

TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting January 7, 2014

Present: Randy Morrison, Francis Muzzey, Steve Davis and Deb Vlk

Also Present: Chief Kevin Kay, Kelly Monahan, Mate Myles, John and Donna DeSorbo, Al and Francine Monica, Jeff Ames, Craig Pasco, Palmer Koelb, Paul Ducharme and Kenyon Karl (recording the meeting)

Francis motioned to open the meeting at 6:00 pm, second by Randy and approved. Selectmen reviewed and signed vendor payments and payroll.

Steve motioned 6:00 PM, to go into a Non-Public Meeting per RSA 91-A:3, II(c) - Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting, seconded by Randy and approved. Randy motioned to come out of Non-Public session at 6:08, seconded by Francis. Randy stated that no decisions were made.

Francis announced that Bernie Waugh is scheduled to be present at the Selectmen's Meeting on February 4th. He will be giving an annual update on legal matters.

Chief Kay gave a Police Department Status update. The cruiser battery was replaced. Has been finishing up year end reports for 2013 for the requirements for police standard and training. Invoices will be coming across for the Board to sign for end of year purchases. Mobile base radio wasn't bought on last year's budget and will look into budgeting for 2014. Francis asked if the cruiser still has a difficult time starting and if the cruiser has a block heater. Chief Kay stated that the cruiser does not have one. Chief Kay stated that during the Budget Hearing salary increases of the hourly wage have been factored and wondered when this takes effect. Steve stated that salary increases are affective after the governing body votes on at the town meeting and approves them. Chief Kay reported on the house fire on Rt 25A which the cause is still undetermined at this time. Red Cross was notified and the family have been relocated and there has been a lot of assistance and support from the town. The children have started back at the Wentworth School. As a result of the fire, water from fire was an issue with neighbor's drive where ice developed. The highway department assisted and brought in sand.

Steve stated that the road agent wasn't aware that the highway department is responsible for sanding the school parking lot.

Francis stated that Quentin Mack has resigned from the Planning Board and that someone will need to be appointed to fill in for secretary and carry out the rest of his term until the March Meeting. His position on the Planning Board will be open for any resident of the Town to be put on the March Ballot. Francis asked how this will be achieved. Steve stated that the Planning Board will appoint an alternate which the Select Board will ask to approve of this new appointment.

Kelly Monahan from the Grafton Registry of Deeds office was in attendance. She is following up with all Grafton County towns about a recent letter that was sent out. She left a new organizational chart of the county and a letter authorizing her to change subscription rights which is in RSA 478G Sec 3, which she quoted. She stated that because of the age of technology changing so fast, fraud has become a problem not only in NH but across the country for the potential of users to download the county records and start up their own business using these records. The County will be upgrading to a new software that will provide a better fire wall to protect the counties interest. She left flyers to fill out to be a valid registered user for access to the county records. She stated that they are filing a new bill for a new RSA to prevent people from using their office who are filing false leadings against law enforcement, against people with foreclosures, against doctor's list. It's called paper terrorism. This bill is being sponsored by Senator Carson, placeholders are in

place and it should happen next week. She will get back to us on the outcome of this new bill.

Nate Myles was in attendance regarding the use of their Outdoor Wood Burning Unit. Steve asked Mr. Myles if this unit is used all the time. Mr. Myles stated that this is a seasonal unit and is used all the time. Steve asked if this is his only use for heat and Mr. Myles stated this unit is his viable source of heat. Steve asked if there was any other source for heating his home and Mr. Myles stated that he was an oil furnace but there is not much oil. Steve asked what kind of wood and how old is the wood and if anything else besides wood is burned in the unit. Mr. Myles stated that he only burns wood that he gets from his construction jobs he has worked on. Steve asked how old is the wood and Mr. Myles stated it's from 6 months to a year old. Steve asked if Mr. Myles be willing to have Selectmen come and look at the unit. Mr. Myles stated that DES has already been there and done their inspection and are the Selectmen more qualified then DES? Steve stated that has Health Officers for the Town, the DES has put it upon the Selectmen to oversee and settle this issue. Steve asked would Mr. Miles be opposed to the Selectmen inspection. Mr. Myles asked if this has to do with the output of smoke from the unit, which Steve confirmed was the issue. Steve asked if Mr. Myles has noticed excessive smoke, which Mr. Myles stated that it is evident on low pressure days and he will agree to a Selectmen visit. The Select Board recognized Mr. Monica to speak, who said that he spoke with Beverly Drouin from the Dept of Health, and she had mailed a letter on Dec. 3, 2013, stating that the letter was referring to RSA 147 and the Select Board has complete authority to deal with this issue. Mr. Monica's concern is the excessive smoke which has been a health issue inside of his home and neighboring residents as well for quite some time. Steve appreciated and respected Mr. Monica's concerns. Steve asked Mr. Myles if he recognizes how his neighbors feel about the smoke issue and Mr. Myles stated that it would be the same if he had an inside stove. Steve asked how high his smoke stack is on the outside wood burning unit, which Mr. Myles stated was around 16 feet. Steve asked Mr. Myles if his wood burning unit was inside of his house would it be around 30 feet, which Mr. Myles agreed it probably would be. Steve asked Mr. Myles if he would be willing to raise his outside smoke stack to 30 feet, even though he doesn't have to, would this be agreeable to both parties as a possible solution, which all parties concerned agreed. Mr. Myles has agreed to have this done in 30 days, which Steve stated will be February 9th and the Selectmen will follow up on the progress.

