

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

6:31 PM Selectmen's Meeting – April 30, 2012 – See amended May 14, 2012

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

The Board signed the payroll and check manifests.

The Board signed the following for Administrative Assistant Judith Jones:

- Selectman Fanjoy made a motion to accept the Selectmen's Minutes of April 16, 2012 as written; seconded by Selectman Johnson. Prior to approval Chairman Cummings noted the misspelling of Sonny Hunt's name, who met with the Board regarding the Kayak races, changing the spelling of "Sunny" to "Sonny". The minutes were then approved with this change. He also indicated that the Kayak races went well and there was adequate water for the event.
- Selectman Fanjoy made a motion to accept the non-public session of the Selectmen's Minutes of April 30, 2012 as written and to be sealed; seconded by Selectman Johnson and approved.
- Three Current Use Applications were signed that had been reviewed by the Assessors for the following: Map 4-13; Map 3-25 and Map 3-46-2.
- An abatement for Map 8-19-1 for 2011 PO2 taxes was signed in the amount of \$2,301 to correct an error in billing.
- A Supplemental Warrant for Map 8-19 for 2009 and 2010 liens was signed to correct an error in billing.
- Appointment sheets prepared by the Town Clerk were signed for those committee and Board positions filled at the April 16th Selectmen's Meeting. Some appointees still need to be sworn in.
- A sick leave slip for Mrs. Jones.

Chairman Cummings spoke with Guy Larochelle regarding continuing membership on the Agricultural Committee, which he was willing to do. Selectman Johnson made a motion to reappoint Mr. Larochelle to the Agricultural Committee as a full-member until 2015; seconded by Selectman Fanjoy and approved. The Board signed the appointment sheet.

The Board signed the following for Financial Administrator Wendy Pinkham:

- Chairman Cummings signed the contract with JP Pest Services for \$133 for the first application to ward off the ant invasion to be done after May 1st. A second application is recommended by September at the same cost.
- MS 5 completed by Auditors Plodzik and Sanderson.
- Three Intents to Cut: Barbara Corliss – Map 7-61; Cindy Grenier – Map 6-74; Seldon Nason – Map 12-2.
- One Supplemental Intent to Cut: David Stewart-Smith – Map 5-28.
- An Excavation Tax Warrant for Map 9-23-4.

Police Chief Robert Dupuis advised the Board of the following:

- Submitted a vacation slip for Lieutenant Mitchell.
- There was an attempted burglary at the Transfer Station just prior to tonight's meeting, which prompted some discussion.
- There were 45 calls for service on the semi-monthly report which included 12 motor vehicle stops, two thefts, criminal mischief, etc.
- Additional policies for the Police Department were given to the Board for review and discussion at the next meeting.

Selectman Fanjoy inquired as to whether Chief Dupuis had checked on the availability of reverse 911, which he had not but would do in the near future.

Selectman Johnson advised that at the next shared services they will be discussing the radar speed limit sign and possible rental of the unit by the Town of Salisbury. Chief Dupuis was to check on the cost for rental with Warner and Boscawen, as the unit is owned by all three communities, and will get the information to Selectman Johnson. Chief Dupuis indicated that a good Memorandum of Understanding would need to be in place in the event there was any damage to the unit.

Fire Chief Colin Colby advised the Board of the following:

- The last Capital Area Meeting noted an overall reduction in calls of 9%, due to the easy winter.

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- At this time, Webster was at 60 calls in 2011 and is at 49 for 2012 or a reduction of 19%.
- June 16th the Webster Fire Department will be hosting a meeting at 8:00 am for breakfast with classes starting at 9:00 am for training by Hurst Tool Company. This training will include Boscawen, Salisbury, Hopkinton and Penacook Rescue. Five vehicles will be brought in to dismantle. Last year's training was in Hopkinton.
- He thanked Emmett Bean, Corey Welcome, Rob Wolinski, Jake Drown, Ryan Dubuc and Matt Turyn for getting 65 Tanker 1 back to the station after it acted up. Mr. Bean had someone with a tester diagnose the problem, which he was then able to get the parts and fix the truck. At the same time the tester showed problems with 65 Engine 3, which had a warning light for the ABS sensor which will need to be sent out for repairs.
- The Board signed Purchase Order #6 for the Fire Department to Kerri Jenovese for reimbursement of an order placed with Uniforms & Accessories Warehouse for dress shirts in the amount of \$394. This will allow the Department to look a bit more professional when out at parades, etc.

Selectman Fanjoy recommended that a thank you note be sent from the Fire Department to Heidi Pelchat for providing water and granola bars during a recent brush fire near her home on Battle Street. Mrs. Pinkham thanked her for this while at the office recently. Selectman Fanjoy inquired about reimbursement from the State for forest fires. Chief Colby advised that there was an unwritten agreement between the towns not to request reimbursement from the State if the fires were small and easily taken care of. Chief Dupuis inquired about the brush fire last year in the Flood Control area and reimbursement from the Government. Chief Colby advised that he had been told that no reimbursement would be forthcoming from the Federal Government.

