

## Selectmen's Meeting

DRAFT (until approved)

July 9, 2013

Board of Selectmen met at the Town Hall for open discussion with townspeople, for any concerns, questions they might have.

Opened with the Pledge of Allegiance

Comments:

Nobody working for the Town should be on the unpaid list as of January 31.

Not aggressive enough with out tax collections. Work with people to get them to actively pay what they can. Ask how other Towns are working on their RE collections. The Town is losing money from State Revenue Sharing and that loss must be made up..

Board has discussed looking into billing twice a year. The statement is already set up with 2 installment coupons. Discuss with auditor and legal to find out the procedures to go to twice a year. The interest rate is set by the State, which is 7%.

The Board was asked to explain the tax billing process, which Bruce did. Bills are sent, due by Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. December 1, interest starts accruing, daily. Notices go out in January that you haven't paid by Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, name appears in Town Report. 30 day notices go out in June, 30 days to pay before account goes to lien. Account goes to lien, 18 months to pay, if not paid, Town takes for tax foreclosure, holds for 3 years. The Town currently has two foreclosures that the Board is looking into to selling.

A question was asked in regards to the 8 000 for the GA account. The 8,000 was appropriated at Town Meeting. When Bruce does approve a GA, paperwork is filled out and sent to the State for a 50% reimbursement. Bruce also noted that the minimums for GA has gone up and more people might be affected.

Stone Road work looks very good. Could the Town extend it all the way through, especially for Fire and Rescue if they need to around for some reason,. The Board wants to appropriate \$10,000 at next Town Meeting to use on the gravel roads for improvement. Roads that have houses will be priority and work their way down.

There are no roads that the Board knows that are being giving back to us by the State. Maplewood Road and Route 11 are being paved sometime in August. As further information comes to the office, it will be posted on the website.

The Recycling Building has been closed due the deterioration of the building and mold. . the ceiling will be ripped down to determine if it is safe and the Board is waiting for the insurance company to get back with them regarding annual check up pf buildings.

Will the rebuilding of the recycling building be put back on the warrant? Yes. Where to be built to be determined by the vote. The old building will be used as a training exercise for the Fire Department. There are some who felt that there was some miscommunication at the Town Meeting in regards to the building , confusion with the vote. The Board will make as clear as possible on next vote. Perhaps on a ballot.

The Building Committee meets the first Monday of the month. Doing a great job. Each building should have a timeline for maintenance. Look at buildings for priorities for maintenance. Make a spreadsheet, put on website. Newfield station costs less to maintain for the pump than putting a new well in. Transfer Station needs to have a new building for the attendants 12x12. New retaining wall for brush pile, clean up around the buildings. A new traffic pattern to be established; new dump stickers every year in tax bills to try and avoid non-residents from dumping. The DEP want the Board to come up with a 10 year business plan.

Public notice, better communication, organization of how meeting is run, new/old business, public access, live stream on computer, minutes on website, agenda on website. If 2 or more elected Board members together it is considered a meeting. Freedom of Access training, appointed people also. Votes are not being taken at meetings, important actions not being written. Boards must remember to be careful of conflict of interest. Even a perceived conflict. Follow state Statutes in regards to Executive Session in minutes, state why. Would like to see a town policy manual i.e when Boards are supposed to post public notice. Watch qualifications for appointments.

Could we find another way to raise money for the Heating Assistance other than dances?

Will the Board look into using debit and credit cards?

As of August 6, 2013 the Board of Selectpeople will meet at the Public Safety Building at 7 p.m.. Over-crowding and the lack of hearing were some of the issues. Board members have meetings all through out the week and Tuesday night is the best option. Suggestion that the Board meet less. How they came to the decision to meet at the PSB

Charlie discussed how they record meetings in Wakefield. It uses about 5 volunteers to run equipment. The equipment Charlie said, was provided by the cable company.

Tom Johnson discussed that emergency services are always needing volunteers. EMA activated Code Red. Fire Dept is offering reflective numbers signs for house at \$15. Makes it very easy to see house numbers at night. Chicken BBQ August 10<sup>th</sup> at the PSB with a dance to follow. A new hydrant is being put in at the Old Mill Route110/Route11.

Cell phone towers have not been worked on. The company has gone bankrupt.

House near the Transfer Station that burnt? What is going on with it?

It was stated that the hours were inconvenient? When asked how to improve he didn't give an answer. The addition of the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month has been positive.

Could the bushes be cut by the new bridge? Blocking view when pulling out from 110.

New signage at the Transfer Station will include, no picking steel, No picking out of transfer station and see attendant before dumping.

There are 10 state certified boat inspectors on Rock Haven that have volunteered to check boats. Will do grant work for the Town if Town votes to accept.

A thank you was given to all the volunteers, especially to Janet and Donna for the Recycling Building and Shirley Campbell and Bev Manning for the Senior Luncheons they provide every month.

It was suggested that these meetings be held quarterly

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.