

FINAL



**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2013**

PRESENT: TOM CLOW, CHAIRMAN; RICHARD W. BUTT, VICE CHAIRMAN; JOHN LAWTON, SELECTMAN; JAMES LEARY, SELECTMAN; KEITH R. LACASSE, SELECTMAN

RECORDING SECRETARY: Cherry Palmisano

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi Bolton

GUESTS: Mark Anderson, Ian McSweeney, Senator Bob Odell

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Butt seconded to enter into non-public session @ 6:30 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (a & c). A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Butt – yes; Selectman Lawton – yes; Selectman Leary – yes; Chairman Clow – yes. Passed 4-0-0

Selectman Lacasse arrived at 6:40 PM. The non-public meeting was with Welfare Director Deb Urella.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to come out of non public session @ 7:00 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Butt – yes; Selectman Lawton – yes; Selectman Leary – yes; Selectman Lacasse – yes; Chairman Clow – yes. Passed 5-0-0

7:00 p.m. Chairman Clow called the meeting to order.

MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to approve the minutes of March 18, 2013 as amended. Passed 5-0-0

SHMID/BANKS PROPERTY DISCUSSION – Mark Anderson, New Boston Veterinarian, explained to the Board that he has always hayed the fields. He would like to know if he could still do it this year and if there is a possibility of having a lease to continue to hay the field. It was discussed that it is likely that the ownership would not change until the end of the season. Mr. Anderson said that those fields are very heavily drained sandy soils and as a result, he applies fertilizer up to three times per year. He typically parks equipment there between haying those fields and moving to the next fields and wants to make sure that the equipment is not a problem for the town.

Ian McSweeney, Russell Foundation, said that the terms of the conservation easement allow agriculture by the town or leased to a third party. He has not done anything further with funding since last meeting with the Board. Mr. McSweeney said that there are grant funding deadlines coming up in the next few months. The Selectmen need to know the status of the purchase by the end of August before setting the tax rate. Mr. McSweeney said that prior to that depends on how successful he is at getting the money. Mr. McSweeney said that town owned land can be leased out for agricultural purposes and most of the towns similar to this situation have had a prior user lease the land. There could be a verbal agreement that was between the land owner and the user and the town continues to allow the agricultural activity. Unless there is a conflict from someone in Weare regarding haying the fields, Vice Chairman Butt sees no reason why Mr. Anderson can't continue.

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Mr. Anderson said that the amount of money spent each year to get the property to grow hay is close to \$200 per year, per acre and he fertilizes every year.

Mr. McSweeney mentioned the possibility of holding an event on the field and Mr. Anderson said that if he knew ahead of time, he could work around an event. The easement would preclude heavy equipment, but recreation and education are allowed and are a benefit to the town. It would be best to have a lease to spell everything out and Mr. Anderson would like a 5 year commitment, but understands that the town does not have all the input yet. The Board feels that there is no need to interrupt the process for this year.

Mr. Anderson hays a total of 30 acres on East Road; 10-12 acres is Shmid/Banks property. Vice Chairman Butt would like to see the land used and encourages the activity. The 10-12 acres being hayed are the only open fields on the Shmid/Banks property. Mr. Anderson said that there is a 2 acre parcel on the right side of the driveway that something will need to be done to, it has never been an agricultural field, and it is the only part that he thinks that is currently open that would be conducive to recreation fields. There is a state law that allows for posting of actively used agricultural land and it makes sense to have the ability to post it. Mr. Anderson has reseeded the parcel twice and he has been haying that field for 10 years.

Mr. McSweeney said that most easements are privately owned; this easement land would be owned by the town and it would be unique that the town will own active agricultural land.

The Board said that Mr. Anderson could hay the fields this year.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

The Board signed the 3 year fire dispatch agreement from Goffstown effective January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2015.

