

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

6:31 PM Selectmen's Meeting – March 19, 2012

Present: Chairman George Cummings, Selectman Bruce Johnson and Selectman Roy Fanjoy.

Chairman Cummings welcomed newly elected Selectman Fanjoy to the Board.

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 March 5, 2012 as written; seconded by Chairman Cummings and approved.
- Selectman Johnson made a motion to accept the sealed non-public session Selectmen's Minutes of March 5, 2012 as written; seconded by Chairman Cummings.

Financial Administrator Wendy Pinkham advised the Board that she would not be in the office on Tuesday, March 20th or Friday afternoon, March 23rd.

Mrs. Jones advised that she would be out Tuesday afternoon, March 20th and all day Thursday, March 22nd.

Chairman Cummings advised that members of the Police Department were attending a retirement party for former Police Chief Brian Milano and would not be available tonight. He then read a letter written to Former Chief Milano recognizing him and thanking him for his many services provided to the Town of Webster from August 1998 to October 2009. The letter is on the website for review.

Chairman Cummings advised that Former Chief Milano was going into the ministry in Vermont.

Fire Chief Colin Colby advised of the following:

- There have been 32 calls to date; mostly medical.
- He inquired about the offer of \$15,000 for the used fire truck, asking if it were sufficient based on the original price on the title of \$152,000, though the registration said \$170,000. He again noted that the truck needed a new pump that cost \$4,500 and new springs. He advised that the truck had not been put on Craig's List yet, though he had the pictures ready to post if that were the decision. He did not want to lead the Ashby, MA Fire Department to believe they could have it for the \$15,000 if the Board had any objections and was asking how best to proceed. There was a lengthy discussion on alternative methods of selling, various prices that might be asked, and the amount of fire trucks on the market at this time, etc. Emmett Bean recommended that the truck be sold for \$15,000 and be done with the issue. Chief Colby indicated that he had an inquiry from Chichester. As it didn't sound much better than what they already had, they did not seem interested. He offered to take the truck to the Capital Area meeting for Chichester to review. Bob Lake questioned any liability the Town may have if sold to another Town. Chairman Cummings noted that it would be sold as is and there should be no liability. Mr. Bean advised that Deputy Fire Chief Adam Pouliot had talked with the Town Attorney for guidance on drawing up a sales agreement. There was further discussion on the pump's operations, testing, etc. Selectman Johnson asked Chief Colby what he would like to do. Chief Colby asked the Board to decide, noting that Ashby, MA had the \$15,000, but he was reluctant to request more money partly based on a story they had told him about a loss their Department had suffered due to the purchase of a new truck that did not turn out well, indicating that they had lost all their investment. Greg Peck inquired if the repairs were to be done before sold, but that is not the case. Chief Colby advised that the Fire Station is overcrowded with the old and new truck inside. He spoke with Ashby, MA last Friday and they were still very interested, but advised that it may take a bit of time for the paperwork to get processed. Selectman Fanjoy made a motion to authorize the Fire Chief to sell the truck for \$15,000; seconded by Selectman Johnson and approved.
- Conditions are getting very dry with the weather conditions and there is concern regarding forest fires. He will be attending a Forest Warden Meeting tomorrow night.

Road Agent Emmett Bean was thankful that there had not been any rain recently, as the dirt roads had turned to mud while thawing out, but were now drying up nicely, allowing him to grade them. He hauled a considerable amount of gravel the latter part of last week. He said that the work he had done on Pond Hill last year had paid off as the road was holding up well. He discussed the unusual weather conditions.

BOS Initials:

G. C. Cummings

B. G. Johnson

R. E. Fanjoy

Treasurer Mary Smith had not yet made any decisions regarding any changes in banking services. She described some of the things that she was considering. She did make arrangements with TD Bank so that those folks who do not have an account with TD Bank could cash their payroll checks without being charged a fee.

Senator Andy Sanborn did not attend tonight's meeting, nor was there any notice to that he would not be present.

