

TOWN OF THORNTON
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Date: August 19, 2009

The Thornton Board of Selectmen met and held a meeting on,
Wednesday, August 19, 2009 7:00 PM at the Thornton Town Hall.

Selectmen present:

Roy Sabourn, Jim Parziale, & Tim Tyler

Public present:

Administrator Tammie Beaulieu

At 7:00 PM Selectmen Parziale called the meeting to order.

7:00 PM Frederic Johnson appeared before the board and shared his interest in serving on the Conservation Commission. Mr. Johnson lives at 101 Mad River Road in Thornton and feels he would like to give back to the community. He has been a resident of Thornton for three years but lived in the area for eight years. He is currently the Campton librarian and feels strongly in making people aware of conservation.

Motion

Selectmen Sabourn moved to accept Mr. Johnson's offer to assist the town and appoint him to the Thornton Conservation Commission, Selectmen Tyler seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0

7:30 Transfer Station Supervisor- Dave Hilliard

TA informed the board that Mr. Hilliard had called earlier in the day to inform her that he had addressed the cell phone issues that appeared last week. US cellular removed the two year extended contract that he signed after learning he had no authority to sign the contract. He took TA Beaulieu's cell phone and will have his phone number attached to that phone. All changes ultimately returned us to the agreed contract with US Cellular that the board decided at the previous meeting. Mr. Hilliard felt he did not need to attend the meeting but if the board feels they would like to meet with him he could be scheduled on the next agenda. It was agreed by all board members that as long as the town is not obligated to a two year contract they are still willing to try this phone plan as long as they do not see abuse of the text or phone lines by any department.

Selectmen Sabourn further requested the need for the transfer station employees to follow the same process that the other departments do with a weekly schedule and if the employee is having time out for vacations, or change in weekly hours due to jury, bereavement, meetings then the supervisor needs to inform the town administrator to record on the office calendar prior to the events. This is followed by the other departments and allows for the selectmen or other supervisors to call town hall and ask for contact information of the town employees. The board agreed to have TA Beaulieu forward a letter to Dave requesting that he put a schedule together for his department and to follow the process discussed. The board further discussed how this would help to explain to the Campton town officials the employee's schedules as they had questioned the supervisors schedule during the 2009 budget process. They shared their concerns that they had not been able to see Dave at the transfer station during open hours and they felt he should be there.

Action Folder:

Signature Folder 8/12/09:

Building permits approved:

18-5-4 Susan Scrimshaw/Allen Storr

16-4-32 Keith McNamara

Signature Folder 8/19/09:

PA-16 Federal/State Forest Land DRA form
MS-1 Extension request form- extend to 10/15/09 due to revaluation
Excavation of gravel Warrant

Building permits approved: 16-4-35 Alexis Eynon

Vet credit DRA worksheet update for revaluation- approved

2-5-6 Bradley
12-8-7 Grady
16-7-15 Marcotte
3-2-2 MavIntosh

Vet credit letters requesting verification materials due to state update for revaluation

Handlin Family Trust	Holbrook Phyllis Trust	Neil Keller
Masters Family Trust	Harry George Jr.	Kowalski-Kowalski Bette Anne Trust
Jeffery Gaudet	Nicolo Francis	Sandra Johnston
Hamilton Trust	Walter Twombly	Robinson-Nayor Rev Realty Trust
Douglas Wilson Jr.	Robert Stark	Edward Downing
Leo Ledger	William Lane	William McMartin
David Rardin	Michael Gretz	Fred Gunter
Thomas Hyland	Gary Anderson	John Foster
Larry Downing	Bruce Kominz	

Disabled vet credit letters requesting verification materials due to state update for revaluation

Richard Moore
David Aylward

Signed the manifests: 8/12/09, 8/19/09

TA Beaulieu presents:

TA informed the selectmen that the FEMA class that RA Dubey discussed with the selectmen at a previous meeting only allows one representative from each town and RA will be attending.

TA met with Deputy John Piantedosi and he expressed his frustration. He does not know what is expected of the volunteer position and what his responsibilities are. TA Beaulieu informed him that he should contact surrounding town's directors and meet with them to see how they are running the process. The mock training that Thornton was involved with a few years ago was very helpful and it appeared at that time that the town needed to update the Emergency management plan, specifically the contact data. Selectmen Sabourn agreed to bring in his report from the event for Mr. Piantedosi to read. He further offered to meet and review the process with Mr. Piantedosi if he feels that would be helpful.

