

Town of Tamworth
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
November 1, 2012
Town Office

Members Present Robert Abraham, John Roberts, and James Hidden

Others Present Administrator Cassandra Pearce, Police Chief Daniel Poirier, Road Agent Richard Roberts, EMD Dana Littlefield, Anne Abear, Rosiland Gray, Kim Mathison, Sam Martin, Pat & Dave Farley, and other members of the public.

Chairman Abraham called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Department Reports

Police Department – Chief Poirier discussed the following:

1. Stats for the department for the month of October
2. Vandalism that has taken place within the community
3. New police weapons have been ordered. Recent qualification by the department employees showed that 2 of the 3 weapons were not working properly. Those weapons have since been repaired.
4. A notice that has been received from the AG's office regarding Election Day and the new law requiring voters to show identification in order to vote. Chief Poirier indicated that some polling places are expecting picketing of the new law.

Highway Department – R Roberts discussed the following:

1. The recent storm causing some washouts and clean ups – an estimate of 8 loads of gravel was utilized to repair damage to the roads from the storm.
2. Mason Hill paving has not been completed to date and may not be completed this year as the paving contractor has been unavailable.
3. J Hidden advised an appreciation has been given to him to pass onto the highway department for the work that has been done on Mason Road – residents of that road are pleased with the work that has been done.
4. J Hidden would like the highway department to consider placing a sign along Page Hill Road to notify the residents and others who utilize the roadway that there may be traffic entering this road from another roadway ahead – Turkey Street. He believes a sign will properly notify the travelers.

Public Comment

Patricia Farley discussed the following with the Board:

1. On 11/19/2012 at 6:00 p.m. in Laconia there will be a meeting of the LR Planning Commission for the purpose of meeting with the State of NH DOT to focus on that State department. The Board members were encouraged to attend that meeting.
2. Mt. Washington Valley Economic Development Council (MWVED) is attempting to put together a strategic planning committee for the 13 towns associated with the council. The local officials from each town are asked to come up with needs that will be shared by the council to determine what is needed by a majority of the Towns. The first meeting for this new committee will be held in April of 2013. Further, the MWVED has been able to establish a fund that is available to small businesses to relocate and build within the area of the council. The past financial issues of the organization have been a concern, but the council has taken all the steps necessary to correct the restitution problems and acquire the funds that they have lent.

Selectmen Updates

1. J Hidden discussed the recent planning board meeting in which a special use permit was issued to Chocorua Valley Lumber to excavate on lot #3. Further, FEMA is reviewing the Floodplain Ordinance for the purpose of making recommendations for changes prior to it being presented for approval at the 2013 Town Meeting.
2. J Roberts advised the cemetery trustees worked on 10/6 to repair several gravestones at the Cleveland Hill Road Cemetery. More work will be done in the spring. At the recent meeting, discussion took place regarding surveying being conducted by Paul King and the 2013 budget request was determined.
3. J Roberts advised that Trustees did not have a meeting as Mr. Farnum was not present and Mrs. Cook did not attend.
4. R Abraham indicated he had not attended any meetings recently. He did later in the meeting discuss the meeting he had with the SAU Superintendent and the insurance stipend that is given to the employees which range from \$2,000 to \$2500.

Class VI Road Waiver & Request to Build on a Private Roadway

Kim Mathison met with the Board to discuss the single family dwelling that she would like to build off of Locke Falls Road. She advised that she was aware of the recommendations of the planning board and knew she would have to open the roadway enough to get the equipment needed to build her home to her property. R Abraham indicated that there is no official class VI road policy and inquired if Ms. Mathison had met with the fire department? She indicated she had not. An inquiry was made whether PSNH would be extending the power past her property? She thought that it would be extended past her property. The Board signed both the class VI road waiver and the driveway application. Ms. Mathison was requested to file the building notification form when she is ready to build her home.

Emergency Management Director

Dana Littlefield discussed the following with the Board:

1. The Hazard Mitigation Plan update has gone through the process of being reviewed, public input and comment, data collection, and is ready to be accepted by the Board as revised. *R Abraham moved and J Hidden supported to adopt and sign the certificate of adoption to accept*

the plan that was conditionally approved on October 18, 2012 and further adopting the Town of Tamworth Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2012. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. The plan in the future will be updated with a program that may identify the needs for hydrants.

2. Board discussed the recent storm and was advised of steps that were taken during the weather event to include placing manpower at the fire station and appreciation was noted to all of the cooperative efforts of the Town departments and administration. The community was thanked for staying off the roadways as requested. There continues to be gaps in the Emergency Operation Plan with one being the need for central information communications available to the public for updates. This plan will be updated in 2013.
3. R Abraham indicated he would be taking the public officers contact course and the 2.5 hour IS29 prerequisite online to assist the community.
4. C Pearce inquired if D Littlefield expected to be requesting FEMA funding from this storm. He indicated at this time, he is looking at the numbers and further indicated that no further official disaster declaration has been called.

