

Selectmen/Assessor's Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2015

Board Present: Greg Grotton, James Justice and John Shepard.

Absent: Elmer Savage and Lyle Cramer.

Also Present: Orrin Parker, Joseph Patricia, Ann Donaldson and Curtis Adolphsen.

1. **Call Selectmen's Meeting to Order:** by Chair at 6:30PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** given by all who wished.
3. **Public Comment:** Ann Donaldson a resident of Union thanked the Board and Jay for the Important work they do. She addressed two issues: One the Thompson Community Center. In 2002 she rented an upstairs room for her dental products business, across the hall was Life Flight, EMS, pre K program, the flea market was operating, the store selling used goods was there, Linda Shepard was doing Yoga, there were dances on Saturday nights and the Union High School had its Reunions there. All of that's gone. It was busy, vibrant and in fairly good shape. What's going on now doesn't seem to be up to snuff. She liked the letter that was sent that was very nice but it was you Greg, where is the Board? Why don't we have a mention of a Board and why isn't there a website where we could go to get some information. Greg said there is a website; there is a face book page and there is a Board and in an around about way it was mentioned in the letter. Ann wanted to see something from the entire Board not just one individual. Ann's second topic is Volunteers. She sent a letter to the Town Manager requesting to be on the Comprehensive Plan as a Volunteer. She noticed in the minutes she was considered but she never received a letter saying no Ms. Donaldson you're lousy and we don't want you or sorry Ms. Donaldson we have plenty of people and we don't need you or we don't think you properly represent any parts of Union. She acknowledged she is angry, but good manners are very Important when you are doing what you are doing and, communication is extraordinarily Important. You want us to Volunteer, encourage us and thank us. Ann noted her term finished on the School Board on June 30, 2015 she didn't get a thank you, at that point she said Good Night and left the Meeting. Greg asked for the record it be noted in the minutes if he had had the opportunity to respond to her he would have disagreed with just about everything she had to say.

Jim wanted to respond to Ann when she said all of these are gone now. One of the reasons they are gone now is no Fire Alarm System, no Sprinkler System the place was shutdown by the Fire Department. We were stopped from having dances because there was no Alarm Systems. That's why we have fundraisers going on. Greg noted everything that she read off that used to be there is still there and it is operating. Another letter was sent out by an Individual into the paper saying the place is totally falling apart none of the things are being done and again it is totally false. We are making a profit we (Greg and Jim) joined the Board to help in getting volunteers if she wants to volunteer she can come help us. We are making \$4,000/5,000 per month profit now. We are doing what we can with an extremely Old building and until we can come up with \$150,000 to put a sprinkler system and Alarm system we have our hands tied so bad it's pitiful. We are trying to make it go. John Shepard asked if we could have some sort of policy for acknowledging volunteers. Something from The Town Manager or the Board of Selectmen thanking them for the Service they provided. Jay noted in the past when you have been on the School Board and leave it has been the School Board who recognizes you at the last meeting. When he was on The Board of Selectmen we never recognized School Board Members but that's not to say we can't. Jay will check with Grant because we did talk about sending letters to people who were not chosen for the Comprehensive Plan whether it went out or not Jay doesn't know. Greg said let's somehow get a handle on volunteers with public recognition perhaps once a year at Town Meeting. Jim said the problem with that is you're not going to get all the people and recommended if we know of someone out there who has Volunteered we acknowledge them. Greg said if we get someone to volunteer onetime and we send them a letter all of a sudden we will have a fulltime person in the office just doing Thank you letters. Somehow we need to narrow it down yes they do need to be recognized but we can't recognize everyone who comes in the door.

4. **Approve Minutes of November 17, 2015:** Board tabled until next meeting.
5. **Discussion on Public Works Trucks:** Jay provided information to the Board to mull over in the next few weeks on the costs of the International and the Class Action Law Suit that is going on. On today's Warrant we have another \$3,000/4,000 for repairs on the 2008 truck. Jay asked Orrin to go out and get rough estimates and see what we want to do. Jay said if it were his business he would replace the Wheeler because of the history of the cost of it. With all the research we have done we are putting more and more money into it. Orrin provided the Board with an update. The International Engine they are having trouble with, the burn off system isn't designed to be a plow truck. They are designed to burn off at Highway speeds of 60mph our trucks don't even go that fast. The Catalytic convertors are plugging up and sending all the stuff back through the engine. Orrin said after talking with The International dealer this is going to be a 15,000/20,000 mile program replacing water coolers, turbos and heads. In the last three years these two trucks have cost us \$73,131.00 and the number is getting bigger each year. He noted Cummings and Detroit seem to be the two Manufacturers who seem to have this down and are not having any trouble with them at all. With the cost of what that truck is costing us it's something that needs to be looked at. In talking with the dealers the 2008 trade in value if you trade it now or trade it in two years there's not going to be a huge loss right now its \$48,000/55,000 trade on the single axel