Road Agent Bean advised the Board of the following:

- All has been fairly quiet.
- Dig safe marks have been checked by Dig Safe folks and he has requested pricing for the paving from Pike, hoping for 1,500 feet, but costs for paving is up so he is not sure how far the money will go.
- The tar will be hauled back to the Town pit to be crushed and recycled, which is what he has been doing lately, for use later.
- He discussed the order of road preservation planned for the next few years, saying he is doing what is in the best interest of the Town.
- He will also need to borrow or buy more signage for when construction projects are in progress.

Selectman Fanjoy inquired about Little Hill asking if the condition was worse since the logging operations. Bob Pearson indicated that the road had not been worked on for years, though the logging made it worse.

Treasurer Mary Smith has opened the new account with Merrimack County Savings Bank, though there are still funds at TD Bank to cover through this check run and those checks need to clear. She is in hopes that Merrimack County Savings Bank will be better for the Town as a community bank.

Chairman Cummings opened up discussion on the "No Thru Traffic" on Centennial Drive. Several residents were in attendance. The Board had discussed the issue several months ago after a request to revisit the road status. Selectman Johnson noted that there has been little change in the five years since the "ordinance" was adopted as it is still densely populated, has blind driveways, children at play, etc. He understood the rationale to open it to all, but is also concerned about safety issue, noting that there is an alternative shortcut by using Christopher Roberts Drive. He referred to a recent event in New Ipswich where a woman pushing a stroller was struck by a car in a hit and run situation, on a through road similar to Centennial Drive. Therefore, he saw no reason to change the status of the road. Chairman Cummings also had traveled Centennial several times recently and agrees with Selectman Johnson. He noted that he had seen children playing in the road, noting a basketball hoop that should be moved back from the roadside. He compared the road to the school zone area where extra caution is used, agreeing that it was a concentrated area and it would be better to go around as a precaution, therefore he too is in favor of leaving the road as is. Speed limit laws were discussed in general with Chief Dupuis advising that 30 MPH was the default, unless a traffic study is completed, though the law does say prudent/reasonable is the rule. The final decision resulted in Selectman Fanjoy making a motion to leave the status of the road as is; seconded by Selectman Johnson and approved.

Selectman Johnson asked Chairman Cummings if he wanted to continue on the Energy Committee or would he like him to take his position. Chairman Cummings then made a motion to appoint Selectman Johnson to replace him; seconded by Selectman Fanjoy and approved. This term has no expiration date. The Board signed the appointment sheet tonight.

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Fred Reagan, from Merrimack Valley School District, will meet with the Board on May 29th. He will bring a map of the School and Town property, which the Board had requested, to be marked up and then the Memorandum of Understanding can be completed and signed.

The Board reviewed Map 10-6-23 and Map 10-6-39 in the Pillsbury Lake District offered to the Town by Anupuma Shridharani. Selectman Johnson visited the properties and found them both to be mostly under water. The Board could either let the lots go through the process of tax liens, accept the offer of the lots, or provide her with a list of abutters to see if they would be interested in owning them. Selectman Johnson made a motion to not accept the gift of the above lots; seconded by Selectman Fanjoy and approved. Mrs. Shridharani will be advised of the Board's decision and a list of the abutters will be provided for her should she want to contact them.

The Board reviewed the Solar Exemption applied to six properties and agreed with the recommendation made by Cross Country Appraisal that based on the newly adopted exemption at the 2012 Town Meeting, that none of those currently receiving the exemption qualified. Jere Buckley inquired as to whether this was a written policy; it is not, though Mr. Buckley would like that to happen. He was concerned that the increase of value due to any solar application could be buried in condition or other areas. Chairman Cummings recommended that townspeople get copies of their assessment cards to review. Mrs. Jones will notify those currently receiving the exemption of the Board's decision and the exemption will be removed from the assessing data base.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan 2012 public information meeting will be held Monday, May 14th at 6:00 pm. Chairman Cummings explained some of the process getting the plan done, which will be submitted to FEMA after this meeting for acceptance and then a Public Hearing will be necessary to adopt the plan. The entire project is hoped to be completed by July.

Selectman Johnson has been working with Town Clerk Michele St. Jacques and has worked and applied for a grant, available because of the Moose License Plates revenue, to restore five volumes of Town records going back to 1865.

Mrs. St. Jacques requested a policy on Returned Checks. Selectman Johnson and Mrs. St. Jacques will look into what other towns have, write a draft policy and bring it back to the Board for consideration at the next meeting.

As suggested at the last Selectmen's Meeting, Selectman Johnson researched the subject of agenda topics whereby if one requests to be on the agenda, they should state the topic. He spoke with several folks over the past two weeks and it was agreed that this should be done. He then made a motion "that, from this point on, anyone wishing to put his/her name on the Board of Selectman agenda, also include a topic. The purpose of this motion is so that all residents who may also be interested in the same topic will be informed in posted meeting agendas, and so that all participants involved can be prepared and ready to discuss the topic. This motion is presented in the spirit of working together, working together to resolve whatever needs to be resolved, and working together to move the Town of Webster forward." Chairman Cummings noted that if one did not want to be on the agenda and state a topic, they could always wait until the end of the meeting to be recognized. There was discussion on the pros and cons by the Board and those in attendance, after which Selectman Fanjoy seconded the motion previously made; and the motion was approved. It was again noted that the public is given an opportunity to speak at the end of all the meetings. Selectman Fanjoy noted that in July 2009 Selectmen's Minutes it was stated that the agenda was closed at 3:00 pm on Wednesday to put one's name on the agenda and the time limit for speaking was five minutes. The Board made no change to this at this time.

