

**TOWN OF WEBSTER**  
**Office of Selectmen**  
**945 Battle Street/Rte. 127**  
**Webster, NH 03303**

6:35 PM Selectmen's Meeting – February 21, 2012 – Tuesday

Present: Chairman George Cummings and Selectman Bruce Johnson.

The Board signed the payroll and check manifests.

The Board signed the following for Administrative Assistant Judith Jones:

- Selectman Johnson made a motion to accept the Selectmen's Minutes of February 6, 2012 as written; seconded by Chairman Cummings and approved.
- Selectman Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing for the Warrant and Budget held on February 14, 2012 as written; seconded by Chairman Cummings and approved.
- Sick leave and vacation leave slips for Mrs. Jones.

The Board signed the following for Financial Administrator Wendy Pinkham:

- A sick leave slip.
- The January bank reconciliation.
- She received information regarding the degree days, as requested at the last Selectmen's Meeting, from A D & G Fuel in Franklin and Huckleberry in Boscawen. Huckleberry also had suggestions regarding how the propane tanks at the Public Safety Building could be switched over to them should the Board want to buy propane from them. At this time the tanks at the building belong to Rymes Propane. The Board will consider the suggestion.
- Mrs. Pinkham advised that the Auditors will be conducting the annual audit from February 22<sup>nd</sup> through February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Lieutenant Philip Mitchell provided the semi-monthly Police Department report. He then advised that the 2010 cruiser was taken to Hillsborough Ford for electrical issues, which will be fixed under warranty.

Fire Chief Colin Colby advised of the following:

- Greenwood provided training instruction to the Fire Department Members on the operation of the new Fire Engine, which is now in service.
- The Town of Ashby, MA that was interested in the old fire truck requested that an independent company do a pump test. The pumper should put out 1,250 gallons per minute, but failed, only putting out 1,100 gallons per minute. Though they had only good things to say about the truck, they would need to repair the pumps at an estimated cost of \$4,500 and would want to replace the springs due to the age of the truck. They would be interested in the truck for around \$15,000, but not the asking price of \$25,000. They said that they would be getting back to Chief Colby with a decision. In the meantime Deputy Fire Chief Adam Pouliot was still advertising the truck elsewhere. There was discussion on the how the pump test was done.
- He inquired if it would be okay to put up a display board with pictures of a fire drill conducted by the Fire Department on a table on Election Day to promote the Fire Department and encourage membership. He was advised that he needed to ask the Moderator, which he will. Selectman Johnson inquired as to whether the new fire truck would be on display at the Town Meeting, which is the plan.
- He recognized the Salisbury Fire Department Explorer Program, which promotes early interest for a career in the Fire Department. The program instructs in a classroom setting as well as offering hands on experience. There are four Webster youths that participate in this program. He also noted that last Saturday there was a very successful spaghetti supper held for their benefit.
- He was looking for clarification relative to the changed RSA regarding CDL licenses related to the operation of emergency fire equipment in NH. He indicated that the change does not make it mandatory for the driver to have a CDL license while driving to and from an emergency scene or operating fire equipment in a parade. He indicated that in the past the Selectmen had made it a requirement to have a CDL license and inquired if that was still true. He noted that on an occasion in the past, during an emergency situation, a non-licensed CDL driver has had to drive perhaps the tanker, explaining the logic of this. He noted that all drivers go through training for so many hours and he is now actively documenting this training. Chairman Cummings questioned whether this would have any effect on our insurance. Mrs. Pinkham said that she would have to con-

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firm with LGC, but thought that as long as the firefighters had taken the proper courses regarding training on the equipment, and if the RSA had changed, that LGC would have to abide by that change. Chief Colby will forward the RSA via e-mail. There was further discussion regarding CDL licenses and the driving of the fire trucks.

- The Board signed PO #2 for the Webster Fire Department to Valley Fire Equipment for repairs of the E-1 foam system leak in the amount of \$978.09.
- Chief Colby indicated that there were a few bugs to work out on the new fire engine. It will be picked up by the company and go back for warranty work soon as doing any of the work in-house would violate the warranty. He may also request more shelves from the operating budget to be installed in the new engine when the truck is in for the warranty repairs.

Road Agent Emmett Bean advised that all has been quiet. The dirt roads are softer than usual with the expected warm weather to come. He again noted that the weight limit signs may need to be posted earlier than usual.

