

TOWN OF THORNTON
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes

The Thornton Board of Selectmen met and held a meeting on Wednesday,
December 30, 2009
7:00 PM at the Thornton Town Hall.

Board of Selectmen present:
Roy Sabourn & Tim Tyler

Public present:
Town Administrator Tammie Beaulieu,
Staff: Mary Conn

At 7:05 pm Selectmen Sabourn called the public meeting to order.

Selectmen Sabourn wishes a speedy recovery for Chairman Parziale. All our thoughts are with Jim, we miss him and looking forward for him to hurry back.

Motion

Selectmen Tyler moved to nominate Selectmen Sabourn as interim Chairman. Selectmen Sabourn accepts on the condition that when Chairman Parziale returns, he resumes as Chairman. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Budget Committee member Giff Kriebel has concerns as to why Town Hall has the need for added staff. TA Beaulieu feels with the increase from a three to five member Selectboard, the day-to-day workload will increase. Jim Demeritt feels the workload for office staff will decrease with a five-member board. He also feels with the economy the way it is and the people struggling, we can't afford for extra staff. TA stated that a large portion of Marianne Peabody's time is spent with welfare assistance. Acting Chairman Sabourn feels if Marianne Peabody has to spend less time with welfare issues, we could end up with a higher budget for welfare. She does very well keeping the welfare budget down. Acting Chairman Sabourn also feels with a five-member board, it will definitely bring more work to the office staff. TA also stated if she didn't need extra staff she would never ask for it. Selectmen Tyler feels we depend on TA Beaulieu for day-to-day operations and with all the extra work needing to be done; it could end up costing the town more money because she will not be able to take care of everything. Acting Chairman Sabourn felt the extra help would save us money and free her up from the tedious tasks. Selectmen Tyler also stated the nine months he has been here; he can't understand how she does it all.

Budget Committee member Jim Demeritt shared the Fire Department will have money coming back to the town. Giff questioned why the fire department has its own administration. TA felt the commissioners are being very generous to the fire department by adding additional staff. Acting Chairman Sabourn feels TA is overworked and has seen her overwhelmed the past few months. TA stated she has been in the business for a long time but this has been a very tough year. Selectmen Tyler is very supportive of additional office staff for the municipal part of government. Giff stated the overall proposed 2010 budget is down and there really isn't any wiggle room for cuts.

Employee wage and benefits budget were discussed. Budget Committee member Giff Kriebel questioned about wage increases and the wage study. Selectmen Sabourn stated there probably wouldn't be a COLA because cost of living has actually decreased. He also thinks the wage study will be implemented and fit into a step program for employees. TA stated there are three positions now at the top of the steps, which are Transfer Station Manager, Road Agent, and Police Chief. The Police Chief has been corrected because the wage study was done with the previous police chief. No employee will have monies taken away from him or her.

Health insurance was discussed. Chief Parent is under the proposed budget as a double because she is engaged to be married in 2010. TA stated she spoke with Chief Parent after the fact and the Chief is actually considering enrolling in her spouse's health insurance. Mary Conn will not be taking health insurance if she becomes full time. TA also stated there has been some employees who don't take the health insurance and wondered if there is a stipend offered. There is currently one employee that receives money for not taking health insurance but another that does not. TA felt the new employee policy should include a health insurance rule so all employees are treated the same.

Giff asked TA Beaulieu about revenues. She told him she would know better next week and would email him. The BOS decided to encumber money for the quotes from Dumont Construction for \$4,315. for new carpet in the police department, Adam's Lock & Key for \$1,500. for new key entry system, Local Government Center - \$2000. for the Pay and Classification Study.

The BOS reviewed the general government building and other professional fees budget line items. The donation requests were discussed and decided the BOS would agree with all donation requests except for Genesis Behavioral Health, which was asking for \$1,819.33. They felt they would leave it at a \$500. donation.

Motion

8:47 pm Acting Chairman Sabourn moved to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (a)(b) Selectmen Tyler seconded. Roll Call was taken. Selectmen Sabourn: Yes, Selectmen Tyler: Yes. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Motion

9:35 pm Selectmen Sabourn moved to exit non-public under RSA91-A:3 II (a)(b), Selectmen Tyler seconded. Roll Call was taken. Selectmen Sabourn: Yes, Selectmen Tyler: Yes. Motion passed 2-0-0.

