

**Town of Chesterfield
Board of Selectmen**

**MINUTES
April 8, 2009**

Call to Order

Chairman Jon McKeon called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Others in attendance were Board members Bob Brockmann, Cliff Emery and Administrator Rick Carrier.

Appointments

- 6:30 David Wood

Wood was present advising he is interested in serving on the Conservation Commission. He is retired and has lived in Town since 1997. He has been involved with the Spofford Lake Assoc.

Wood was sworn in by McKeon and signed the Conflict of Interest Policy.

For Signature

- Manifest #15
- Selectmen minutes – April 1
- Highway Safety grant
- Intent to excavate – Cersosimo
- Yield tax certificate – Anderson
- Yield tax warrant
- Intent to cut - Hodgkins
- Appointment paper – Trustee of Trust Fund & Conservation Comm.
- Payroll change notice – police department

For Discussion

- Wares Grove septic project

The Board reviewed and amended the RFP for the septic installation. It will be advertised in 2 newspapers and Works in Progress next week. The design is at the state for review and approval.

- Budget Committee letter

The Board reviewed the letter and Cotter's response to the Budget Committee. McKeon stated that it is the Board's goal to not increase the budget. They have done pretty well in the operating budgets. Last year the operating budget actually went down. The Highway budget is largely influenced by material.

Emery asked why the Town was not able to keep the fines for speeding on Town roads. He also asked if there were areas the Town could get income. The reimbursable details were discussed noting that during the paving of Route 9, Chesterfield PD generated a lot of income for the Town.

Brockmann gave an overview of last evening's Budget Committee (BC) meeting advising that the BC stated they wanted a response to their letter of last year. The Board noted that Cotter had responded for the Board in January 2009. Brockmann suggested that the Board should note some of the items that have been done over the last few years: Highway and Transfer Station down in personnel, the Code Enforcement Officer went to part-time last year and there is now a Town Clerk policy in place so there is more oversight for that position.

This discussion was tabled for 2 weeks to give Emery opportunity to review information.

➤ Old town office building

Brockmann suggested the Board invite Dutch Walsh in for an in-depth progress report for the alternative use of the old town office building. McKeon stated there are costs associated with the building staying there occupied or vacant. There are costs with moving it and with tearing it down. The decision would go to Town Meeting for a decision of the voters.

McKeon stated we could just let it stay there and wait for someone to come forward or actively look for possibilities. The Board agreed to invite Walsh in next week to ask him to keep the Board apprised of his progress in the search.

McKeon stated it would be interesting to get a true deconstruction cost and turn it into lawn compared to keeping the building there. The Board wanted to get true costs to weigh the options.

➤ Town Hall rental policy

The Board reviewed the policy and Brockmann stated there should be no tape allowed on the walls. Carrier noted that the rental fee has not changed in many years. The Board agreed to increase the rental fee to \$75 for residents and \$150 for non-residents.

Ross advised that during the reception for SPC Mitchell's return from Iraq she was asked if the rental fees could be waived as this was actually a community event. The Board discussed that there are costs to the Town for someone using the Town Hall; dumpster, electric, wear and tear and in the winter, heat. It was noted that the residents do get a discount for the rental fee. The Board agreed to not waive the fees in the future for like receptions.

➤ Personnel policy

The Board reviewed the policy as they have done from time to time. Emery asked why the rules for government are different from businesses with respect to required break-time, lunches and benefits. Carrier advised that municipalities have different requirements because they are government.

It was noted that the policy for the Highway and snow plowing was a crew safety concern. The Board would like to relook at plowing all night and then working during the day so as not to lose overtime; perhaps changing the OT policy to over 8 hours.

The Board also discussed the meal reimbursement policy. Carrier will research other towns/cities for their meal policy.

➤ Spofford Place

Carrier asked if the Board had any questions for preparation for the meeting with Liptak next week. Emery asked how to get the lien off the abutting property with the brick building so that it can be sold and put back on the tax rolls. Carrier advised that some liens stay with the properties. Carrier has been researching the mortgage to notice them of any tax lien. He stated that the Town could take the property but we must be careful to notice the proper mortgage holder right along. If he can't find where to send the deeding notice it could cause a problem.

Liptak had advised Carrier that the lien would be released, whether it is for Spofford Place property only or would also include the Van Oene property. It was noted that if the property were taken by tax deed it could be "sold by sealed bids, auction or as justice may provide". Emery advised that the brick building has deeded shared driveway rights with the Spofford Place property. He will bring in a copy of the deed to the meeting with Liptak. Emery stated he would like to see the brick building salvaged to keep it useful and put back on the tax rolls and rejuvenate the Spofford village area.

➤ Town-owned property

The Board reviewed each of the Town owned properties and what options were available for their sale or use to the Town. Logging some of the likely lots was discussed. McKeon suggested hiring a forestry manager to survey the wood and layout a plan and then have him recommend a logger.

Emery asked about the Poocham Rd property history. McKeon did not participate in the discussion as he has a conflict of interest. It had been subdivided by a judge in 1978 due to a family member selling her ½ interest. The Board asked Carrier to contact the abutting land owner to see if he would be interested in purchasing the lot to merge with his existing lot.

➤ Electricity rates

Carrier advised that NH businesses have the opportunity to choose the energy supplier due to deregulation. The energy distribution company is and would remain PSNH. The Board reviewed the proposal and any concerns. They asked Carrier to continue pursuing the information.

➤ Liberty Elm tree

The agreement was reviewed. Carrier had asked Gary Winn if the Boy Scouts would be interested in planting the tree as a project. He has not heard back from him. The Board authorized Carrier to sign the agreement and send it in. The other information regarding the plaque will be discussed later.

➤ Insurance claim – Dormody

A resident on Russell Rd was traveling on Gulf Rd and claimed she had a tire that was shredded because of the type of gravel used to fill a mud hole. Carrier has submitted a claim to the insurance company for them to investigate.

➤ Request to raise funds at transfer station

The Board reviewed the letter from Goodell requesting her daughter be allowed to set up a lemonade stand at the Transfer Station during the operation hours as a fund raiser to help cover the cost of her 8th grade American Heritage Tour in September 2009. Carrier advised that Dunbar does not have an issue with this. The Board approved the request providing they maintain the conditions in their request.

➤ Harpoon Brewery Ride water station

The Board reviewed Harpoon Brewery ride coordinator's request to use the old Town Office parking area as a water stop for their charity bicycle ride. The letter suggested that the Boy Scouts could be compensated in return for passing out water to the riders. It was noted the coordinator would need to address this with Gary Winn. The Board agreed to the use of the parking area. School will not be in session. The Board would like to find out about the Police Departments' assistance required in crossing Route 9. This would be a reimbursable detail.

➤ Old Business

Fuel Oil bids – McKeon suggested sending out bid requests at any time.

➤ Other business

1. Carrier advised there will be a meeting Monday morning with Mike Nawoj and Jeremy LaPlante of NH OEM to discuss why the Town has not received the RERP funds from last year.

2. McKeon advised there is a 9 lot subdivision proposal for Atherton Hill going before the Planning Board. The Welcome Center will have its public hearing on April 20th at the Town Hall.

Information

- DRA Community Action Report
- Misc. correspondence & newsletters

Adjournment

With no other business to conduct, Brockmann moved to adjourn, Emery seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ross
Secretary

Approved by:

Jon McKeon, Chairperson

Date

Robert Brockmann

Date

Clifford Emery

Date