

TOWN OF THORNTON
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Date: April 1, 2009

The Thornton Board of Selectmen met and held a meeting on,
Wednesday, April 1, 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.

Action Folder:

Motion

Selectmen Sabourn moved to accept the minutes of 3/4/09 as amended, Selectmen Parziale seconded. Motion passed 2-0-1

Motion

Selectmen Sabourn moved to accept the minutes of 3/18/09 as amended, Selectmen Tyler seconded. Motion passed 3/0/0.

Selectmen Tyler informed the other Board members of a discussion he had with a resident in Country Acres development and their concern that they cannot get cable unless they pay to have the lines brought to their house. It was questioned why one side of the road would have it and not the other and the Board felt the resident should discuss the issue with their neighbors.

7:15 appointment with Martha Richards-Grafton County Commissioner. Ms. Richards discussed that the County received letters from sixteen (16) of the thirty-eight (38) towns in their county stating concerns with the county budget or jail. The Commissioners are aware of the economy and requested a level funded budget, and that a hire freeze be in place. Ms. Richards encouraged the Board to take a tour of the jail to be able to view first hand the unsafe conditions and space issues they are faced with. Selectmen Sabourn stated that the letter from the Thornton Board of Selectmen did not suggest a new jail was not needed but due to the economy the proposed new jail should be scaled down. All recognized the old jail is inadequate but we need to think of the taxpayers in these tough times. The Board asked the Commissioners to downsize the project.

7:45 Road Agent (RA) Tom Dubey

RA Dubey welcomed Tim Tyler to the Board. He wanted to rescind the request for a new truck this year to follow through with what the people voted at Town Meeting. Jim Demeritt was present and informed everyone that Waterville Estates are going out of the road maintenance business and they have a brand new truck that came in Feb 09 and he thought the Town might want to look into it to see if we could get it for a great price. RA Dubey itemized a few problems with the vehicle. Selectmen Sabourn suggested a call although he understands the RA's concerns but the call makes sense depending on price. Selectmen Sabourn felt unless it was a great buy that the Board would like to honor the peoples request as voted at Town Meeting. Selectmen Tyler agreed with Selectmen Sabourn

Selectmen Parziale asked the RA if he had a chance to speak with Dave Moulton, about a frost heave on Mad River Road. The RA talked to him on Monday and Mr. Moulton had taken a look and he said the heave didn't look that bad. Selectmen Parziale had been contacted by three people and he had also driven in the area and the road slopes off. The RA explained that a rock is poking up through the tar.

Discussion ensued on a few roads of concern around Town and the Board asked the RA to take a closer look.

8:00 PM Chief Joyce & Lt Foley

Chief started a training video of the Dragger shooting in Colebrook a few years ago to explain his concerns for safety issues in Thornton.

Chief explained that after this incident it became apparent that even the North Country needed to take some precautions to assist with the safety of the employees. The current camera system in the Town Hall was a grant and one step forward towards safety of the building. The Town's liability insurance company (Primex) came in and did a safety review of the building and locking the door into the office was one of the items they suggested. The Police Department requires that you be buzzed in.

Past Select boards had implemented for further safety (approximately in 2000) that the office door was to be kept locked. He suggested that the current Board enforce the locked door option. He gave a brief overview of the current alarm system in the Town Hall.

The Board discussed purchasing a camera with a wide angle and Selectmen Sabourn suggested this be brought up again at a later meeting. Selectmen Tyler's observation in sales and his connection with a number of schools throughout NH has shown that security varies from site to site. TA Beaulieu asked Chief Joyce if they have recently tested the alarm buttons in the Town Hall. It was agreed that the Police Department would test the system tomorrow.

8:30 pm Jim Clarkson New England Systems & Solutions
Mr. Clarkson gave a brief overview of the Accufund Financial Municipal Software.

