

Selectmen/Assessor's Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2015

**Board Present:** Greg Grotton, Lyle Cramer, James Justice and Sara Moore.

**Absent:** Elmer Savage.

**Also Present:** Jay Feyler, Grant Watmough, Maria Pease, Laura Curtis, Aaron Holmes, John Mountainland, Dale Flint, Holly Savage, John Field, James Murphy, Joseph Patricia, John Gibbons, Myrna Soule, Joseph Tombro and Elaine Frost.

1. **Call Selectmen's Meeting to order:** by Chair at 6:00PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** given by all who wished.
3. **Open Public Hearing with Planning Board:** Motion by Lyle Cramer to open Public Hearing at 6:00PM. Seconded by James Justice. Unanimous. Planning Board Chair Maria Pease announced this is a joint Public Hearing with Board of Selectmen and Planning Board on the proposed Ordinance changes. Maria explained the Ordinances were combined into one document last year and over the course of almost twelve months when the Planning Board used the Documents we discovered things that were inconsistent or spelled wrong. Some of the changes were minor one of the more substantial ones Grant can explain comes into the Shoreland Zoning and that has to do with having our Ordinances Congruent with Maine State Law. Grant said there is a relaxing on some of the Restrictions, there is nothing that is stricter there are a few things that are less restrictive. In the Subdivision Ordinance it is almost completely minor changes. Grant addressed each and every change in both the Land Use Ordinance and the Subdivision Ordinance and offered if anyone wants further explanation we'll look it up in the Ordinance and we'll explain what we found. No questions were asked from the audience.

4. **Close Public Hearing and commence with regular business:** Motion by Sara Moore to close Public Hearing at 6:30PM. Seconded by Lyle Cramer. Unanimous. Motion by James Justice to sign and go forward with the proposed Land Use Ordinance and Shoreland Zone Ordinance changes. Seconded by Lyle Cramer. Unanimous.
5. **Public Comment:** there was none.
6. **Approve Minutes of March 3, 2015:** Motion by Lyle Cramer to approve minutes as written. Seconded by Sara Moore. Unanimous.
7. **Sign request from Union Farmers Market and additional market days:** CEO Grant Watmough provided the Board with State Statute about signs for the Farmers Mkt. Our Ordinance says the sign must be on the property where the event is being held. State Statute allows for the sign to be in right of way as long as it does not impact visibility. Grant explained in our Land Use Ord. there is a section that covers signs. The size of the sign allowed is based on posted speed limit of the road and the posted speed limit there is 25mph. The Farmer's Mkt. request asks to put a banner sign up somewhere on the Common. Jay suggests another option is putting the banner up over the road. They mount them too either cable or phone wires and the best thing would be to tie it from pole to pole. Greg noted there is a pole halfway up the green where they set the market up and they could run it from there to the pole by the bed and breakfast. They could also run it from tree to tree. Motion by Lyle Cramer to allow Farmer's Mkt. to work with the Code Officer to see if they can put a flag up May thru October. Seconded by Sara Moore. Greg said he would rather put a clause in there that we would allow them to do this from May thru June by then if we have heard repercussions from the public then we can readdress whether they continue or ask for the banner to come down. Lyle would accept Greg's recommendation to his motion for a trial date. Motion Voted down. Motion by James Justice to give the Farmer's Market a trial period of May thru June to hang a banner in the Common area. Seconded by Lyle Cramer. Three for. (Cramer, Justice and Moore). Opposed. (Grotton). The Farmer's Market has asked for an additional Market days on Sundays, June 14th, July 12th, August 9th and Sept. 13th from 2:00/5:00PM. Motion by James Justice to allow Sunday Farmer's Market from 2:00 to 5:00PM on June 14th, July 12th, August 9th and Sept. 13th. Seconded by Lyle Cramer. Unanimous.
8. **Union Assessors Contract discussion and approval:** Greg noted Tax Assessor Jim Murphy has been getting for 60 days \$360.00 per day = \$21,600 and this is what has been going on right up to the present. We budgeted \$25,600 for 60 days @ \$360.00 = \$21,600 so the money is there but Greg has a problem when there is no contract in place going back and saying we are going to bump your pay up to \$21,600. He has no problem going forward from today on with the \$420.00 increase. Greg knows it was approved by the Town the money is there and it is