.Randy read a proclamation, signed by the Select board, in honor of Ernest Vlk, who is a former resident, and Selectmen and will be celebrating his 90th birthday on January 13, 2014. This proclamation has proclaimed that January 13, 2014 as "Ernest Vlk Day".

Kenyon Karl asked a question about whether or not there will be a selectmen's meeting on Jan 21st, which Randy stated will be an election day and Selectmen will not have a formal meeting and only meet to sign vouchers for payment.

Steve stated that a number of weeks ago he proposed a warrant article at the town meeting to have a 5 member Select board. Since that time Steve has had many residents question whether this would be advisable for a town of this size. Steve has asked that his motion be withdrawn from the town warrant, seconded by Francis.

Randy asked about the scattering of ashes issue, which was brought up at a previous meeting by Kenyon Karl, which he asked if there was a specific site set aside here in Wentworth. . Francis stated that at this time there not such a place. Palmer Koelb requested that it be brought up at the town meeting for the residents to discuss and decide on.

Kenyon Karl, being on the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District, has asked for the boards support on the Paint Stewardship Bill. The purpose of this bill, HB 1570-FN, is to discard unwanted paint back to hardware stores instead of the few days allowed each year. Steve has asked for further research to consider and the board has agreed to this.

Non-Public Meeting (1) Randy motioned to go into a Non-Public meeting at 7:23 pm per RSA 91-A:3, II(c) – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a

member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant seconded by Francis and approved

Randy motioned to come out of the Non-Public Meeting at 7:37pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Randy motion to adjourn the Public Meeting at 7:37 pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Vlk

Minutes accepted by

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**TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN**

Non- Public Minutes (1) of January 7, 2014 Meeting

Present: Randy Morrison, Francis Muzzey, Steve Davis

Non-Public Meeting (1)

Steve motioned to go into Non-Public Meeting (1) at 6:00pm, per **RSA 91-A:3, II(c)** – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. Seconded by Francis. Proclamation request. No decisions were made.

Randy motioned to come out of the Non-Public Meeting at 6:08 pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Vlk

Minutes accepted by

_____, _____, _____

**TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN**

Non- Public Minutes (2) of January 7, 2014 Meeting

Present: Randy Morrison, Francis Muzzey, Steve Davis and Deb Vlk

Also Present: Chief Jeff Ames

Non-Public Meeting (2)

Randy motioned at 7:23pm, to go into a Non-Public meeting per **RSA 91-A:3, II(c)** – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting, seconded by Francis and approved. Selectmen discussed Fire Dept issue about coverage to other towns. Selectmen agreed to the decision made by the Fire Dept.

.Randy motioned to come out of the Non-Public meeting at 7:37pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Vlk

Minutes accepted by

TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting January 14, 2014

Present: Randy Morrison, Francis Muzzey, Steve Davis and Deb Vlk

Also Present: Chief Kevin Kay, Senator Jean Forrester, Mark Richardson, Rep Carol Friedrich, Nancy Shedrick, Donna King, Leslie Backstrom, Susan Corbett, Maxwell Corbett, Peter Kozak, Dick Piper, Martha Morrill, Maryann Taliaferro, John Meade, Palmer Koelb, Paul Ducharme, Betty Dube, and Kenyon Karl (recording the meeting)

Steve motioned to open the meeting at 6:00 pm, seconded by Francis and approved. Selectmen reviewed and signed vendor payments.