Administration

Administrator Cassandra Pearce discussed the following with the Board requesting signature where needed:

1. Chairman Abraham signed a grant application for training reimbursement for members of the fire department.
2. A driveway permit for map 408-059 was approved
3. The 2012 tax rate was recently set and will be \$19/\$1000 in value. The rate is up .43 cents over the 2011 rate. The Board signed the warrant for the 2nd issue property tax bills.
4. *R Abraham moved and J Hidden supported to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2012 regular meeting minutes. Vote was 2-0-1. Motion passed.*
5. *R Abraham moved and J Hidden supported to approve the non-public meeting minutes of October 18, 2012. Vote was 2-0-1. Motion passed.*
6. *R Abraham moved and J Hidden moved to support the meeting minutes of October 31, 2012 as written. Vote was 2-0-1. Motion passed.*
7. *R Abraham moved and J Hidden supported to approve an accounts payable manifest in the amount of \$255,438.33. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.*
8. *R Abraham moved and J Hidden supported to approve an accounts payable check register in the amount of \$255,438.33. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.*
9. *R Abraham moved and J Hidden supported to approve a payroll manifest for pay dated November 1, 2012 in the amount of \$20,412.70 with a transfer of \$12,965.37 for direct deposit and a transfer of \$6,409.89 for the federal tax deposit. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.*
10. The Board discussed the letter that was sent to the owner of property located at 263 Depot Road and indicated that the parking area did not need to have a driveway permit issued. The office will notify the property owner.
11. The Board discussed the COLA increases for the 2013 year of 1.7% and was asked if this was an item that they would consider for the employees. The Board advised they were not willing at this time to budget for the increase and will discuss this further at the budget meetings scheduled for December. J Roberts indicated a COLA increase in pay is not a raise in pay for an employee.

12. J Roberts indicated that the employees of Tamworth have not taken a hit during the downtimes of the economy.
13. The Board discussed the request of the fire department for the 2013 budget in the amount of \$27,500 for 10 sets of turn out gear. The purchase of these items was not part of the CIP presentation for 2013 and will be discussed when the fire department meets with the Selectmen to discuss their budget request.
14. The Board decided they would hold a meeting on November 15.
15. A discussion regarding the safety policy for gas cylinders took place as a follow up to the last meeting. C Pearce advised that the gas cylinders now have covers on them that do not require the removal of the regulators and the tanks are considered in use when they are on the portable rack. Also, Transfer Station employees have reviewed and have been trained on the lock out tag out policy and procedures for the compactor.
16. There have been two individuals within the community who may be entitled to receive the Boston Post Cane after the passing of Mr. Harry Thompson. The Board recommended that the individual who is 103 be sought to determine if she would like to receive the cane.
17. A majority of the Board will be available during Election Day at the polls.
18. The Board viewed a spread sheet of health insurance policies and prices for consideration in at the July 13, 2013 renewal for Tamworth employees. The Board would like to know what plan that the Town of Sandwich recently selected with Melcher and Prescott and who they had before.
19. J Roberts discussed the change to the personnel policy regarding the disbursement of the health insurance stipend. He indicated the personnel policy stated that in order for an employee to receive the stipend, they had to have as good as or better health insurance than offered by the Town elsewhere. R Abraham and J Hidden advised that after a review of an inquiry to Attorney Sager regarding any liability that the Town could face if they changed this policy, and recent discussion with local brokers regarding the types of plans that are available through their companies, they felt that as long as the employee had insurance elsewhere, an employee could receive the stipend. J Roberts continued by stating that as the Town did not require any proof of the coverage in the past 6 years that he has been here, there may have been employees receiving the stipend under the old policy that should not have received a stipend and inquired if the Board was expecting a pay back from those employees? J Hidden and R Abraham indicated that the policy was changed and that they were not going to review all of the plans of the past to determine if the employees plan was better than the Towns. J Roberts indicated that there are people who would be willing to assist in this process such as the brokers who recently visited the Selectmen. J Hidden indicated that the cost of the stipend – ½ of a single person's plan price – is far less expensive than if the employee took the Town's insurance and further did not feel it was the Selectmen's place to tell the employee which insurance they were to take or which was better in order for them to receive the stipend. J Roberts indicated that he did not feel he had done a good job monitoring the health insurance payment stipends over the past years by not requesting something from the employees who received the stipend. The revised policy requires the employees who would requests a stipend to provide proof of health insurance cover from the other employer or health insurance carrier. J Roberts continued by discussing the employees who signed the understanding of the personnel policy indicating they understood the policy and may not have been entitled to the stipend. J Roberts advised it was all to do with a check and believes that employees should not be offered a stipend in place of health insurance.

20. The Board decided they would discuss health insurance plan options during their December budget work sessions.
21. R Abraham thanked everyone involved in putting the flag pole up at the Town House.
22. R Abraham inquired if the Board was willing to review all of the personnel files. All members were interested in reviewing the files.
23. R Abraham inquired if the Board was willing to review all of the sealed minutes. J Roberts indicated he was unwilling to view the sealed minutes.
24. R Abraham discussed contact received from the Tax Collector (Kim Trammell) regarding setting of the tax rate. The Board indicated that it was the Board's responsibility to set the tax rate and at this time had no interest in meeting with Mrs. Trammell.

Non-Public Session

R Abraham moved and J Hidden supported to enter into a non-public session per RSA 91-A 3: II e at 5:38 p.m. Vote Abraham Yes, Roberts, Yes, Hidden, Yes. Motion passed.

R Abraham moved and J Hidden supported to adjourn the non-public session at 5:45 p.m. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Administrator C Pearce will inquire of legal counsel regarding an update given on a specific case filed against the Town.

Adjournment

R Abraham moved and J Hidden supported to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne M. Abear

Approved by the Board of Selectmen: 11/15/12

Robert Abraham

John Roberts

James Hidden