

TOWN OF THORNTON
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Date: May 27, 2009

The Thornton Board of Selectmen met and held a meeting on,
Wednesday, May 27, 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.

Cameron Anthony attended the meeting and submitted the final draft of the article that he and fellow student, Amanda Buckley prepared for the Record Enterprise on the new finance software that the Town of Thornton has purchased for TA Beaulieu to complete a finance conversion this year. The Board thanked Cameron for the great job that the two students from Hunter School had done on this article and expressed appreciation to the young students for their community interest.

Selectmen Parziale questioned what the tree in town hall was for and TA Beaulieu explained that it was for decorated for Memorial Day, 4th of July and to Honor the Soldiers. The ladies in the office did a great job in decorating the tree in red, white, & blue.

Selectmen Parziale expressed that he was not happy with the Town's Memorial Day observance for all the men we have lost in wars. He would like to see the flag service at Town buildings done in a timely manner. TA Beaulieu expressed that she had informed the Police Department of their duties with flag honors and was assured it would be taken care of. TA Beaulieu will coordinate the responsibility with Chief Joyce for future events.

7:00 PM Donna Downing – Town Cable

Ms. Donna Downing questioned the Board on when and how the Town of Thornton anticipates additional service of cable options to other areas in town will be available. Selectmen Sabourn explained the service is covered under a previous contract. Selectmen Tyler added that he was surprised a couple years ago at town meeting when it was noted that hardly anyone in Thornton has high speed internet and the people had been told it would cost thousands to connect even though the lines went right by their house. Selectmen Sabourn promised that this is something they plan to address when the contract has to be renewed or replaced.

Selectmen Sabourn announced the sealed bid opening for the Transfer Station Mack Roll off Truck as advertised.

The Town received two sealed bids for the TS Mack roll off truck that was advertised as follows:

Bridgewater Power Company llc out of Ashland, NH for \$2,275.00

Tim Lewis for \$2,050

Motion

Selectmen Sabourn motioned to award the bid to Bridgewater for \$2,275.00 as highest bidder but in the chance they do not follow through, Tim Lewis will be offered as second bidder, Selectmen Tyler seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Selectmen Sabourn announced the sealed bid opening for the Highway tree cutting & sand pile work sealed bid

The bid faxed from David W Thompson Jar could not be accepted as it called for sealed bids. Board unanimously agreed it did not meet the bid requirements.

The Town received the following sealed bids for the Highway tree cutting & sand pile work:

Wesley Avery \$2,700

Galen Marsh & Sons \$1,985.00

090527 minutes

Lees Mills Land /David W Thompson Jr. \$2,700

Top Notch in Campton \$2,200

Selectmen Parziale asked if they all had bid to do equal work. Selectmen Tyler questioned the requirement for certificates of insurance. RA Dubey informed the BOS that TA Beaulieu requires all contractors to submit certificates of insurance. TA Beaulieu added that RA Dubey needs to have the company forward the certificates and needs to make sure we have received them before work could commence.

RA Dubey explained he had met with all the contractors to discuss the work expected. The company he recommended to the Board was Top Notch. He is familiar with their work and had Mr. Avery been close in his bid he also does excellent work. Selectmen Tyler asked the TA if it is allowable to go with a middle bid versus the lowest. TA Beaulieu explained that since the Town does not have a policy in place the board has the authority to review all aspects submitted and the price along with the supervisor's recommendation and make the choice that they feel would do the best job for the town. Selectmen Sabourn disagreed with RA Dubey. He felt the job was small and all companies bidding could do the job. He thinks we should go with the low bid of Galen Marsh. Selectmen Parziale and Selectmen Tyler agreed that due to economic times it should be the lowest bidder in this particular case.

Motion

Selectmen Parziale motioned to accept the lowest bid from Galen Marsh & Sons to complete the Highway work for one thousand nine hundred and eighty-five dollars (\$1,985.00) if they could submit proof of liability and workers comp insurance. The second choice would be offered the job (Top Notch for two thousand, two hundred dollars \$2,200.00) if the first could not meet Town requirements. Selectmen Tyler seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

8:00 Road Agent Tom Dubey (RA)

Road Agent updated the Board on paving budget and explained that the expenditures for spring road clean up cost \$25,000 for stone which was twice as much as usual. RA shared that the Highway department had rebuilt the top of the hill on Sandwich Notch Road. It was discussed that the State owned a part of the road and the state has about \$2,000 to do some work each year. The Board asked the RA to further investigate before any more funds are expended. The Board suggested a call to the State & the US Forest Service at the Laconia office. Selectmen Sabourn offered that we should not let the road get beyond repair and we should at least keep it passable. RA will work on this project and will update them at a later meeting.

RA Dubey understands that the Town is currently low on funds and departments have been asked to expend only on necessary items and services until July when the tax monies are collected. Selectmen Tyler shared that he had discussed uncollected with the Tax Collector and was told that 2008 uncollected was around nine hundred thousand where 2006 & 2008 were closer to five hundred thousand. He felt that explained why the town operating funds were so low and is a sign of the economic times. TA Beaulieu explained that she would schedule an appointment with Sue Hunt from the Northway Bank if necessary to meet the Town's obligations. TA Beaulieu shared with the Board how hard the staff has been working to get all the assessing data updated so she could print the 2009 first warrant this coming Friday. Selectmen Sabourn added that the Board would need to come in and sign all the abatements, exemptions and warrant to help get the tax bills out next week and get funds collected. The Board of Selectmen agreed to post a work session on Friday May 29th at the Town Hall at 1:00 pm.