TA reminded the board that due to Jack Foley's retirement letter coming in with short notice and during the Chief's retirement and party that she felt Jack did not get the proper recognition he deserved. She asked the board if they would agree to invite Jack to their 9/2/09 meeting and present him with a card, gift cards, cake, and coffee. The board would like to have him on the agenda and to recognize his time with the Town of Thornton Police Department. The board further approved that TA Beaulieu inform departments heads to invite employees to attend.

TA presented the tax deed calculation sheet on the McAllister property deeded 12/31/08 for Map 13, Lot 5M, Sublot 4D3. The Board approved the amended fees and tax calculation sheet and signed the tax deed returning the property to the previous owner for the required amount due to the town.

Discussion ensued on the tax deeded property process that the town should follow. It was agreed by all board members that deed parcels consisting of only land will be held for three full years before they will be auctioned or sealed bid process. Ta Beaulieu expressed that to apply the same process for tax deeded parcels consisting of buildings appeared to be costly to maintain and the town does not have an account in the budget for the cost involved. It was agreed by the selectmen that parcels with buildings will have a site review and decision as to the process will be decided on a one by one basis.

Selectmen present:

Selectmen Sabourn discussed the Benton's Boogie & Blues festival that occurred this past weekend. He felt the festival was very well run, he was very pleased, the grounds were spotless, the emergency tent visible, the police on duty. He announced that he is in favor of continuing this for the local business and wants to present what necessary steps are required to allow the Benton's the opportunity to continue. TA Beaulieu expressed that she also attended and felt the same as Selectmen Sabourn. She walked the camping and festival area and was very impressed with the organization of the event. TA continued to discuss the options to the Town and that town counsel has suggested that we include a warrant article asking the residents to allow the town to implement a licensing ordinance. If that is approved the selectmen will be able to establish regulations. The other choice to the Benton's would be to petition an article to change zoning to allow these events within all zones. The board's opinion is that licensing is the preferable way to allow events in the Town of Thornton.

Selectmen Tyler wanted to step back to the initial complaint and the reason the town needed to address the events. He was confused being that the event has occurred for over 14 years. It was the letter from the planning board's attorney informing the town that these events are not permitted in any zones in the Town of Thornton. That created the discovery of non compliance for the zoning enforcement officials. The Selectmen are the acting officials and followed the procedure that LGC counsel suggested to allow the festival to continue this year which reviewed the safety measures that should be in place until the town has the opportunity to get a process in place to permit these types of events in the future. Selectmen Tyler further agreed with Selectmen Sabourn on comments of festival, good capable people at gate, clean grounds, no emergencies , family oriented.

It was questioned about another party that had a hundred and fifty in attendance and had bands, food, fireworks and charged for entrance. TA informed the board that she had contacted Brooke White, (the owner/director of event) via the phone and explained the current situation with the town zoning ordinance. She was informed that she needs to contact town hall in the future for the required process to be followed to have events.

9:00 PM Gary Roberge-Avitar Associates

Mr. Roberge updated the board on the progress of the 2009 revaluation. He discussed the Town's pass year MS1 figures vs. the current changes due to the 2009 update. The company hoped to complete everything by this Friday.

Mr. Roberge explained the upcoming process that the town will complete with their assistance. The notice of values will be mailed, the town data will be on Avitar's website for tax payers to view town wide values so they will be prepared at their informal hearings if they decide to set up an appointment to view their assessments.

Avitar's estimated schedule is as follows:

Complete field and data entry by Friday, August 21, 2009

Go thru changes and mail notices on August 27, 2009

Will be setting up appointments via phone at their office, September 8 through the 11th

Conduct hearings at Thornton Town Hall September 14th through the 18th.

All final numbers and data installed into town software by September 25th.

This would allow the TA to complete the MS6 by October 1st and set up an appointment for tax rate setting with the State of New Hampshire, Department of Revenue. This would allow for final tax bills for 2009 to be processed timely.

Action Folder-

Minutes of meetings reviewed 6/24/09, 7/8/09, 7/22/09, and 8/5/09.