available. Jim does an excellent job but he will not support it being retroactive but will support the new contract. Jim feels the same way. Lyle commented the proposal was made it was acceptable to everyone in terms of the amount of money it's in the budget it was approved by the Town it's our fault that the contract wasn't there and he doesn't want to hold that against our Assessor so he will support the contract we discussed last week. Motion by Jim Justice to approve the contract submitted to us with the extra money starting today until June 30th. Seconded Greg Grotton. Sara asks for explanation as she was not at the last meeting. Greg explains Jim is looking for \$420.00 per day retroactive back to July 2014. The motion has been made that the increase from \$360 to \$420 would take affect starting today with no retroactive increase. Greg asks for another vote. Three for. (Grotton, Justice and Moore). One opposed. (Cramer).

9. **Discussion on Business Park (Board Goal):** Grant noted starting at the Hope/Union line on Route 17 until you get to Payson Rd. back onto 17 to the intersection of 131 to Common Rd. and goes back out to Rt. 17 BM Clark up 131 (Appleton Rd.) to power station that's where three phase power is in Union. If you're going to do a business park you need a minimum of 20 acres. In the Industrial Zone there's only one lot out there that meets that criteria and does not have three phase power. By calling it a business park you expand what you can put in a place like that. Grant said Rt. 17 or close to Rt. 17 would be good access he gave the Board a list of some lots to think about. It's expensive it's not cheap to set up one and it's a long time process Grant suggest the Board think about it some more. Greg suggest tabling it, get the feeling of the public if in fact they want to go This route realizing it will help the taxes but then again its development. Lyle agrees with tabling it but while it's on the table we should be thinking about certain people who might be willing to come in and invest that money jointly and help us with the development of that especially if they own their own land.

10. **Budgets of CEO, Parks and Rec. and Cemetery:**

#### **CEO**

No changes to the CEO budget. Jim asks about \$2500 for mileage. Greg asks if he were busier would he use that and asks can you see the activity picking up to the point where you would use that amount. Grant said no, not for several years probably. Motion by Jim Justice to drop mileage line to \$1500.00. Seconded by Lyle Cramer. Unanimous.

## Cemeteries

The only real increase is brush removal. Myrna asks if we could use some of the Reserve Account for Stone Cleaning and Repair. She noted too there are trees especially in Common Cemetery that will have to come down. Lyle suggests marking those trees before they fall down. Motion by Jim Justice to approve Budget as presented. Seconded by Lyle Cramer. Unanimous.

## Parks and Recreation

No changes to budget. Motion made by Jim Justice to approve Parks and Recreation. Seconded by Lyle Cramer. Unanimous.

Greg asks for the Board to meet on Tuesday March 24th at 6:00PM with a full Board to go over the Budget.

11. **Sign Treasurers Warrant March 18, 2015:** Motion by Lyle Cramer to sign Treasurer's Warrant. Seconded by James Justice. Unanimous.
12. **Other Business:** there was none.
13. **Town Manager's Report:** Jay reported on Revenue Sharing the numbers just don't work under the new proposal. Appropriations Committee and Taxation Committee where we testify most of the time in front of them all the Republicans except for two have sent emails out to various constituents that they cannot support Revenue Sharing which tells Jay we are not going to lose Revenue Sharing. On the Homestead Exemption it's hard to tell. If you don't take the Revenue Sharing then the Homestead Exemption probably won't go.
14. **Selectmen's Report:** there was none.
15. **Future Agenda Items:** Farmer's Market. Bring back the Business Park in another month or so.
16. **Adjourn:** Motion by Lyle Cramer to adjourn at 8:15PM. Seconded by James Justice. Unanimous.

These minutes were approved on April 7, 2015 with the following amendments.