

Selectmen/Assessor's Meeting Minutes  
May 3, 2016

**Board Present:** Greg Grotton, Lyle Cramer, Elmer Savage, James Justice and John Shepard.

**Also Present:** Jay Feyler, Jim Murphy, Lawrence Nash, Holly Savage, Judy Gushee and Mary Jane West.

1. **Call Selectmen's Meeting to order:** by Chair at 6:30PM
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** given by all who wished.
3. **Public Comment:** Lawrence Nash asked if the Animal Control Ordinance would be discussed tonight. He was told no, it will be discussed at the next meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> when Town Attorney Roger Therriault will be attendance. John Shepard asked that all members of the Canine Ordinance Committee be notified of the meeting so they can be present. Mary Jane West asked if Rabbit Farm Road would be discussed, she was told it is not on the agenda for tonight's meeting.
4. **Approve minutes of April 19, 2016:** Motion James Justice to approve minutes as presented. Seconded Lyle Cramer. Unanimous.
5. **Sign Supplemental tax warrant as Assessors:** Tax Assessor Jim Murphy presented a Supplemental Tax Warrant for complete removal of 29.2 acres of Qualified Tree Growth Classification acreage Map 006-012. The Property has been enrolled for over 20 fiscal years and is being withdrawn at the request of the owner. Motion James Justice to Sign Supplemental Tax Warrant Penalty for \$4,254.60. Seconded John Shepard. Unanimous.
6. **Sign Declaration & Reimbursement App as Assessors:** Jim reported Municipal Assessor's are required to annually report the ratio or percentage of just value upon which local assessments are based. We plan to use a Certified Ratio of 100%. Motion James Justice to Sign the Ratio Declaration certifying the Ratio at 100%. Seconded John Shepard. Unanimous.
7. **Discussion and vote to attend School Board meeting and postpone the Selectmen's Meeting until May 24<sup>th</sup>:** Motion Lyle Cramer to postpone the next Selectmen's meeting until May 24<sup>th</sup>. Seconded John Shepard. Unanimous. All Board Members indicated they would attend SAD40 School Board meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> at the High School at 7PM. The Board was provided with a draft letter that Lyle composed. Greg noted it's a good letter that should go out to the citizens. Lyle said he

kept the letter brief and said he doesn't mind if the Board has additions or deletions to add, this is simply a draft. John asked if there is a precedent for the Selectmen to discourage the Town from accepting the School Budget. Greg said we are acting in the interest of the citizens. Lyle said the thing that concerns him is the 8%, that's the highest of any Town he has heard of in the State this year at a time when people aren't getting raises and Town taxes haven't gone up very much. They are asking for a million dollars to spend on the repair of the school buildings and in most cases that's a capital expense that's included in the Budget. If you were to do it that way and put the million dollars in the Budget it wouldn't be an 8% increase it would be about a 16% increase. With our percentage of payment at 17% if you take 17% of a million dollars that's what we are going to end up paying on that Bond without considering the interest that will be accumulating. Elmer noted that Bond for repairs that should have been included in the Budget and it's just a way of keeping it down to less like Lyle said 16%. Lyle said he specifically worded it that you should turn down the 8% and the Bond. The School Department should then present to us another whole package. It's just simply too much and what those people don't understand is that we had 300 residents for nonpayment of taxes that resulted in Liens going out to 200 people. You don't have a lien placed on your property because you just don't want to pay the taxes. The other part of it is since Lyle has been on this Board this is the first time he has seen us actually take away property from people because they haven't paid their taxes. It's happened four or five times this year. These people need to understand when they raise the taxes that much people who we have talked to are left homeless and they have no conception that we are discussing the School Budget. It comes back to us and the only recourse we have is to use our voice to let the citizens know what is happening. John noted that's a good point and by attending the meeting we are showing the face of the Town and asking them to be held accountable. Jay in answer to John's question about precedent said he doesn't remember if we have ever done one before but he does know other Municipalities have. Greg doesn't want to send the letter out too soon but we need to let the people be aware of what is going on. Jay said some member of the Board should speak at the School Board Public Hearing. Jay has talked with other Town Managers about this and said he would get back with them tomorrow with the Board's thoughts. Greg noted we can't do much on the 17<sup>th</sup> the actual support is needed on June 14<sup>th</sup> Election Day. We need the support of the people on that day. If we go to this meeting we will at least get the publicity about what is going on. John noted whether or not we make a speech it is responsible for us to attend, gather information from the school and the Superintendent. By attending the meeting we are showing the face of the Town and asking them to be held accountable.