They gave a figure of \$95,000/100,000 trade on the 2013 right now. In the two year period that single axel will probably be in the \$40,000/45,000 range. The problem is with years 2008 to 2013 is where they are having catastrophic trouble. Orrin said he's giving the Board the information, he doesn't care what he has for a truck he's going to drive whatever he has. His job is give facts and figures and you guys do what you want with it. His whole thing is the wheeler could be done right now without raising Taxes. Jay said we would use money from the Reserve Account. If they give us the \$100,000 trade we're talking \$180,000 to replace it and we have that in our Reserve Account. The problem comes in the following Year when you are trying to get rid of the 2008 when you don't have the Reserve, at that point you will have to talk about lease or purchase. Greg said so the plan right now is to get rid of the 2013 this year and next year get rid of the 2008. Orrin noted he can't get a truck right now we're stuck with this truck until spring. The plan is to replace the Wheeler next year and then 2 years from now replace the 2008. Greg asked have we ever looked for a used Truck? Orrin said he has not. John suggested we explore used truck option, Jay said definitely.

6. **Update on Comprehensive Plan Committee:** John had nothing to add since the last Meeting, our next meeting is in January.
7. **Approve noon closing on December 24 and 31:** Motion James Justice to close December 24th and 31st. Seconded John Shepard. Unanimous.
8. **Sign Treasurer's Warrant dated December 1, 2015:** Motion John Shepard to sign Treasurer's Warrant. Seconded James Justice. Unanimous.
9. **Other Business:** there was none.
10. **Town Managers Report:** Jay noted the Tree Lighting Ceremony on the Common Sunday Dec. 7th. at 6:00PM. The Salt building is up and finished. Our fuel bills compared with Public Works and down here using the heat pumps upstairs we have yet to have water running through the pipes upstairs. We've had considerable savings spent \$300/400 and we Spent close to \$3,000 last year. Jay asked the staff instead of giving little gifts to each other he has asked if everyone is agreeable and the same for the Board is to put money into a pot to buy small denomination gift cards and just randomly hand them out to people.
11. **Selectmen's Report:** there was none.
12. **Future Agenda Items:** Greg asked for thoughts on volunteer recognition and we need to put the minutes back on from Nov. 17th. Greg also asked when we have the Informational Meeting in February would it be kosher to have the TCC speak. The problem with the Town is we only get together twice a year and you can't say anything at Town Meeting. Jay said that is right but it's up to the Board and as I've said before be careful what you open up because they're not the only group in Town. Just today Jay had a request from one of the Social Service Agencies asking can you put something in our Newsletter. Jay said I can't do that because there are 100 other agencies out there and if we do it for one we have to do it

for all. Jay suggested either Greg or Jim bring it up during Informational Meeting conversation what's going on over there etc. Greg asked Curtis Adolphsen if he had anything to say. Curtis said he was under the impression Davis Rd. was going to be discussed. Jay said it is not on tonight's agenda. He did say we ordered the signs the other day for local deliveries we tried to word it so it wouldn't get twisted. For Local Deliveries which the Board wanted to do. Orrin said Davis Road Local Deliveries Only. Orrin still has to speak with Jay about signs so we do need to sit down to figure out the right order and the right signs to have together. Jay added the sign is going to say No Thru Trucks - the No Thru Traffic sign is being changed to No Thru Trucks with a separate sign Five Ton Weight Limit. Orrin said right now there is a No Thru Traffic sign that needs to be changed to No Thru Truck sign.

- 13. Adjourn:** Motion James Justice to adjourn at 8:00PM. Seconded John Shepard.
Unanimous.

These minutes were approved on December 15, 2015 with the following amendments.

Committee:

and 31:

December 1, 2015:

4. **Approve Minutes of November 17, 2015:**
5. **Discussion on Public Works Trucks:**
6. **Update on Comprehensive Plan**
7. **Approve noon closing on December 24**
8. **Sign Treasurers Warrant dated**
9. **Other Business:**
10. **Town Manager's Report:**
11. **Selectmen's Report:**

12. **Future Agenda Items:**

13. **Adjourn:**