

TOWN OF THORNTON
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Date: April 15, 2009

The Thornton Board of met and held a meeting on,
Wednesday, April 15, 2009 9:00 AM at the Thornton Town Hall.

Present:

Roy Sabourn, Jim Parziale, & Tim Tyler

Public present:

Administrator Tammie Beaulieu,

At 9:00 AM Chairman Parziale called the meeting to order.

Action Folder:

The Board addressed past Action Folder items:

It was suggested that the Town of Thornton consider an electioneering ordinance due to the calls that the Selectmen received after the March Elections. It appeared that many voters were intimidated by the barrage of people when trying to get in to vote. Sabourn disbursed the sample warrant article used by the Town of Woodstock to control the electioneering. Sabourn felt that we should set up parameters and felt Chief Joyce should be consulted on his thoughts to set up proper distances. Tyler explained that he has never felt comfortable with the current set up but does not want to take the rights away from the individuals who are campaigning. He mentioned that in the past there was a campaign night. Giff Kriebel was in attendance and felt this is the result of one person which ran up the ramp more than once and he thought that having a police officer on display during election to control parking and campaign issues would solve the problem. Parziale felt that most people know who they plan to vote for before they come to Town Hall and agreed that something needs to be done out there. Marianne Peabody was in attendance and suggested that two spaces across from the ramp be set up for campaigners. TA Beaulieu will forward the ideas to Chief Joyce for his input.

Mr. Michael King- North Country Council

Mr. King was concerned on why the Town of Thornton decided to not continue as a member with North Country Council and did not know if it was a financial situation or an issue with the council. He passed out pamphlets of what they do for services for over 50 communities in the North Country. He discussed upcoming projects for the area and hopes that Thornton would participate in some of the projects.

Tyler explained that he was new to his position but as the chairman of the Budget Committee(Advisory Body) and in his involvement in the 2009 budget process he noted that nobody from NCC came to the committee or Selectmen to present during the budget process. He felt it might help in future years to have a representative available. Mr. King explained they meet with the Town's Planning Boards and thought they would present for them due to the restraints of staff and the amount of communities they work with. Sally Davis was present and stated that for several years she had been the representative for NCC and several times she felt she was well informed but many times found it difficult to find any Committee Meetings. Selectmen Sabourn shared that the bottom line is, the town sees the bill but not the service. He suggested that Mr. King convince the PLBD of the value of the services and therefore the need to stay involved with the council. Years ago NCC provided great service to area Planning Boards to get up and running, but the boards have progressed to a degree that they can do most of the work on their own or with LGC assistance.

9:40 Road Agent/Tom Dubey

Discussion ensued on winter sand and how the Town made out well with last years process with Mark Johnston doing the work. This year we need to move down the road and take down quite a few trees. RA Dubey would like to have Mark return but he understands that the work for this year needs to go out to bid.

RA Dubey shared that the town roads are in mud season and one of the worst years they have had. Sabourn liked what the Town has been doing with the sand and stone with the assistance of Mark Johnston. Selectmen Tyler asked if we were going to see the sand pile from the Town Hall. The RA confirmed that they will still have trees on that

side and eventually the slope will be flattened out. Sabourn said we could keep going until it would create an unsightly view and then we should revisit the process.

Selectmen Parziale referenced a conversation he had with an elderly lady who was upset with the use of sand and that the Highway Department does not pick it up . RA Dubey informed all that he already addressed this issue with Cookie Benton and he had the pile picked up . Parziale added that he informed her that she needs to let the winter to spring process have the time needed to get completed.

Jim Demeritt was present and felt it was not correct for the road crew to leave for lunch at 11:30 am and return at 2:00 pm. He thinks the town needs to establish in the personnel policy that if the crew is on the job site beyond some miles from the shed they need to bring their lunch. Board agreed to take this under advisement.

RA Dubey shared that it is not a policy and the employees have been doing this for many years. George Cheney has worked for the town for eight (8) years and goes to the store to purchase lunch every day and the previous board required the staff to take their own vehicle to get lunch. This requires the employees to return to the shed to get their vehicle and go get lunch . The other Highway employee Tim Collins sometimes goes home for lunch RA confirmed that he usually brings his lunch. Selectmen Sabourn agrees we need to get a policy in place because it is expected that the employees are hired to work for 8 hours and that should not include an hour lunch. Selectmen Tyler hit upon three issues that all turn to the Town's need of policies. Election, personnel, purchasing.