Selectman Fanjoy will represent the Board on Friday, May 4, 2012 at 11:00 at Merrimack Superior Court re: "Motion for contempt". Mrs. Jones will e-mail Attorney Bart Mayer to advise him of this.

Last week the House Ways and Means Committee met regarding SB 326 as amended to reverse the clause from the rider bill on HB 2 from last year that said that because MA was behind on payment, that any money received from MA would go to the General Fund and not to the Cities and Towns. Therefore, there would be no additional flood control monies paid. Though the State made the agreement with MA in the first place and the towns affected had no recourse to enforce payment, neither has the State enforced payment. He advised that this SB reversed RSA 122:4 which plainly said that within 30 days of the time that the tax rate was set, the Treasurer of the State of NH will pay what is due; there was no language that said if only the funds were received, though this was the language added last year. He said that this was done to balance the State budget at the town's expense. This did not happen until June 2011; therefore the Town has been shorted since then, and did not receive the State's 30% State portion until March of 2012. Chairman Cummings testified at the hearing, noting that there were a lot of folks lined up to testify. He said that Andy Sanborn spoke first, and did a "good job" and made a point "... that the House, as the Senate had voted, the House should vote to do the right thing and reverse what was done last year" and continued on with some of background and history. Chairman Cummings then continued on with general information regarding the tone of the hearing while there and information that he has since received since. There were hints

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that the new language would not pass, but that has not happened. He praised Jim O'Brien from Hopkinton for his support of the bill. The Chairman of the Committee appointed a total of four members to serve on a study committee, including him, Lori Sanborn and Christine Hamm, who are in support of the amendment, though some revisiting of the bill is expected. Lucas Willard, from NHPR, called Chairman Cummings and he gave him a statement this morning, though he doesn't know when it will air. He indicated that Andy Sanborn will also be on NHPR. Mrs. Jones advised that Mr. Sanborn is tentatively on the Selectmen's agenda for June 25, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

The Board reviewed the 5-year schedule for projects for the Town Hall. This year it was hoped to paint the building and carpet the office area. Chairman Cummings recommended postponing the painting until next year, hoping that the Board would meet on a Saturday to prime those areas necessary to preserve the building. Selectman Johnson inquired as to whether folks could be invited to paint, but of course they would not be allowed on a ladder because of the insurance. However, Chairman Cummings offered to climb the ladder and Mrs. Jones offered to bring snacks. It was noted that the steeple was done last year and won't need to be done when the building is next painted, but will be put on the following schedule for the painting. The Board agreed to wait. The Board then discussed the carpeting. Chairman Cummings had recommendations as to what is needed, what to look for regarding the carpet, how to prepare for the installation, about installation in general and the timing. There was discussion on the slate in the entry way and whether that would be feasible for the entire hallway. As Mrs. Jones had several estimates from previous years, Selectman Johnson offered to take those estimates home and work up an RFP for review at the next meeting.

Chairman Cummings recommended a review of all the policies and procedures to see what needs updating or revisiting in the near future. It was agreed that this should be done, with Chairman Cummings noting that the Personnel Policy should certainly be reviewed. No other decisions or timeframes were set for these reviews.

KJK Wireless wrote the Board regarding proposed upgrades to the US Cellular Personal Wireless Facility on Dustin Road asking for the Board's approval to move forward. They propose to remove six Panel antennas and install three New LTE panel antennas. The Board was inclined to advise that no other action was required, other than this notification, as they were not increasing the height of the tower and were actually proposing fewer antennas. Chairman Cummings noted that there is an addendum to the Zoning Ordinance to cover maintenance, removal and expansion of towers. Jere Buckley, Planning Board Chairman, agreed that it sounded very innocuous, but expressed concern that this may set a precedent to proceed without any Board approval as long as the height of the tower was not changed. Chairman Cummings recommended sending KJK Wireless a letter thanking them for keeping the Town informed and to encourage future correspondence. He did however suggest talking with LGC for guidance. Mr. Buckley volunteered to contact LGC for guidance and will advise the Selectmen of his findings. Mr. Buckley inquired about notifying the towns in a 20 mile radius as is necessary for a regional impact application. Chairman Cummings did not think this was necessary. A short discussion in general regarding this issue ensued.

Selectman Johnson advised that the next Shared Services Meeting was scheduled for May 10th at 6:30 pm in Webster, which will be posted. He noted that the topic of discussion will be how the County can help the communities.

8:38 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

BOS Initials:

G. C. Cummings

B. G. Johnson

R. E. Fanjoy