

Town of Tamworth
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
March 8, 2012
Town Office

Members Present William Farnum, Robert Abraham, and John Roberts

Others Present Town Administrator Cassandra Pearce, Police Chief Dan Poirier, Road Agent Richard Roberts, Chris Canfield, Ruth Timchak, Charlotte Cooper, Bruno Siniscalchi, Rosiland Gray, Sam Martin and Anne Abear.

Chairman Farnum opened the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Department Reports

Highway Department – R Roberts reported on the following:

1. Banks are being set back in anticipation of the spring runoff.
2. Chipping is being done as time allows.
3. The department will begin screening sand soon.
4. The reported problems with F550 vehicles were discussed. R Roberts advised he has seen several trucks with the frames rotting off.
5. R Abraham discussed the plowing at the school in which they are thankful and pleased with the plowing this winter as done by the Town. They are in need of a sign being replaced. Further, the discussion included the sweeper available that attaches to loader. R Roberts will stop by the school to discuss these items.
6. R Abraham expressed the school's desire to keep their parking areas open and plowed on weekends. R Roberts advised this has been done in the past and will continue.
7. J Roberts advised that the Town should consider looking at purchasing its own screen for sand. With the cost of the rental of a screen being \$7,000 - \$10,000 per year, it is felt that the Town could own a screen for the cost of \$30,000. The Board agreed to consider this for the CIP discussions for future years.

Police Department – D Poirier reported on the following:

1. February 2012 stats were disbursed and discussed.
2. Some of the local humane societies are requesting that the Tamworth Animal Control Officer conduct inspections of homes prior to allowing for a pet adoption. This will cost the Town additional funds within that budget.
3. Vehicle 1 (currently Chief Poirier's vehicle) is having a difficult time passing inspection with a possible emissions problem.
4. The Board discussed the vehicles currently assigned to the police department personnel and advised that with the increased price of fuel, and the travel time for the Sergeant, it may be appropriate to rotate the vehicles. Chief Poirier advised all vehicles are currently running about 20,000 miles per year.
5. Revised drug & alcohol personnel policy – Chief Poirier expressed concern with the revised policy in which an employee involved in an accident on Town time would

have to take a drug and alcohol test. This would take the employee and the individual department supervisor out of work during the transport and testing time at the local facility. He continued stating that the cost of the testing is an additional expense to the Town that is unnecessary. Chief Poirier advised that his personnel will refuse to go through the drug screening and the case will end up in court.

The Board indicated that the policy as written takes the entire question out of whether the cause of an accident is related to a possible drug/alcohol use by an employee. Everyone is tested if involved in an accident. The consideration of determining when it is necessary for drug testing to take place started after an accident involving a fire department person who was responding to a call and the cost of repairs to his vehicle were paid to the individual by the Town's insurance provider.

Chief Poirier discussed the embarrassment that the employee is going to face being taken to the hospital for a drug test when it is not necessary. The Board was not concerned with the embarrassment and indicated they did not believe that the employees of Tamworth had any reason to be concerned as the Board believes they do not have any employees with a drug and/or alcohol problem.

Chief Poirier requested the Board to consider a meeting with the Department Heads to discuss the policy to determine what the general feeling of the new policy was. The Board advised they would be willing to view a revised policy if one was submitted to them, but at this time, the policy adopted on 2/9/12 will remain as written.

Chief Poirier advised that he did not believe that this policy was legal and recommended the Board submit it to legal counsel for review.

Public Comment

Mr. Bruno Siniscalchi inquired if the Board would be in favor of adding a screening machine to the 2012 budget along with an additional cruiser. The consensus of the Board was to place these items within the CIP plan for future years. It was determined that the CIP plan carries the plan to purchase another cruiser in the 2013 year.

Town Meeting Preparation

Town Moderator Chris Canfield discussed the following with the Board:

1. R Abraham will be at the polls all day to assist where needed as both J Roberts and W Farnum are on the ballot.
2. W Farnum advised he would put together a request for secret ballot for any of the articles in which an individual salary would be voted on. The remainder of the Board was in favor of this request.
3. The Board discussed the 4th person being added to the highway department and wanted to make sure that all of the numbers associated with this position were available for discussion at the Town Meeting. If the additional position is not filled, the budget of the department will have to be adjusted for the part time help expense that has been removed.

4. C Canfield advised anyone who is on the ballot will not be allowed to work the polls.
5. The Board advised they anticipate voting at the Town House from here forward and returning to the KA Brett School for the actual town meeting.
6. The Board thanked the Selectmen's Office staff for putting together the 2012 budget workbooks for the Board and the work that was done on the creation of the 2011 Town Report.