Jim Demeritt questioned if George Cheney was submitting for overtime pay for Saturday. TA Beaulieu and RA Dubey confirmed that he did not submit or receive wages for Saturday. Jim asked why he was at the town shed on Saturday morning. RA Dubey did not know but thought he might have been working on his own vehicle. Jim Demeritt felt this is a liability and should not occur. He emphasized that this complaint is not specific to Mr. Cheney but any employee.

RA Dubey explained when he was hired and Alton Benton was in charge he was informed that this was a benefit of working with the Highway Department. Selectmen Parziale shared that it appears that the community has problems like others but that this is a witch hunt. Jim Demeritt confirmed this is facts.

Selectmen Sabourn felt that there could be a potential liability and would like to confirm our standing with Local Government Center-Property Liability Trust.

Selectmen Tyler added that he does hear of things grandfathered years ago and what do other communities do with similar issues. TA Beaulieu explained most communities have similar grandfathered issues and until challenged are not a problem. She suggested that we wait for a response from LCG-PLT.

Jim Demeritt questioned the RA of the town equipment being moved and not staying on site until the project is complete. He felt it was not efficient.

Jim Demeritt gave the Board an update on the fire department as the Fire Commissioner. Everyone was surprised on what they paid for equipment maintenance this month and hoped this does not happen again.

Motion

Selectmen Sabourn motioned to advertise for new members for the Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment alternates, and other boards needing members. Selectmen Tyler seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

10:55 AM Meeting was moved to continue at the Old Town House- Crawfield Ball field.

11:45 AM Board returned to the Thornton Town Hall.

Motion

Sabourn motioned to allow Dirt Design and other generous contractors to assist the town with creating a driveway and parking area on the north side of the Old Town Hall knowing that all contractors must provide the town with certificates of insurance prior to start of work on town property. Selectmen Tyler seconded, motion passed 3-0-0.

BOS Items for discussion:

Selectmen Tyler disbursed a copy of a sample Purchase Policy. After review it was left that the Selectmen will review and that the Town Administrator will create a draft more specific to the Town of Thornton when time permits.

Selectmen Tyler informed everyone that he would like to contact Deb Reynolds, Ray Burton, and a representative from Paul Hodes office for the purpose of discussion on all this stimulus money that is available. Selectmen Tyler hoped they could help our town with funds to better our roads, building space, and just felt he did not want to miss an opportunity and make it known we are Thornton and do not want to be overlooked. Selectmen Sabourn added that he has had discussion with Deb Reynolds and she has no authority over federal money and did not appear we were going to qualify for funds. He thought a phone call would be better time spent then setting up a meeting with all the rep's..

Town Administrator presents:

The Fire Chief visited the office with concerns that the Board may be overlooking the need for drinking water for the firefighters in the Thornton Fire Department. TA Beaulieu explained that with the water issues at the Town Hall we are looking into hooking up to the Highway well and would make sure to keep the water supply to the Fire Building in mind. Perhaps it could be a water bubbler for drinking and continue to use the old well for washing the vehicles. Chief wanted to mention that the salt in the water does leave a clouded appearance on the fire vehicles. TA Beaulieu asked if any other building issues should be brought to the Board for discussion for 2010 budget. The building needs insulation, and door changed.

TA updated the Board that the 2008 audit adjustments will be made in the new software due to the one write problems. Board agreed that was the best approach.

TA explained that the title and closing for the Town purchase of the Hawkensen property should be addressed. Selectmen Sabourn explained he knew of Michael Conklin's office in Lincoln that completed this type of work.

Motion

Selectmen Tyler motioned to hire Michael Conklin for the title work and deed preparation for the closing on the Hawkensen Land purchase. Selectman Parziale seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Motion

Selectmen Sabourn motioned to purchase and enter into a contract with accufund for the Thornton Finance software, Selectmen Tyler seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Signature File 4/8/09:

Abatement 10-2-9 2008 taxes
2008 supplemental warrant 17-18-15 \$1,399.00
Intent to Cut 6-1-4, 6-1-7, 6-1-8- Harold Gaylord
Intent to Excavate 10-3-41- Shirley Benton

Signature File 4/15/09:

Building Permits: David Joyce 11-1-33-01
Intent to excavate Suzanne Roberts 16-6-8
 Duane Johnston 15-4-24
 Duane Johnston 6-6-7

Motion

1:15 PM Selectmen Sabourn moved to adjourn the meeting, Selectmen Tyler seconded. Motion Passed (3-0-0).

*Respectfully Submitted,
Tammie Beaulieu*