8. **Discussion and vote to sell tax acquired property back to the original owner:** Jay reported this is one of those properties we had to foreclose on Buzzell Hill Rd. Map/Lot 017-005. They came in yesterday with a check that covers all back taxes and the \$200 redemption fee. It is Jay's recommendation that we sell it back to the original owner. Roger will prepare the Deeds and they will pay Roger directly for Attorney fees. Motion Lyle Cramer to return property back to the owner for the price of all back taxes and fees associated with that. Seconded Jim Justice. Four for. One abstention. (Savage).

9. **Discussion and award of bid for the North Union stabilization project:** Jay said this is the property we had to have engineered. Four bids were received. Jay recommends Ford Enterprises bid \$31,151.00. Motion Elmer Savage to accept the bid from Ford Enterprises for \$32,151.00. Seconded John Shepard. Unanimous.
10. **Update on Comprehensive Plan Committee:** there was none.
11. **Sign Treasurer's Warrant dated May 3, 2016:** Motion James Justice to sign Treasurer's Warrant. Seconded Lyle Cramer. Unanimous.
12. **Other Business:** Jay reported the Farmers Market is looking to start on May 20<sup>th</sup>; one of the issues he brought up to them at the end of last year was parking on the Common. He sent a letter and spoke with Elaine Frost several times about people parking on the Common, Vendors park their vehicles and they let Customers Park there. The Vendors are the biggest offenders they leave their vehicles there and she didn't seem to take it very seriously. Jay told her the Board has been adamant that you don't allow people to park on the Common so, next year you will have to come up with either signs or cones or something to put on the Common because we are not going to allow people to continue to drive and park on the Common Green, it's not a parking lot. The Vendors are supposed to park down at the church. Jay said he doesn't like having to go and tell them every time to get the vehicles off the Common. Jim said with the permission we give them we can stipulate that if it continues and we see it happening this year we will cease the Farmers Market immediately. Lyle suggested if we have a date certain, if we have any problems between now and the first of July then their permission is pulled and we pass it tonight on a trial basis. Jay added they should bend over backwards to adhere to the rules. Greg suggested having Elaine come to the next meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> he asks Jay to call her.
13. **Town Managers Report:** Jay reported we are still finalizing the Engineers Report for Rabbit Farm Rd. That should be finalized in the next week or so. Public Works did some shim on Carroll Rd on Friday. We are starting some of the paving projects. Beginning July 1 our goal is to grind Barrett Hill and not have it dirt for anymore than a week then we'll do Collinstown, Skidmore and Noyes Lane.
14. **Selectmen's Report:** John reported on TCSW, we received a letter from Palermo asking us to consider what would happen if they did not re-sign the Contract. We talked about it but, we are not sure what the right thing to do is. It seems from the letter that Palermo expects to gain some money back from what they have invested in capital assets over there and that is probably true. Jay noted he has read the bylaws several times he sees where you are required to pay if you pull out where there is debt. He sees nothing in there that says you are entitled to anything when you leave. It could end up in Court. John reported we are going to have a special meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> after they have had their secret vote on the 14<sup>th</sup> so we will know after that. On the 29<sup>th</sup> in Somerville we will discuss how to deal with it. It's kind of uncertain. We have tried to get the word out to the Towns on Voting. We agreed to have Dave put up a sign

saying "Vote at your Town Meeting" so people will understand it's coming up and it's important. Greg said so in June the voters are going to vote to accept one of two methods. John said it's an up or down vote yes. Greg feels the people have no idea what they are voting on; a letter should be sent out to the people on what they are voting for. We discussed that John said and decided it was too cumbersome to do a bulk mailing to all the Towns. Jay said it will be voted on at an open Town Meeting and John will have a chance to explain it. Jim Justice reported we are going to start running some dances at TCC the Fire Marshall recommends three fire fighters are there. Jim said he will ask Fire Chief if he has any volunteers. Jay said he will run this by the Insurance people; he doesn't want the Town to be responsible if it catches on fire. Jim asked when Clarry Hill Rd. will be striped. Jay said probably mid-summer.

**15. Future Agenda Items:** there was none.

**16. Adjourn:** Motion James Justice to adjourn at 8:10PM. Seconded John Shepard. Unanimous.

These minutes were approved on May 23, 2016 with the following amendments.