time is going to change, to see if there are any additional changes to be made so they can be made all together if possible. Copies will be put in their boxes for their review.

Motion made by Selectman Roberts to discontinue the Flex Time Policy created by the Police Department for the Police Department. Motion was seconded by Selectman Hidden. Discussion took place as the effect on the employees and

how all three of them are on a salary. Selectman Gray stated he would like the Police Chief to be present and would like to hear why this policy was created. VOTE: 1-2. Motion failed.

It was requested that the Chief be requested to provide for the next meeting what is accrued to date.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Selectman Roberts to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Motion seconded by Selectman Hidden and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cassandra M Pearce

Approved by Board of Selectmen

John E. Roberts

James S. Hidden

Stephen G. Gray