Francis observed that on Feb 4th there is the Town Annual Budget Hearing and also the Pemi-Baker Regional School District Budget Hearing. Might be a conflict if residents want to attend both.

Deb Vlk asked if the Selectmen had chosen which date for the final Budget Workshop. Steve stated that it will be the Tue after Catherine returns from vacation, which will be Jan 28th at 5pm.

Steve stated that Jean Forrester presented a senate resolution to Ernest Vlk on his 90th birthday. A picture of the event was posted on her website. Steve presented a proclamation making January 13th Ernest Vlk Day in the Town of Wentworth.

Chief Kay gave a Police Department Status update. There will be a few more 2013 year end bills that need to be paid. The scheduling for police officer coverage has been completed for the next few months. Steve asked if there will be police coverage during school session and upcoming elections. Chief Kay stated that there will be two officers covering both. A new battery was installed in the cruiser a few weeks ago, but still having issues starting the vehicle. Chief Kay stated that it might be the fuel pump and will schedule with Meredith Ford for a car appointment. Chief Kay stated that he's still working on year end reports

Betty Dube commented that the roads have been extremely well maintained by our highway department during the weekend freezing rain conditions.

Mark Richardson from the NH DOT, Bridge Bureau was in attendance. Mr. Richardson stated that there are still no funds available to fix the bridge and the LCHIP grant was unsuccessful because the Town does not own the bridge. Francis stated that Peter Holden of Holden Engineering will be doing a structural study of the bridge for \$500. Jean Forrester is on the board for LCHIP and reviewed the application and checked with the Dept of Justice and they could not fund a state agency because the bridge belongs to DOT. Senator Forrester stated that it could be funded if DOT and the Town worked out a management agreement. If the State of NH DOT works out a structured structure agreement with the Town about who's going to manage the bridge, then LCHIP would consider the funding. If that is not agreeable to the Town and DOT has no funding and if the Town wanted to take ownership, then LCHIP would readdress the grant for consideration again. Francis stated that residents have no other way of crossing the Baker River other than the dangerous crossing of the bridge on Rt 25 which is a viable liability. The DOT agreed to a sidewalk for pedestrian traffic and it was not constructed, Mr. Richardson will find out why it was omitted. Steve stated that he sent Mr. Richardson a history of events of the bridge and the loss of this bridge has a severe impact on the ability of this town to maintain itself as a community because of parking on the other side of the bridge for community events on the common. Steve asked, if the Town takes on the responsibility of the bridge and has our own professional engineer to do the studies to modify the repairs to the bridge for pedestrian traffic only, would the DOT accept that? Mr. Richardson stated that it would be worth a discussion with the commissioner. Mr. Richardson asked that the engineer doing the Town study have structural engineering credentials as well follow the National Design Code for pedestrian traffic load. Steve asked if DOT took the bridge down and the Town put in their own bridge using local funds would this be agreeable to DOT and Mr. Richardson stated this

is worth a discussion as well. Francis stated that after years of neglect we know have a problem which is a concern for the community due to safety issues, does the state have an answer, which Mr. Richardson stated that there are no funds. Mr. Richardson stated that Saunders Hill Rd Bridge, which is similar to the construction of the Common Bridge, that was refurbished back a few years ago was \$750,000 with \$200,000 in engineering costs, so you are easily looking at \$500,000 to refinish the common bridge. Steve asked Mr. Richardson as a review, the DOT has the funds to tear the bridge down, which Mr. Richardson stated that last summer once the Town started talks of retaining the bridge, the funds were not appropriated. Randy asked Mr. Richardson when could he set up a discussion meeting with the DOT, which Mr. Richardson stated he would ask the Commission tomorrow and we would hear by the end of the week. Mr. Meade asked that the LCHIP funding that was requested, if the Town took management of the bridge, leaving ownership to the State, and the Town took management of the right-of-way and the state did tear it down, would that open it up for the Town for funding? Steve stated that it could possibly. Francis asked Senator Forrester would we have gotten the funding if the Town owned the bridge and Senator Forrester stated that we would have. John Meade stated that possible funding could come from the NH Snowmobile Assoc., but there would have to be a connection loop to present trails in the system. Mr. Meade asked when the engineer report comes back, and the bridge is safe for pedestrian traffic, would the state entertain reopening the bridge, which it was decided it would be a question to ask at the meeting in Concord. Mr. Richardson stated that there could be further funding thru a new program called the Transportation Alternative Program that the Town could look at. There was further discussion about putting something on the ballot, but still not enough information was decided in tonight's meeting. Steve stated that in the following months a plan of action would be developed that the Board could report at town meeting.