TA Beaulieu further expressed her appreciation with the Town Supervisors and their cooperation with the spending freeze.

Highway department employees went to grader class on Friday and both George Cheney and Tim Collins said it was great class. The Board of Selectmen was pleased to see the crew continuing to educate and learn their trade.

Areas of concern in Town were discussed and the RA Dubey is prepared to research and correct areas needing work.

Selectmen Tyler shared a concern from a resident that the street sign for Champion Way had been stolen. RA confirmed he had already ordered the replacement sign. TA Beaulieu asked the RA if he had received the two signs returned to Town Hall last week. It was confirmed that Marianne informed RA last week .

RA Dubey asked if the BOS wanted to plan on roadside mowing this year. Selectmen Parziale asked if he had any funds in the Highway budget. RA confirmed that he had five to six thousand but he was concerned due to the funds.

The Board agreed unanimously that the town could not afford to get behind with the mowing. It has been helpful and is needed.

Action Folder:

Motion

Selectmen Sabourn moved to accept the 5 year agreement with Plymouth for septage disposal at one hundred dollars (\$100.00) annually, Selectmen Tyler seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

BOS discussion

Selectmen Sabourn shared for the record that Selectmen Tyler and he did attend the second session of the LGC town law seminar and felt the agency did a great job.

Selectmen Sabourn learned at the seminar that the Town should consider a policy for email being systematically deleted. He asked that LGC be contacted for a sample policy.

Jim Demeritt added to the discussion relative to the upcoming music festival at Benton's and a complaint filed relative to a former performance. He felt the ZBA attorney should be contacted. Selectmen Sabourn explained that TA Beaulieu is going to address the subject in her presentation later.

Selectmen Tyler received a call from an abutter of the Benton property at approximately 9:00 pm this past weekend. He made a visit to the abutters but explained that he had no authority as one selectmen. He stated he would share the information with the others at the next meeting. He did feel the music was loud and was happy when the abutter informed him that they would try to work it out with the Benton's and if that did not work they would submit a complaint.

TA outlined the situation to date. The abutter has voiced a complaint to the Police Department on this matter and Chief Joyce informed the TA he is researching. TA further explained that Marianne Peabody was instructed by ZBA chair to contact the ZBA attorney. Attorney Mayor originally thought the Town's zoning permitted the events but after further research informed Mrs. Peabody that it is not permitted and he will be forwarding a written outline for the Town's viewing. TA has been advised to contact LGC counsel and PLT to discuss the Town's situation. TA Beaulieu will keep everyone updated as information is shared.

Selectmen Tyler explained that the original complaint was not about the Boogie & Blues festival but that there had been a comment made that the family was considering hosting five or more events a year. The abutter was not in agreement and felt they needed to share their concerns with the Town. Selectmen Sabourn felt that licensing will be required to remove the town from liability now that we have had a complaint and the issue has been brought to the Board's attention that it is not permitted so that town wide compliance will have to be enforced.

The Board asked TA Beaulieu to get a copy of the LGC- public event book to assist the Town through this process.

TA presents:

The Campton Board of Selectmen, Transfer Station Supervisor, Thornton Board of Selectmen joint meeting has been scheduled for June 15th at the Campton Town Hall for 7:00 PM.

Fire Department & Commissioners were concerned with Thornton's plans with the new well not supplying the fire station building in Thornton with drinking water. It was agreed that any plans made must provide drinking water to the public building..

Candy Andrews has called and asked if the Board had reached a decision on her returning to assist the Town in projects. Selectmen Tyler stated that he has not met Ms. Andrews and he is sure that she is a very nice lady but he felt the Board made a great decision when hiring TA Beaulieu and that it was the best thing that happened to this town in a while. He outlines the accomplishments the Town has completed in a short period of time and he feels it would be awkward to have the previous administrator return to work in the Town Office. He feels the public is pleased with the current set up.

Selectmen Sabourn agreed with Selectmen Tyler and added that he feels we have big ideas with green members on this board and that we need to slow down on implementing and enforcing new ideas. Therefore due to no funds in the budget and the economic climate, and although he thinks very highly of Candy Andrews, he does not feel the Town is in a position to have her return to assist with projects. We will complete policy updates as time allows with the current staff . The Town is currently working through an Assessment Revaluation, finance conversion, Wage Study plan, Personnel policy update and this between all the regular work. It is time to take a deep breathe and look forward to the future assistance of a five member board. Selectmen Sabourn recommended that TA Beaulieu give Candy a call and inform her we do not have the budget as we can barely pay the bills at this time. He feels Candy is top notch and very professional, but unfortunately we are unable to honor her request. The Board unanimously agreed.

Signature File 5/27/09:

2008 abatement: 8-7-1 Ripleys
Current use applications: 8-7-1 Ripleys
8-7-1A Ripleys
10-3-36 Donohue

Building Permit: 6-5-9 George Cheney

Motion

9:48 PM Selectmen Sabourn moved to adjourn the meeting, Selectmen Tyler seconded. Motion Passed (3-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammie Beaulieu