Selectmen Issues

1. R Abraham indicated that at some point, the chairman of the Roads Study Committee may need to have a key to the Town Office in the event he was unavailable to attend a meeting.

Non-Public Session

W Farnum moved and J Roberts supported to enter into a non-public session per RSA 91:A 3 II c. at 4:52 p.m. Vote Farnum, Yes, Abraham, Yes, Roberts, Yes. Motion passed.

W Farnum moved and J Roberts supported to adjourn the non-public session at 5:26 p.m. Vote Farnum, Yes, Abraham, Yes, Roberts, Yes. Motion passed.

The Board met with a taxpayer to discuss current outstanding taxes and decided they would meet with this taxpayer again at the meeting of 3/22/2012.

Administrative Matters

Administrator C Pearce discussed the following:

1. A quote has been received from K & M for a 20 KW w/200 AMP generator at the Town Office at the cost of \$6,700. This price includes no digging for the line and offers service for 1 year. C Pearce and EM Director D Littlefield will be searching for a grant for this generator to be installed at the Town Office.
2. The State of NH DOT has requested funds from the CCP to pay for a noise level study within the Route 16 project area. The cost associated with this is \$7,771. The Board authorized the study to be done and the cost associated with this study to be removed from the construction allocation line to the engineering phase allocation.
3. The Board discussed the joining of Our Town Energy Alliance and decided they would not join the group for the 2012 year.
4. *W Farnum moved and J Roberts supported to accept the conservation easement known as the Beaver Brook Lot on map 420 lot 046 from the Sandwich Community School. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.*
5. The hot water tank at the Town House has been changed and awaits the changeover of power from a 30 amp to a 20 amp.
6. Intents to excavate were approved for map 413 lots 013, 014, and 015 (Ambrose).
7. Standard Veteran's Tax Credits were approved for map 217 lot 036 and map 215 lot 050.
8. An Elderly Exemption was approved for map 211 lot 014-040.
9. A total and permanent disabled Veteran's Tax Credit was approved for map 215 lot 095.
10. A denial for an Elderly Exemption was signed for map 215 lot 050.

11. An application for a raffle permit was submitted for the Arts Council who will be holding a raffle on 5/5/12.
12. An elderly and disabled tax deferral was approved for map 401 lot 011.
13. *J Roberts moved and R Abraham supported to approve a payroll manifest for pay date 3/8/2012 in the amount of \$21,053.42 which includes a transfer of \$13,826.72 for direct deposit and further to approve a transfer in the amount of \$6,470.20 for the federal tax deposit. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.*
14. *J Roberts moved and R Abraham supported to approve an accounts payable check register in the amount of \$197,443.97. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.*
15. *J Roberts moved and R Abraham supported to approve an accounts payable manifest in the amount of \$197,443.97. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.*
16. *J Roberts moved and W Farnum supported to approve the non-public meeting minutes of 2/23/2012 as written. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.*
17. *J Roberts moved and R Abraham supported to approve the meeting minutes of 2/23/2012 as written. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.*
18. Bruno inquired about the budget for the generator that was placed at the school requesting to know whose budget it came from. Chairman Farnum indicated it was within the schools budget, but the Town had to file and maintain the funds.

Town Treasurer/
Investment Policies

Due to prior requests of Town Treasurer Mary Mills for these discussions to be held in public, the Board agreed to discuss the latest regarding Ms. Mills in public. The Board viewed the response from Mary Mills in which they had requested under RSA 91-A for documentation regarding the address changes on the accounts per the Town's investment policy and a complete investment report of all accounts in the possession of the Town Treasurer. The information that was provided to the Selectmen showed that the accounts as of 12/31/2011 had a mailing address of PO Box 55, not 84 Main Street; further, the request was for a complete investment report on all accounts, the Treasurer provided the Selectmen with copies of bank statements. Finally, it was brought to the Board's attention that the bank statement's printed off by the treasurer for the finance office reconciliations within the past week for the month of February, 2012 again, had the address as PO Box 55, not 84 Main Street on most accounts.

After contemplating all of this information that was submitted, and the Board's frustration with not getting what was requested from the office of the Treasurer, the Board will provide Attorney Sager with all of this information and request it be determine whether Ms. Mills is in contempt with the Court Order to change the mailing addresses or not.

Adjournment

*W Farnum moved and R Abraham supported to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.
Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,
Anne M. Abear

Approved by Tamworth Board of Selectmen: 3/23/2012

William Farnum

Robert Abraham

John Roberts