Steve made a motion that the Chairman of the Board, sign the contractual agreement with Crane & Bell, seconded by Francis.

Non-Public Meeting (1) Francis motioned to go into a Non-Public meeting at 7:10pm per RSA 91-A:3, II(c) – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant seconded by Steve and approved for a Welfare Application.

Steve motioned to come out of the Non-Public Meeting at 7:20pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Non-Public Meeting (2) Steve motioned to go into a Non-Public meeting at 7:20pm per RSA 91-A:3, II(c) – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant seconded by Francis and approved for a Personal Issue.

Steve motioned to come out of the Non-Public Meeting at 7:25pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Randy motion to adjourn the Public Meeting at 7:25 pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Vlk

Minutes accepted by

**TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN**

Non- Public Minutes (1) of January 14, 2014 Meeting

Present: Randy Morrison, Francis Muzzey, Steve Davis, Deb Vlk, Maryann Taliaferro

Non-Public Meeting (1)

Francis motioned to go into Non-Public Meeting (1) at 7:10pm, per **RSA 91-A:3, II(c)** – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. Seconded by Steve. Welfare Application. Decision was for applicant to present back to the Board the following information and bring it back to the Board for a final decision.

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1. Payment plan of reimbursement
2. Landlord agreement
3. Secure job established

Steve motioned to come out of the Non-Public Meeting at 7:20 pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Vlk

Minutes accepted by

_____, _____, _____

**TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN**

Non- Public Minutes (2) of January 14, 2014 Meeting

Present: Randy Morrison, Francis Muzzey, Steve Davis

Non-Public Meeting (2)

Steve motioned to go into Non-Public Meeting (2) at 7:20pm, per **RSA 91-A:3, II(c)** – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. Seconded by Francis. Personal Issue: No decisions were made.

Steve motioned to come out of the Non-Public Meeting at 7:25 pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Vlk

Minutes accepted by

_____, _____, _____

TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting January 28, 2014

Present: Francis Muzzey, Steve Davis and Catherine Stover

Also Present: Ellie Murray, Craig Pasco, Palmer Koelb, Jeff Ames and Kenyon Karl (recording the meeting)

Steve motioned to open budget workshop at 5:15 pm, seconded by Francis and approved. Some of the budgetary items discussed included: Town offices outside services, PB Cam fees, Highway sand/salt, phone & broadband services for the Highway Department, costs related to refinishing the Town Hall floors (monies to be taken from the Capital Reserve) and Animal Pest Control budget.

Steve requested a break at 6:00 pm. Following the brief break, the workshop continued.

Steve made a motion to complete the Budget Workshop at 9 am this Saturday, February 1. Francis seconded and approved the motion.

Steve motioned to come out of the workshop at 6:20 pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Steve motioned to open the regularly scheduled Selectmen's Meeting at 6:20 pm, seconded by Francis and approved. The Board reviewed and signed vendor checks.

The Board reviewed and signed the check for the Fire Department for the purchase of the new Fire Truck which is scheduled to be delivered tomorrow. Jeff Ames was in attendance, and Deb Vlk gave him the check.

Steve and Francis discussed an incident that occurred on Ellsworth Hill recently in which a vehicle with bald tires slid off the road. Grafton County was called and they called the Highway Department to aid in towing the vehicle out. John did so, but called Steve and asked for input. Steve contacted Francis and an emergency meeting was held to discuss future policy on the Town towing stranded vehicles. The Board said that next time the vehicle owner should call a tow company themselves. They created a policy that the Town not be in position of towing vehicles due to high liability.

Francis stated he wanted to discuss taking the Town truck out of the town. Steve and Francis discussed the fact that it is not a non-public issue. Steve stated the board previously agreed to allow the truck to be taken. Francis agreed that the board had been previously agreed to this, but stated that he is now opposed. Steve stated that he wishes to wait until Randy is present and the full Board is here. Palmer and Jeff Ames discussed and wondered whether the town is covered for liability coverage when it leaves the town. The Board asked the Administrative Assistant to contact our insurance to check. Francis stated he is not as concerned about the insurance coverage as the related costs to taking the truck to Alexandria.

Motion by Steve to close the meeting at 7:05 pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by
