

TOWN OF THORNTON

April 2, 2007

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

6:45 The meeting was called to order.

Board members present: Arthur Gross and Jim Parziale

Also present: Administrator Andrew (TA), Jim Demeritt, Roy Sabourn, Ralph Perron, Marianne Peabody, Melinda Johnston, Jim Sanborn Sr., Jim Sanborn, Jr., Road Agent (RA) Tom Dubey, Cookie Benton, Sally Kriebel, John Gaites, Ash Wyllie and Guest, Barry VanDeMoere, Nancy Byerly, Ron Jansen and Veronica Barton

Selectman Parziale made a motion to deny Mr. Freeman's request to rescind his resignation. The resignation stands, and became effective March 31, 2007. Selectman Gross seconded. PASSED (x2)

Selectman Gross made a motion to rescind the vote of 3/27/07 allowing Mr. Freeman to speak on behalf of the Board of Selectmen for the upcoming Board of Tax and Land Appeals hearing. Selectman Parziale seconded. PASSED (x2)

Selectman Gross noted that on the general posting of meetings it states that all meetings will begin at 5:30 unless posted otherwise. He continued that Selectman Parziale works until 6:30 PM during the school year and cannot get out of work early.

Mr. Perron inquired if the general listing is going to be posted at a different time. Selectman Gross responded that meetings will be posted as needed and suggested that people regularly view the bulletin boards.

Selectman interviews:

6:48 Roy Sabourn presented a resume of his professional life. He is a land surveyor with an office in Woodstock. Mr. Sabourn has lived in Thornton since 3rd grade for the majority of his life. He lives on the family farm in Thornton Gore and is a large land owner. As such he might see things a little differently than someone who only owns a small parcel of land. He continued that Thornton has been run of late by several people who have moved into town in the recent past. He continued that he sees a need for some of the old family names to be represented. Although he has never served as a Selectman, he has served on the Planning Board. Selectman Gross inquired if he found it to be a conflict of interest. Mr. Sabourn responded, no he and John March had co-chaired the board at that time. Today he wouldn't attempt it because of changes of opinions and views. He has served on several State boards. He has been a fireman in Woodstock for 34 years. He has defended cases in court, and he has an active business at this time. Mr. Sabourn continued that he does have many evening meetings, but usually Tuesday and Wednesday evenings are available. Jim

Sanborn, stated he sees no conflict and continued that Mr. Sabourn would be good for the town.

7:00 John Gaites stated he moved here in 1989. He is now retired and will have the time necessary to dedicate to town issues. He continued that he wants to do some good for the community. Selectman Gross stated he has known Mr. Gaites for years.

7:02 Jim Demeritt stated he has been on the Planning Board in other communities and would hope to help the road crew get some things done properly. He confirmed that he is retired and that he didn't want to do another winter of plowing. He stated that he did come in second in the March elections.

Break in interviews:

Radiator repair-Road Agent, Tom Dubey requested approval to spend \$1650 to repair the radiator on the new loader. APPROVED (x2) Selectman Gross inquired why a truck was parked at Smitty's? State Inspection.

The RA stated that he had stopped at the White Farm (State Surplus) and they have a 1993 International with a live body sander for sale at \$5200. He asked the board's permission to purchase it to replace the '84 as a backup truck. He noted that the '84 does not have heat and there are frame and rust issues on it. Selectman Gross stated that it was a reasonable request. The RA continued that he would like to advertise for sale an '83 truck along with the '84.

The RA stated that there is also a Hudson double axle trailer for \$1,500. The trailer is in immaculate shape. It would be good for hauling smaller equipment and culverts.

Selectman Parziale agreed it sounds like a good request, but he wants to look at the items. Selectman Gross stated he does not want the purchase to affect the taxpayers. Jim Sanborn stated that when he was Road Agent the board put an additional \$15,000 in the budget to purchase equipment if it became available. The RA stated he would call and have the White Farm put a hold on both items.

It was moved to purchase the truck and trailer pending Selectman Parziale's satisfactory review. PASSED (x2).

Mr. Perron inquired if the funds from sale of the two old trucks would go back to the general fund or to the Highway Department. Selectman Gross stated the funds would be used to offset taxes and go to the general fund.

The RA reported he had delivered the lawnmower to the fire department.

Selectman Gross inquired how Mill Brook Road is looking. The RA responded that it is pretty rough and wet. It was York raked last week. He is hoping to get some heavy equipment out there next week to do some work.

Selectman interviews continued.

7:18 Giff Kriebel stated he has a lot of experience with budgets and what has transpired over the past few months. He has had to deal with a lot of personnel and morale issues in past employment. It would appear that we as a town need to deal with some of these issues. He has reviewed town handbooks. It is important that there are objectives for the personnel and a need for everyone to deal with facts in personnel reviews.

Mr. Kriebel stated at the past few town meetings he has heard the cry that more details are needed in the budget. He continued that he has spent quite a bit of time with finance over the years and there are things that would simplify the presentation of information and make it clearer.

There was a break in interviews.

7:24 Minutes of the 3/27/07 Selectmen's Meeting were approved as amended changing the time of the April 2 meeting to 6:45 PM. PASSED (x2)

Selectman Gross made a motion to meet on 4/10/07 at 6:45 PM and on 4/24/07 at 5:30 PM. PASSED (x2)

Selectman Gross stated he had left a message for Fire Commissioner, David Hiltz. Mr. Hiltz has not yet responded.

7:30 The TA was requested to call the remaining parties to be interviewed to let them know that the interviews were running ahead of schedule.

Selectman interviews continued.

7:42 Ron Jansen stated he has had a place in Thornton for 42 years. He has been a full time resident for the past 5 years. He has served on the Capital Improvement and Budget Committees. He stated he has a need to know what is going on and likes participating in the community. He has lived in places where there were problems, but he doesn't see any big problems in Thornton. Mr. Jansen commented that he is glad he put his name in and that the board has a great number of candidates from which to select.

7:45 Veronica Barton stated she has lived in town for almost 10 years. She was Deputy Town Clerk in Dorchester and has been a school board member at Mascoma Regional School District. She stated her reason for submitting a letter is that she is looking to be an honest, sincere, dedicated individual and help the community as much as can. Selectman Gross stated that the board members can't always agree. Ms. Barton stated she worked at NH Electric for 11 years and Clifford-Nicol Printing for about the same amount of time. Ms. Barton stated she likes working with the public and she is working toward a degree in public/human relations. She also operates a computer training service for in people in their homes.

Selectman Gross stated the board would meet Thursday 4/5/07 at 6:45 PM to decide on the selectmen's position.

Barry VanDeMoere asked that a paragraph in the Selectmen's Meeting of 3/27/07 relative to Hidden Acres Road be changed to reflect that the Board of Selectmen requested the Planning Board to discuss Hidden Acres Road. The Board requested the statement be in the current week's minutes as they had already approved the minutes of 3/27/07.

PASSED(x2)

APPROVALS:

Intent to Excavate:

17 7 20	Sunset Rock, LLC
10 3 41	S&J Benton
15 4 69	L.E. Johnston
15 4 30	L.E. Johnston
15 4 24	D. Johnston
6 6 7	D. Johnston

Building Permit:

17 2 17	J.Spurling/J.Kraemer
---------	----------------------

Intent to Cut:

6 6 7	D.Johnston
-------	------------

8:02 Motion to adjourn PASSED (x2)

**The next scheduled Selectmen's Meeting
Will be
April 10, 2007
6:45 PM at the Municipal Building**