Selectman Lacasse moved, Selectman Leary seconded to approve the 3 year lease between the Town of Weare and the Town of Goffstown for Fire Department Dispatch Services at a rate of \$860.74 per month for 2013, \$877.95 per month for 2014, and \$895.51 per month for 2015. Passed 5-0-0

Mildred Hall Advisory Committee – They will be meeting with the Board on April 15th and Betty Straw would like to know if there is a tentative list of discussion items. Vice Chairman Butt would like to know the criteria they use to utilize the gift money, what the committee's philosophy is, and a list of all requests that have come to the Mildred Hall Committee.

Town Website – Town Administrator Bolton said that she forwarded information to each Selectman regarding the town website. Some of the towns she contacted use GovOffice and some users used GovOffice and then moved to Virtual Town Hall & Schools. There is a price difference between GovOffice and Virtual Town Hall & Schools. Chairman Clow said that it would be helpful to him to know three websites that use each to compare the websites. Goffstown created their website through a private company. Selectman Lawton mentioned John Stark's website, that they developed and maintain themselves at a cost of \$420 for three years. Town Administrator Bolton will forward all the information to the Board that she has received.

Government Building and Maintenance Projects – There is \$112,471.24 remaining in the fund as of March 20th. The Board discussed that the three roofs are the top priority, along with the Town Hall doors and the alarm system at the Town Hall. The Town Office Building and Library have the same vendor for the fire alarm and the monitoring service is provided by the same company that installed the systems. It was mentioned that they need to keep \$30,000-\$50,000 in the fund for emergencies. Selectman Lacasse will review the information for the specifications on the roof.

Senator, Bob Odell – Senator Odell represents the Town of Weare. Senator Odell mentioned the monies for the compact and flood control and said that Senator Sanborn is favorably looked upon by the Senate and put a bill on the table. The Senate agreed to the policy and as the budget allows they will put the money into the budget. The legislation appropriates \$800,000 for communities not paid for flood control the last time. Senator Odell

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that that there are hundreds of bills that will be addressed by this Wednesday, which is the half way point in the Legislature process for 2013. The Governor had a certain level of revenues she projected and the House reduced that amount by \$35 million. The Ways and Means Committee will review the revenues and make adjustments. The Senate has a strong record of being fairly close on estimating revenues.

Senator Odell said that the gas tax does not stand a chance in the Senate. He said that the way the registration fees were used with little going back to the towns was unsettling with the Senate. He feels it was poorly managed and there is concern with too much of it going to Route 93 and towns not seeing much of the money.

The Senate passed the gambling bill, which will provide funds for roads, university funding, and \$10 million of economic development of the North Country. Senator Odell thinks that the gas tax is a real struggle. Governor Hassen included the money in the budget to be spent, before approval for the gambling was given. If it was up to the Senate there would be gambling in NH, but the House has never agreed with expanding gambling. There will be a one time fee for the gaming revenue. Selectman Lacasse mentioned the Common Core Educational Standards, which Senator Odell said was adopted by the State School Board, not senate.

OTHER BUSINESS – Selectman Lawton mentioned that the Emergency Management Director position requires someone who can organize and coordinate and he asked about the secretary of the Fire Department being a possibility. Vice Chairman Butt said that they left it that they would have Paul King come in to discuss the position because he has the best perspective of what the position involves. The Emergency Management Director would need to coordinate three major departments in the event of an emergency.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to enter into non-public session @ 8:10 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (a&c). A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Butt – yes; Selectman Lawton – yes; Selectman Leary – yes; Selectman Lacasse – yes; Chairman Clow – yes. Passed 5-0-0

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lawton seconded to come out of non-public session @ 9:50 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Butt – yes; Selectman Lawton – yes; Selectman Leary – yes; Selectman Lacasse – yes; Chairman Clow – yes. Passed 5-0-0

Selectman Leary moved to seal and restrict the minutes of the non-public session pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3 II; Selectman Lawton seconded the motion. Passed 5-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Cherry Palmisano, Recording Secretary