

TOWN OF THORNTON

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2008

1:00 PM The meeting was called to order.
Board members present: Arthur Gross, Jim Parziale, and Roy Sabourn
Also present: Administrator Beaulieu (TA),

Selectmen Sabourn discussed the revised Avitar Assessing contract in the signature file and concluded that the contract reduced \$12,000 from the original contract due to the removal of defense of value and it being moved to the as needed basis.

Motion

Selectmen Sabourn motioned to approve the contract decrease, Selectmen Gross seconded. Passed (X3)

The advertisement for the winter season part time position will be in the Record Enterprise on Oct 30th and Nov 6th. TA Beaulieu shared that there was not a job description for the winter seasonal position so the RA and TA created one for the Thornton Board of Selectmen's (Boards) review.

Motion

Selectmen Sabourn motioned to approve the proposed job description, Selectmen Gross seconded. Passed (X3)

1:30 pm Non-Public session
Selectmen Sabourn motioned to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c), Selectmen Parziale seconded. PASSED (x3).

1:55 pm Selectmen Parziale motioned to exit non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c), Selectmen Sabourn seconded. PASSED (x3).

1:55 pm Selectmen Gross motioned to seal the minutes of non-public session, Selectmen Sabourn seconded. PASSED (x3).

Motion

Selectmen Sabourn motioned to approve the hardship abatement for Map 16 Lot 7 Sublot 81 in the amount of \$448.00, Selectmen Gross seconded. Passed (X3)

Selectmen Sabourn questioned TA Beaulieu if she had received a response from the Thornton PD relative to a reported rudeness by an officer to the dispatch center. TA Beaulieu explained that Lt. Foley had forwarded a complaint form for the Selectmen to complete and it was agreed by the Selectmen that this is to be looked into and reported on as an employer following up on an issue to see if there is merit.

Action file:

The Selectmen discuss the email from Joel Freeman referencing changes to the October 1, 2008 meeting minutes. Board agreed that the minutes reflect the discussion at the meeting.

A letter from Marianne Peabody informing the Board that she is interested in purchasing the abutting property to the north of her property that may be up for deeding. Board agreed that the property will either go up for bid or auction in the future and Marianne is welcome to bid. The Board felt that whereas Marianne is an employee of the town, it would be very inappropriate not to go out to bid or auction.

2:10 Tax Rate Setting - Michelle Clark from Department of Revenue (DRA)

Everyone reviewed changes to the MS4 and other suggested changes from Ms. Clark. TA Beaulieu questioned Ms. Clark on what towns are doing with the percentages left in the unreserved fund balance due to such difficult economic times. Ms. Clark informed all that it has varied. Some towns have used all unreserved and others are up to 15%. The Board agreed to use the funds to reduce tax rate and leave 4% in the unreserved fund balance with the knowledge that the 2008 surplus should bring them back to the 5% suggested by DRA.

Motion

Selectmen Sabourn motioned to use three hundred forty-seven thousand, six hundred eighty-six dollars (\$347,686) of fund balance leaving 4%, Selectmen Gross seconded. Passed (X3)

3:15 pm Selectmen Parziale excused himself to get to work.

Action File continued:

DOT Bridge Report

The Board discussed the report with Tom Dubey (RA) and the possible need for a sign update as noted by the state. The packet was given to the RA and he was asked to review the reports and contact a state representative to clarify the questions raised. The Board thanked him and asked that he update them in the near future.

The RA informed the Selectmen that he had just received a visit from DES Representative David S Leathers to deal with a complaint originated from Joel Freeman on June 27, 2008 referencing the removal of the bank behind town hall including the police department shooting range which she felt could contain lead. The RA took Mr. Leathers to the site and he confirmed that the winter sand supply did not contain lead. He also viewed the brook behind the fire range and confirmed that he does not see contamination getting into the brook. The RA relayed Mr. Leathers did have concerns about the three empty 55 gallon drums and three empty fuel tanks off of old trucks on the site. The RA informed the Selectmen that the drums and tanks will be removed. Mr. Leathers stated to the RA that other than those two concerns everything looked good to him. He declared the scrap pile routine. Selectmen Sabourn confirmed that he had stepped out and also talked to Mr. Leathers. The RA confirmed he would contact Mr. Leathers when the tanks are removed so he could close the complaint.

The RA updated the Board of the Planning Boards suggestions at the Public Hearing referencing the scenic road cutting on Mill Brook. The RA was asked to have an employee stand in the back of a pick up and cut the tree limbs above them. The RA refuses to have any employee stand up on a bed of truck and cut limbs. It is an unsafe practice. The Selectmen agreed. TA Beaulieu informed Board that she informed Marianne Peabody that she was waiting for the required written letter of decision from the Planning Board as is required by RSA and the town's warrant article voted at town meeting.

The RA informed the Board that he is starting to gather 2009 budget figures and discussion ensued on the proposed new ford 550. The Board reminded the RA that it is going to be a rough year and to keep that in mind in preparing the 2009 budget.

The Ra informed the Board that the state shed has signs out that say State property no trespassing and he would like to post Town property no trespassing. He explained that it's not that he has anything to hide but he is not happy with people sneaking around behind his back. The Board did not agree with his request.

Selectmen Gross motioned to accept the October 1, 2008 minutes as amended, Selectmen Parziale seconded. PASSED (x3).

The letter from Planning Board advising the Selectmen to release the Hidden Acres subdivision-letter of credit in its entirety was discussed. Mr. Demeritt questioned a few items that he felt the Selectmen should view prior to the release. The Selectmen agreed that it was not an unfair request to have a final viewing of the area. The selectmen agreed to take a look at the site before releasing the funds. It was decided that the letter from the Planning Board would remain in the action file.

Selectmen Sabourn updated everyone on Snowwood Drive and the deed will be completed by town counsel at the cost of the Waterville Estates. Selectmen Sabourn wanted the other board members to be put on notice that he had put together a package for counsel to start with and assist him with the deed preparation.

Mr. Demeritt shared his idea to have the cover of the Master Plan be turned over to the school to have students prepare pictures. The Selectmen felt it was a great idea. The theme will be something referencing the town.

Signature File:

The Avitar Associates revised 2009 assessing contract to complete the Full certification update.

Roy Sabourn's Intent to Cut on 3-7-2

Gene "Mickey" Meier - Building Permit

Charles Bourret alternate ZBA appointment

Revised DRA MS-1

Motion

3:50 pm Selectmen Gross motioned to adjourn the meeting, Selectmen Sabourn seconded. PASSED (x2).