9:30 Dean Johnston-Crawford Ball Field

Mr. Johnston asked the Board what their plans were for the parking at the Crawford Ball Field. Selectmen Sabourn updated Mr. Johnston of the gift of land and the plan to purchase additional land from Heidi Hawkensen. At this time the Town does not have any funds in place to do the dirt work. The purchase of the land was the only step considered in this year's budget. Mr. Johnston explained that the reason he is here was to inform the Board that in talking with other contractors in town, they would like to contribute product and labor and feel they will be able to do this with little funds. He wanted to know if he should continue to get other interested residents to complete the job or if this is something the town feels will be more than they would want to take on this year. Selectmen Sabourn explained he would be in favor of doing this as soon as possible. They need to discuss this matter with the Historical Society to see how they feel about this offer. The Board agreed that this was very generous of the local contractors and it is greatly appreciated. Mr. Johnston explained he would need to see a plan. Selectmen Sabourn offered to draw something up at his office and get that to Mr. Johnston. It was discussed that there was limited marketable timber on the lot. Jim Demeritt asked that the Board remember that when hauling in fill, that it be suitable for a future septic system to leave the option. The final outcome at this time is a parking lot with a path that will lead to the ball field to keep the families away from the road and safe. Mr. Johnston asked if the board could meet him out at the lot. It was agreed to have a site meeting in the near future.

Board discussion:

Selectmen Sabourn spoke with Chief Moorehead of Woodstock in reference to ordinances covering campaigning at elections. He will follow up.

Selectmen Tyler updated the others on a Planning Board case named Highland Point Development and that the electricity has not been hooked up yet. The Board might see a building permit in the next few months and wanted to make the Board aware.

He also presented a copy of a sample purchasing policy that was supplied by the Town of Conway and asked the Board to review and consider implementing a procedure for Thornton.

Selectmen Parziale informed the Board that he submitted a plan for the school board to show a way to take care of fifth grade and to place them in the school as it is. He is not sure if the plan has been looked at but did submit for their next meeting. He shared his concern that he does not want to see 31 kids per class and hoped they are open to his suggestions.

TA Beaulieu presents:

The Auditors adjustments have been returned and there are 4 pages of needed adjustments. TA Beaulieu asked the Board to consider using the auditor's final balance sheet as the conversion data in the new finance conversion. The One write System continues to crash and three weeks of data was lost and will need to be recreated. The IT net worker has suggested we do as little as possible in the current finance software due to it not being compatible with XP. We are dealing with a delicate situation. The work is backing up due to the system crashing daily and loss of data.

The Hawkensen corrected deed has been processed and we are waiting to hear from Heidi & Parker in reference to the two additional pins being set.

Jim Demeritt informed the Board of damage that was done to siding of the firehouse this winter due to the snow being pushed up against the siding. He asked that the Board take a look. Jim wanted to explain that his concern was from his position as a fire commissioner. Selectmen Sabourn questioned if we are sure it was from this past winter and not previous. Mr. Demeritt confirmed it was fine last year. He further questioned the problem with the toilets not working at the Town Garage in the winter. This was the 2nd year that the system apparently froze and he feels this need to be resolved. TA Beaulieu was requested to discuss this problem with Tom.

Marianne Peabody the Health Officer will be completing a water sample of the Highway Department well.

The Board asked the TA to hang a calendar in the meeting room.

Signature Folder:

Notice of Intent to Excavate: 15-4-069 & 15-4-030 Leigh Johnson
Appointment to Pemi Baker Solid Waste District: Dave Hilliard and Gary Moulton as alternate
Highway department request to establish a new account with North Woodstock Auto Supply
MS2- 2009 Appropriations Actually Voted for the State of NH
Building Permits: 3-8-13 Michael Syphers
11-1-147 Louis Piacitelli

Letter to Trustees of Trust Fund requesting the release of reserve funds as follows:

\$2,250 from the Municipal Building Capital Reserve for interior painting of the Police Department by Dumont Construction

\$10,445.82 from the Transfer Station Major Equipment & Major Maintenance Reserve for Thornton's share of the new Case 450 Skid Steer Loader purchased from Beaugard.

Motion

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammie Beaulieu