The Board acknowledged the resignation from the Sanitary Landfill Committee received from Robert Drown, Sr.

Hopkinton Administrator Neal Cass sent word that the Hopkinton Board had also voted to give their support to the Refuse Disposal Committee to spend the \$1,500 necessary for new permits as the Committee had requested. The Webster Board had done so at an earlier meeting.

Chairman Cummings inquired of Barbara Corliss, Chairman of the Refuse Disposal Committee, as to the next step. She had e-mailed the Board earlier, noting that they would start from there to decide what to accept and to set up a new fee schedule for the joint Board's review.

The Board will meet with the Army Corp of Engineers on April 3, 2012 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall to discuss if they can do anything regarding the erosion downstream from the dam caused from rapid releases. The Army Corp will be represented by someone from the Franklin Dam and the Hopkinton Dam.

There was a very lengthy discussion with input from the audience about the "No Thru Traffic" posted on Centennial Drive including the history, safety concerns, resolutions, alternatives, etc. Road Agent Bean gave a short history of the rationale for the decision to post Centennial Drive as such. Ellen Kontinos-Cilley suggested that the Board contact Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Ham regarding the history as they worked with Chief Milano on this issue, which Chairman Cummings indicated that he would probably do so in order to better understand the reasoning behind the decision. Chairman Cummings noted that the road status had been posted for approximately ten years. Don Koberski said that he had requested that the Board review the decision. Selectman Fanjoy suggested that if there was a study done previously by the Police Department, perhaps it could be found and reviewed if available. Mrs. Jones will research any public hearing and what steps would be needed if the decision were reversed.

Chairman Cummings will review the application for Elderly Exemption and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

Public Service Company has requested a public hearing, as is required by RSA 231:158, for the trimming and removal of trees and brush on Bashan Hollow and Gerrish Road, designated as scenic roads. The Board set April 16, 2012 at 7:00 pm for this hearing, which must be printed twice in a paper of general circulations.

Mrs. Jones advised that the telecommunication billing would hopefully be ready by Thursday. Dot Proulx asked for clarification of this. Chairman Cummings advised that the issues of repealing the tax exemption for telecommunication had been before the legislature for some time. Some communities taxed the poles last year, but put money aside for appeals, should the exemption be reinstated, but it was not. Therefore, Webster is hoping to get the paperwork in order before March 31st, which would allow them to tax for the year 2011.

Jere Buckley inquired about Planning Board appointments, especially the Selectman representative. Chairman Cummings advised that this will be on the April 2nd agenda, noting that the next Planning Board Meeting will be April 19th. He did request that the Chairman of the various Boards be asked to make recommendations.

Ms. Corliss inquired about clean-up of a property on Deer Meadow Road. Chairman Cummings thanked her for the reminder. He then noted that the third and final inspection of the property in Davisville by the Webster and Warner Boards and the Attorney is scheduled for 10:00 am on Thursday, March 22nd. The owner is required to allow this inspection through the court proceedings referring to the "Settlement Agreement" now in place. Pictures and recordings are allowed and Chairman Cummings plans to take plenty of pictures. Tom Mullins inquired about any collection of fees. Chairman Cummings noted that there has been one request for fees and any further protesting will result in a request for additional fees. He advised those that may not be familiar with the issue that this had been going on for several years, how he became the representative for the Board, and some of the history of the previous actions taken Ms. Corliss questioned if the property could have a lien put on it for non-compliance or fines imposed daily. Chairman Cummings indicated that a daily fine is expected to be applied after the final inspection or possibly a lien will be put on the property.

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Robert Pearson inquired about any Town policy regarding public gatherings. He was advised that the "Place of Assembly" certificate is posted in the hall and the dining area and reviewed annually. He was advised that there those renting the hall sign a rental agreement and if alcohol is served, there must be police present. There is no other written or adopted policy on the use of the hall.

7:30 PM Selectman Fanjoy made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Selectman Johnson and approved.

George C. Cummings, Chairman
BOS/jj

Bruce G. Johnson

Roy E. Fanjoy

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