Chairman Cummings advised that a letter regarding erosion along the banks of the Blackwater River caused by the release of the water had been sent to Alister Shanks, Army Corp of Engineers, requesting a meeting with the Board, the Conservation Commission, representatives of DES and others. Though no date has been set it will most likely not be on a regular Selectmen's Meeting night.

Chairman Cummings advised of a letter written by Sharon Cuddy Somers and Robert Derosier, of Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella, PLLC, and sent to the Treasurer, State of NH, on behalf of the Town of Hopkinton demanding that the State pay the Town of Hopkinton \$199,326.21 for the loss of taxable property due to flood control for the year 2011. This is also known as PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes). He indicated that the towns of Webster and Hill have been invited to join the effort, though Webster's dollar figure is quite small in comparison. He noted there were a number of towns, which he proceeded to read, to which a copy of the letter would be sent. Chairman Cummings expected to take a vote tonight relative to sending a letter, and would expect the letter to go out in the near future. He explained how the cut came from the State in 2011 through the Legislature in the State budget, under HB 1 and 2 as a rider. The State did not make the towns whole after non-payment from the State of MA. In the past, the State had made whole those towns that received PILT funds, even though MA did not contribute their share. NH was to pay 30% and MA 70% for PILT, though he did not know how long since MA had paid the State its portion in full, but in the past NH made the towns whole anyway. He referred to a Statute that seemed to say that the towns would be made whole or the State would cut off all payments to MA, though he indicated he did not know where that would go as MA would then probably cut off payments to NH. He discussed the budget under HB 1 & 2 riders, etc. and how the shortage affected the Town, noting that it was a significant amount when added to all the other reductions passed on to the Town, i.e. NH Retirements System, Revenue Sharing, etc. He noted that the State was bragging about the funds put in the "rainy day fund", which Chairman Cummings indicated should go to the towns. He also noted that the cost to join Hopkinton, after speaking to Hopkinton Administrator Neal Cass, would not cost the Town anything. Selectman Johnson noted that Senator Andy Sanborn was aware of the issue. Chairman Cummings then made a motion to join with Hopkinton and add our letter, with a dollar value, to go as soon as possible; seconded by Selectman Johnson. Motion was approved. Chairman Cummings will call Mr. Cass first thing in the morning. Chairman Cummings also noted that he had heard at one of the budget workshops that he attended that should the money be collected from MA by the State, the money would not then be passed on to the towns, indicating that that was buried deep in HB 2, indicating that he had some idea of where to look. He was not sure if this information had come from Barbara Reid of DRA. He indicated that it would take legislation to undo that action, and that it should be done retroactively, unless he was misunderstanding the issue. He was not sure how simple the action would be, saying that DRA each year informs the State of NH Treasurer the amount to be paid to each Town for PILT. He was however confident that the towns would get their funds eventually.

The Board was to review the draft of the "Report on Non-Residential Household Wastes" for Webster and Hopkinton as forwarded to them by Refuse Disposal Committee Chairman Barbara Corliss and to be discussed at this meeting. Steve Clough, Assistant Superintendent of the Landfill, put the document together. The next step necessary was for the respective Boards to ask the Committee to look into the feasibility, as the transfer station is not being used to its full capacity, the cost of taking garbage and sewage from other towns, if it is cost effective and if the Landfill would benefit. Committee Member David Klumb advised that what the Committee is looking for is a resolution to change the charter. Chairman Cummings noted that the charter now says only the two towns participate in the landfill. Committee Member Ellen Kontinos-Cilley added that it was actually an update in the permit at a cost of \$1,500 that was needed. Chairman Cummings noted that would be the upfront cost. Chairman Cummings thought that this Board could say that they were in agreement, though he hesitated a bit because of the absence of Selectman Hashem. Whatever decision was made tonight would have to be formally finalized between the two towns through Public Hearings. Mr. Klumb noted that DES would be at the Public Hearing. Selectman Johnson made a motion to make a resolution to change the charter to allow the Refuse Disposal Committee to come up with a change in the charter for the Boards approval. Chairman Cummings clarified that the motion would allow the Committee to change the charter to allow the acceptance of waste from towns other than those of Webster and Hopkinton. Selectman Johnson continued to say that the charter would come back to the towns to be voted on. Chairman Cummings was not sure if Hopkinton had

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