

DRAFT



Town of Winchester 1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**MINUTES of the
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Wednesday
December 13, 2006

Board Members Present: Gustave Ruth (Chairman), Susan Newell, Gerald Hastings, Sherman Tedford and Theodore Whippie. Also present: Roberta Fraser, secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

1st Order of Business: Acceptance of minutes of December 6, 2006

Ted makes a *motion* to approve the minutes of December 6, 2006

Jerry seconds it

Motion carries with Sue abstaining because she wasn't at the meeting

2nd Order of Business: Announcements

- < Gus informs the board that John will not be at the meeting tonight due to an injury
- < There is a swearing in ceremony for the elected officials for the county that will be held Jan 3 at Keene State College
- < Gus reads a letter commending a Winchester police officer (See attached)
- < Tata & Howard will be at the Board of Selectmen's meeting next week to discuss the plans for the wastewater treatment plant
- < The Verry Brook bridge is now under construction

3rd Order of Business: Old Business

Sue was not at the meeting last week and Aquarion gave a report regarding the wastewater treatment plant. Sue was wondering if they indicated how much capacity was available and if additional hook ups to the sewer is allowed. Sherm explains that they didn't actually give a capacity amount, just informed the Board that the State Department of Environmental Services must approve all permits for connection.

Sherm has a list of town owned properties taken for non payment of taxes and he would like to discuss the possibility of selling some of the properties to get them back on the tax roll. Sue would like a chance to look at the properties before making a decision and the board will take it up next week.

Sherm questions the dedication of the annual report and Sue lets him know that while it can't be decided in non-public, the board usually discusses it separately and then the chairman makes the decision and it is kept a surprise.

4th Order of Business: New Business

None Tonight

5th Order of Business: Town Manager's Report

None tonight

6th Order of Business: Department Heads/Committee Chairpersons

None tonight

7th Order of Business: Open to the Floor

Colleen Duquette informs the board that there is a CAST meeting tomorrow, to be held at the elementary school at 9:00 am.

Ken Berthiaume addresses the board and informs them that he would like to see the town owned land sold rather than just sitting there. He would also like to know what the mobile home situation is in the town and whether the Board of Selectmen have come up with a plan to address how to handle unpaid taxes on the homes. Gus explains that the problem is if the town takes the mobile home, then we are liable for the lot rent. Sue informs Ken that when former selectman Brian Moser was in office he had proposed a plan to put all of the names in a hat and pick one and take the mobile home, that way no one would know who's will be chosen and they may be inclined to pay their taxes. Sue and Brian endorsed that way of dealing with it and the others board members did not.

Jim Johnson addresses the board and invites everyone to a UN flag burning event on Dec16 at 12:00 pm at his residence at 161 Ashuelot Street. There will also be a Connecticut flag burning demonstration in support of Mr. Johnson's wife, who has been incarcerated in a Connecticut jail for 90 days so far with no trial date set.

8th Order of Business: Office Documents

Sherm makes a *motion* to approve the tax rebate in the amount of \$4.00 due to overpayment on taxes for Map 8 Lot 119-1 and 1-A.

Jerry seconds it

Motion carries

Sherm makes a *motion* to approve and sign the redemption deed for Map 28 Lot 27.

Jerry seconds it

Discussion: Sherm explains that Bob Gray will be attending a closing regarding this property and he will hold the deed until the check is given.

Motion carries

Sue makes a *motion* to approve Bob's recommended settlement agreement for BTLA Appeal docket # 20339-03-PT- Map 33 Lot 37.

Ted seconds it

Sue then amends her motion to authorize Gus to sign the approval. Ted seconds the amendment.

Motion carries

Sue makes a motion to approve the requisition in the amount of \$30,994.70 to R&R Communication for radio repeater system on Gunn Mt. Rd.

Jerry seconds it

These funds are a grant awarded to the town for the system

Motion carries

Sherm makes a *motion* to authorize payment of \$6001.00 from the Warwick Meadow Senior Housing Grant fund to Southwest Region Planning Commission.

Jerry seconds it

Motion carries

Jerry makes a *motion* to do any other business that may come before the board before going into a work session

Ted seconds it

Motion carries

Work session:

The board holds a work session to discuss warrant articles and the default budget. Since the default budget has been changed and the board does not have a copy of the new one, they decide to review and discuss warrant

articles. Gus informs the board that salaries that employees are making that were not in the budget for 2006-2007 cannot be included in the default budget. Sue doesn't think the truck lease payments should go in the default budget, as a warrant article approved it last year. Jerry agrees with Sue and Sue makes a *motion* to remove the highway truck lease amount from the default budget and put it on as a warrant article for the second year's payment

Sherm disagrees with Sue and he would like an opinion from the LGC. No one seconds Sue's motion. Sue questions #9 on the list that John gave the selectmen that show the warrant articles he is proposing (see attached) She questions why only \$100,000.00 is being requested to repave Old Westport road when this year it cost almost \$300,000.00. Sherm would like it worded differently. There is a discussion about the wording of this warrant and the board will vote on this later.