The Board of Selectmen discussed with Chief Parent a conditional offer of employment to a candidate for the vacant patrol officer position. The offer is contingent on passing a complete background check, polygraph and medical exam. The offer is for step 1 of the current 2009 wage plan and a two-year employment agreement. Chief Parent also shared information on the ongoing voluntary compliance audit of the department.

9:38 pm Scott Wolfenden of the Thornton Central School Board presented plans of the proposed addition for the existing school. The addition includes two stories for one section with four new classrooms and a new secured entrance. There is also enough space for two additional classrooms in the future if need be. There was lengthy discussion on the addition, and about what will happen with the modular now used as portable classrooms.

The school board would like to see the modular moved to the school owned “Shores” property next door and serve as the library. Selectmen Tyler thinks the school project is a great idea. Acting Chairman Sabourn and Selectmen Tyler are both supportive of the proposed school project and the modular classroom becoming the library.

10:18 pm Walt Stockwell of Hidden Acres Road. He was inquiring what the homeowners had to do before Hidden Acres becomes a town road. The BOS informed Mr. Stockwell as soon as the nine property owners had an attorney draw up quitclaim deeds for their respective interests in the roadbed and for cistern. TA Beaulieu would have counsel review and advise on them. If counsel agrees with proposed deeds, the town should be able to accept Hidden Acres Road.

10:53 pm Walt Stockwell exits.

TA Beaulieu handed out sample code of ethics and financial investment policies for the BOS to review and sign. Both Acting Chairman Sabourn and Selectmen Tyler decided they would take them home to review and sign at a later date.

TA Beaulieu will be attending an informal appeal hearing on January 4, 2010 with the Department of Labor relative to the recently imposed fine. Also, the draft minutes of meetings will be available in town hall for review. Final approved minutes will be posted on the website.

Motion

11:09 pm Selectmen Tyler moved to encumber the following list. Acting Chairman Sabourn seconded. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Adam’s Locksmith & Key - \$1500- new key sytem.
Dumont Construction - \$4315. – new carpet in Police Department.
Local Government Center - \$2000. - Pay and Classification Study.

Motion

11:13 pm Selectmen Tyler moved to accept as amended the 11/4/09 minutes. Acting Chairman Sabourn seconded. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Motion

11:15 pm Acting Chairman Sabourn moved to accept as amended the 11/10/09 minutes. Selectmen Tyler abstained.

Signature File:

Letter to the Library Trustees

Encumbrance for the following vendors: Adams Lock & Key - \$1,500.
Dumont Construction - \$4,315.
Local Government Center - \$2,000.

Application for State Bridge Aid Construction
Credit Application for Anderson Equipment Company

Intent to Cut Wood or Timber:

Roy Sabourn – PID # 3-7-2
Ralph Bradley – PID # 3-6-1

Abatelements:

James Rapley – PID # 06-06-09-10
Aydelott Trust – PID # 06-06-09-11
Extin Development – PID # 07-02-07-13
Ralph Ripley & Mary-Lind – PID # 08-07-01A
Fredette William Wallace – PID # 10-03-33
Mountain River Development – PID # 11-01-67
Pamela Wilkinson – PID # 11-01-16B
James Thompson – PID # 11-04-02
Christopher MacDonald – PID # 15-04-22
Meadows @ Mountain River – PID # 16-01-10A
Owl Street Associates LLC – PID # 16-01-07-04
Leon & Lois Turmelle – PID # 16-05-16
Sleeper Family Trust – PID # 16-07-58
Pope Family Trust – PID # 16-07-76
BRC William Tell Holdings – PID # 17-07-65
Scott & Donna Manchester – PID # 17-14-62
Nevin & Mary Scrimshaw – PID # 18-04-03
Nevin & Mary Scrimshaw – PID # 18-05-02

Motion

11:17 pm Selectmen Sabourn moved to recess the meeting. Selectmen Tyler seconded.
Motion passed 2-0-0.

The meeting will reconvene on December 31, 2009 at 11:15 am.

It was confirmed with Counsel that as long as the meeting was recessed and it is stated when it will reconvene, that serves as the public posting.

The work session was held on December 31, 2009 at 8:00 am. BOS reviewed the employee policy.

The recessed meeting reconvened at 11:15 am. The BOS approved the dedication of the town report to Mary Walton Mayshark submitted by Jim Parziale.

Motion

11:30 am Selectmen Sabourn moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectmen Tyler seconded.
Motion passed 2-0-0.

Respectively Submitted,

Mary Conn