Motion

Selectmen Sabourn moved to approve minutes of 6/24/09, 7/8/09, 7/22/09, and 8/5/09. as amended, Selectmen Tyler seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0

Selectmen reviewed and approved the Winter Sand proposal advertisement due at town hall on 9/11/09 by 3pm. The board will open the proposals at their 9/16/09 meeting @8:00 PM

Selectmen reviewed and approved the invitation to bid advertisement for the 2002 4x4 Ford Explorer cruiser due at town hall on 9/11/09 by 3pm. The board will open the proposals at their 9/16/09 meeting @8:30 PM

A letter referencing 2008P2 property taxes, interest, and penalties from Richard Sergeant was read and discussed. The board agreed to abate the interest and penalty per Tax Collector, Sue Lyons recommendation. The charges were due to communication breakdown of all involved.

Motion

Selectmen Sabourn moved to abate the thirty-nine dollars and ninety-seven cents on property map 16-6-2404 for the 2008P2 interest and penalty, Selectmen Tyler seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

The selectmen reviewed an e-mail to Marianne Peabody from TA referencing a letter from an attorney on Shirley Benton application for a building permit. The TA questioned if the board wanted her to send a letter to the attorney informing them that we are waiting for an update from planning board. They asked TA to review a confidential letter from counsel last year referencing this property and the request for the building permit. The town has an opinion from town counsel to deny the request and we will continue to make that stand due to that legal advice.

A letter from Jim Clarkson to the board referencing the Accufund software and his proposed cost overage due to the auditors using a different list of accounts versus the town's one write system. The time to merge and research and to find these correct entries were not anticipated when they submitted their proposal.

The board did not feel the invoice was acceptable due to the decision to go with Accufund was based on the proposal price as well as the product. They understood the additional work involved due to the auditors lack of including the exact account for adjusting entries. They feel they would like to work with the company but do not agree to the requested amount.

Motion

Selectmen Tyler moved to have TA Beaulieu negotiate the additional cost up to half the requested and travel time, Selectmen Sabourn seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0

For the record this project even if the additional invoice was approved and paid is still way below the appropriation at town meeting.

Jim Demeritt was in attendance and felt the way cash is dealt with at the transfer station is a problem. The employees take money for items that residents are disposing of and no record of the funds are passed. Selectmen Sabourn explained that he always gets a receipt when he pays for items he is disposing of.. Mr. Demeritt said he never is given a receipt and wanted it known that he is not saying that anyone is dishonest at the transfer station but better internal controls need to be put in place as he felt it could get out of hand. TA Beaulieu brought out the copies of the numbered receipts that are submitted to her weekly with Dave Hilliard's deposits and the department voids any receipts that are not used. The dates that the funds are submitted to town hall as a deposit was discussed and determined that about a month lapse occurs between the funds collected and deposited. TA explained that Dave has discussed this payment plan of 30 days process but she would need to do further research to inform the board the practice that the supervisor has been following.

The selectmen further requested that the transfer station attendants give receipts for all dollars collected.

Mr. Demeritt also made mention that the traffic problem due to the mall has still not been corrected. Selectmen Sabourn explained that he had a problem with a resident parking his vehicle in the traffic lane so they could visit the mall. He discussed this with Dave Hilliard and was informed that the mall will be moved within a week.

Mr. Demeritt presented a pamphlet of life insurance options for the fire fighters- and explained that the commissioner s approved for this option. The selectmen agreed it was probably a good idea.

Motion

10:15 Selectmen Sabourn moved to enter Non-Public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b), Selectmen Tyler seconded. Roll call was taken. Selectmen Sabourn-yes, Selectmen Tyler-yes and Selectmen Parziale- yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Discussion ensued on a police department personnel issue- part time hire.

Motion

10:25 PM Selectmen Tyler moved to exit Non-Public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b), Selectmen Sabourn seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Discussed in non-public session was a letter submitted from Sgt Rod Diamond recommending a part-time hire.

Motion

Selectmen Sabourn moved to hire Ryan Oleson pending completion of a successful background investigation as a part time police officer on Step 4, @\$13.10 per hour, Selectmen Tyler seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0

TA Beaulieu informed the board that Mr. Gannett will not be able to attend the next police chief interviews due to work obligations on September 2, 2009. It was agreed to ask one of the three resident chiefs that will attend the interviews to take the vacant seat. The Board asked the TA to call Mr. Gannett and express their appreciation for his assistance in this very important interview process.

Motion

10:30 PM Selectmen Parziale moved to adjourn the meeting, Selectmen Sabourn seconded. Motion Passed (3-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammie Beaulieu