Sue is opposed to establishing a disaster unreserved fund

Sherm makes a *motion* to approve and support the third article, the one regarding assessing

Sue seconds it with the opportunity to amend it afterwards and subject to correct wording

Motion carries

Sue makes a *motion* to support the police cruiser capital reserve fund in the amount of \$13,000.00

Ted seconds it

Motion carries

Sue makes a *motion* to support the A.C. Lawrence environmental trust fund provided we could establish that the town can recover the monies if they are not spent, that it be a lapsing fund, to lapse after three years

Ted seconds it

Motion carries

Sue makes a *motion* to not establish a disaster capital reserve fund

Sherm seconds it

Motion carries

The next warrant article the selectmen discuss is regarding the Pickle Festival. The festival committee is asking for \$6000.00, \$1000.00 more than last year and previous years. Sue is not in favor of the additional amount requested and asks the chairman, Roberta, to explain why that is needed. Roberta explains that the Pickle Festival costs about \$9000.00 to run every year and usually the committee has about \$3000.00 in the coffer to begin with. Because of rain this year, the festival did not make money and only has about \$900.00 to use right now. Sue was under the belief that it would be self-supporting by now and is not in favor of supporting the warrant article. Ted disagrees with Sue and makes a *motion* to support the amount of \$6000.00 for the Pickle Festival. Sherm seconds it. ***Motion carries with Sue voting No.***

Sue makes a *motion* to take up #9 on the list and have a properly written warrant article to raise and appropriate \$100,000.00 for repaving Old Westport Rd without mentioning the use of other funds or how much mileage of the road will be done

Sherm asks for the word reconstruct to be in the warrant article also, and Sue agrees.

Ted seconds it

Motion carries

Sherm makes a *motion* to approve #10 on the list- Evergreen Cemetery fund- Jerry seconds it

Discussion: The board discusses the fund and how it can be used

Motion carries

There is quite a discussion about the warrant article for the fire truck and the request for a warrant article for \$350,000.00. Sue does not think an article of that amount for a fire truck will be approved by the citizens and the board concurs. Sue would like to see if the fire truck two capital reserve funds can be combined and perhaps have the \$75,000.00 that is in them go towards a lease for the fire truck. Sue feels that the fire department has gone without for way too long. The fire department does not have a tanker and could use one for areas in town where there is not a hydrant available. The board discusses the need for a tanker truck and Sherm would like the fire chief to be at the meeting and explain why a new truck is needed.

Jerry makes a *motion* that John Stetser has the fire chief here next week

Sherm seconds it

Motion carries

Gus reads the petition warrant article from the ELMM Community Center. They are requesting that the Board of Selectmen support the petition warrant article in the amount of \$50,000.00. Sue feels that is too much money to support and she would like the center to do some fundraising. There is much discussion amongst the board members. Jerry agrees with Sue, he doesn't think the town should pay for all of the camp and recreation at the center. Gus would like to see it be even more monies given, he feels the town needs recreation for the children. Sue makes a ***motion*** to amend the petition warrant article to \$25,000.00. No one seconds it and then Sherm makes a ***motion*** to recommend the \$50,000.00 petition warrant article for the ELMM Community Center. Ted seconds it.
Motion carries with Sue and Jerry voting No.

Sue asks where the information is regarding the warrant for the police and ambulance funds and Gus does not have it

Sherm makes a ***motion*** that the Town Manager gets the answer form the DRA regarding amending these warrant articles from last year for the police and ambulance funds by next Wednesday

Jerry seconds it

After discussion, Sherm withdraws his motion and then makes a ***motion*** to allow Sue to email Sandra Rourke with the questions the board has about police and ambulance funds.

Jerry seconds it

Motion carries

The board takes a break at 8:25 and reconvenes at 8:30.

Sherm makes a ***motion*** to allow Sue to ask the DRA if the two capital reserve accounts for the fire truck that were approved by warrant article in the past can be combined into one

Sue seconds it

Motion carries

Sue questions if there is any information regarding the Robichaud right of way, the Town Manager should be working on it as a warrant article. As of now they can use the right of way at the landfill

Sherm makes a ***motion*** that the town manager draft a up a right of way and then he amends it to have the town attorney draft the right of way

Jerry seconds it

Sherm ***amends*** his motion to have Gus contact the town attorney and Jerry seconds it

Motion carries

There is discussion about selling the town owned property on Hildreth Street

Sherm makes a ***motion*** to ask Bob Gray to research it and make sure there aren't any deed restrictions and redraft the warrant article

Jerry seconds it

Motion carries

Sue makes a ***motion*** to strike proposed article #12 on the list

Sherm seconds it

Motion carries

Sue makes a ***motion*** to strike #16 from the list and no one seconds it

Sherm makes a ***motion*** to table it until next week

Jerry seconds it

Motion carries

Sue makes a ***motion*** to strike # 11

Sherm seconds it

Motion carries

Sue makes a ***motion*** to approve adding \$25,000.00 to the town hall renovation capital reserve fund

Jerry seconds it

Motion carries

Gus would like to discuss the petition warrant articles before adjourning and Sue would like to review them first before discussion them

Sue makes a ***motion*** to postpone petition warrant articles until next week and have the chairman make copies for everyone

Jerry seconds it

Motion carries

9th Order of Business: Adjournment

Sue makes a ***motion*** to adjourn

Jerry seconds it

Motion carries unanimously

Meeting is adjourned at 9:02 pm

December 13, 2006 BOS Minutes approved by:

Gustave Ruth, Chairman

Date Signed:

Gerald Hastings, Selectman

Susan Newell, Selectman

Sherman Tedford, Selectman

Theodore Whippie, Selectman

R. Fraser 12/18/06