

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 16, 2011
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

Selectmen Members Present: Paula Proulx, Charlie King, Gerry McCarthy, Gail Ellis and Joan Funk.

Town Staff Present: Interim Town Administrator Alan Gould

Public Present: Neil Johnson, Jane Wingate, John Nolan, Brian St. Onge, John Wingate and Jim Horgan.

Chairman Proulx called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

1. Public Hearing: Regarding the Citizens Petition to reduce the Board of Selectmen from 5 members to 3 members Pursuant to RSA 41:8-d:

Alan commented the petition was certified and will go onto the ballot per the RSA. **Paula opened the meeting for public comment.** Neil Johnson questioned if there is a reason listed for the petition and Alan replied no. Mr. Johnson commented that he believes this is foolish because it will reduce the quorum and the number of members discussing a subject. Jane Wingate questioned how this would be enacted if it is to pass and Alan read the RSA that stated in 2012 all five current selectmen would lose their seats and then three Selectmen would be voted in for different terms. John Wingate asked if any of the current Selectmen served on the previous Board when there were only 3 members and Gerry replied there are pros and cons to both size boards. Joan commented that decisions take longer with a 5 member Board but the decisions made are probably more thought out and discussed and with the growing size of the community a 5 member Board is probably more representative. Brian St.Onge commented that with a 5 member Board you get a better representative of the town. Charlie commented that he is opposed to the petition for some of the same reasons already listed including votes could be swayed much easier, less representation and the Selectmen would have to serve on many more Boards/Committees. Gail and Paula both agreed that a 5 member Board is better noting the job is done more thoroughly as items are discussed from many different sides and opinions. **Paula closed the public hearing at 5:13pm.**

2. Public Comment:

Paula announced that David DeJagger forwarded a letter to the Selectmen noting he was very appreciative of the great job Dale Sprague and his department has done for him over the past month.

3. Petition to Appoint Paula Proulx as Town Administrator:

Paula turned the meeting over to Gail. Jane Wingate presented the Board with additional signatures for the petition and the total of the petitions signatures is now at 129. Mrs. Wingate

noted the petitioners would like to know why the Board decided to not hire Paula as Town Administrator. Gail replied that the Board discussed the petition in non-public and decided to continue with the procedure set forth for the hiring process. Mrs. Wingate asked if the Board can give specific reasons for not hiring her and Gail replied that under RSA91:A the Board needs to respect the privacy of all candidates who applied for the position. Mrs. Wingate asked how the Board will proceed since they have been unsuccessful for several months. Alan replied that the Board's desire has been to find the person who will be the "right fit" for the town and are willing to wait until that person is found. Mrs. Wingate then asked when the non-public minutes would be unsealed that concerned the vote to not hire Paula and Gail replied they will remain sealed until the Selectmen vote to unseal them.

4. Other Business To Come Before the Board:

- A. Alan stated he received an Intent to Cut for a lot on Meaderboro Road (Map R07, Lot 003) and Scott Hazelton, Road Agent, reviewed the application and decided a bond would not be necessary if the work was done before March 1st. *Joan Funk motioned to approve the Intent to Cut for (Tax Map R07, Lot 003) with the condition the work be completed by March 1st otherwise a bond will need to be posted, 2nd Gail Ellis. Motion carried with all in favor.*
- B. Alan informed the Board the cost to repair the town clock is \$475. Gerry asked if anything can be done to protect the shaft from people walking on it and such and Alan said he would ask. *Joan Funk motioned to approve the repairs to the town clock at \$475, 2nd Gerry McCarthy.* Discussion followed where Gail asked where the funds will come from and Alan said he would find the money in the budget. *Motion carried with all in favor.*
- C. Alan presented the Board with the final copy of the warrants. He explained the Budget Committee requested a verbiage change to Article 11 to state "sale of timber on Town owned land managed by the Conservation Commission." *Charlie King motioned to recommend the article as amended, 2nd Gail Ellis. Motion carried with all in favor.*

Alan reviewed petition article 16 regarding the purchase of a fire engine and noted there are several errors with the article because it does not include "raise and appropriate funds" and nor does it include a non-appropriation clause. *Gail Ellis motioned to not recommend article 16, 2nd Gerry McCarthy. Motion carried with all in favor.* Charlie asked what will happen if the article passes at town meeting and Alan replied that he is still in discussion with DRA to find out the answer to that question.

- D. Paula informed the Board that she received a letter from NH the Beautiful regarding a bonus they are providing this year to communities who are diligent in keeping the litter picked up in their community.

At 5:45pm, Gail Ellis motioned to go in non-public under RSA91:A.3.II (e), 2nd Gerry McCarthy. Roll Call – Paula Proulx (yes), Gail Ellis (yes), Gerry McCarthy (yes), Charlie King (yes) and Joan Funk (yes).

At 5:49pm the Board came back into public session and Paula announced the minutes were sealed and Gerry McCarthy excused himself from the meeting.

At 5:50pm, Gail Ellis motioned to go in non-public under RSA91:A.3.II (e), 2nd Joan Funk. Roll Call – Paula Proulx (yes), Gail Ellis (yes), Charlie King (yes) and Joan Funk (yes).

At 5:55pm the Board came back into public session and Paula announced the minutes were sealed.

At 5:56pm, Gail Ellis motioned to go in non-public under RSA91:A.3.II (e), 2nd Charlie King. Roll Call – Paula Proulx (yes), Gail Ellis (yes), Charlie King (yes) and Joan Funk (yes).

At 6:05pm the Board came back into public session and Paula announced the minutes were sealed.

At 6:06pm, Joan Funk motioned to adjourn, 2nd Charlie King. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger

Recording Secretary

Chairman Paula Proulx

Vice-Chairman, Gail Ellis

Joan A. Funk

Gerald McCarthy

Charlie King