

TOWN OF THORNTON

February 13, 2007

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

5:30 The meeting was called to order.

Board members present: Arthur Gross, Ralph Perron and Lee Freeman

Also present: Administrator Andrew (TA), Road Agent Tom Dubey (RA), Jim Demeritt and another unidentified gentleman

5:30 The Board entered non-public session. Present were the Board of Selectmen. 5:50 The Board returned to public session. It was moved to seal the minutes. PASSED (x3)

Selectman Perron stated for the record that if the 1/9/07 minutes were taken as being accusatory by the RA, it was not meant to be and the Board wishes to apologize. Selectman Perron will be drafting a letter to Vice Principal Price and Superintendent Halloran to request a written clarification of the issues and parties involved.

Minutes of the February 6, 2007 meeting were approved as amended. PASSED (x3)

Selectman Perron stated he is happy with the Winter Road Policy as it is. ALL AGREED.

Selectman Freeman inquired about the storm procedures for departments. The board should be sensitive to non-essential personnel safety and close the Transfer Station and Town Office if weather conditions dictate. He indicated that other towns have closed their offices in the past. It was moved that the Chairman make the decision. Selectmen Freeman and Perron APPROVED

It was moved to add \$7,500 to legal line for upcoming Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA) defense issues. PASSED

It was moved to allow Avitar assessing defense personnel speak with town counsel relative to upcoming BTLA issues. PASSED

The TA is to request the amount allocated for ambulance personnel in the Fire Department budget so that the budget article can be amended at town meeting should the ambulance article not pass.

Selectman Freeman stated for the record that a letter of thanks was received from Cathy and Arthur Goodwin for the Fire Department's help at a recent chimney fire.

Selectman Freeman noted that the emergency phone has been installed on the exterior wall of the Police Department. He stated that the bulb would be changed to a blue bulb.

Selectman Perron stated there should be a sign indicating “EMERGENCY PHONE” instead of just stating telephone. The board requested the Chief get the appropriate signage and light.

A letter was received from Martin Moran of Snowood Drive with 911 road name change possibilities. All of the suggestions are conflicting with other names. The letter will direct him to the Fire Chief.

It was moved to appoint Mary Pelchat to Supervisor of the Checklists until the March election of officers. APPROVED (x3) A letter will be sent to Helen Steele thanking her for volunteering to serve.

Selectman Freeman questioned if there are rules for how many hours the highway crew can work straight. The RA responded he tries to have the guys break between midnight and 3 AM. In a bad storm, they catnap in the office in case there is an emergency. Selectman Perron inquired if state law requires 2 people in a truck. The RA responded some state trucks have a 2nd person to handle wing plows. The RA has his people do their routes then come in and take a break before going out again. He tries to hold off on sand application in a snowstorm until end of storm except for steep hills and corners.

The board discussed a meet the candidate night. The TA is to schedule the school when it is available prior to elections. Tuesday is fine. It was suggested that Scott Woolfenden or Roy Sabourn be contacted to moderate the meeting perhaps the Tuesday before town meeting.

The RA inquired if the apron onto Rte 3 should be done if the state shims the highway. Selectman Perron moved to pave the apron when Rte 3 is shimmed. PASSED (x3)

Selectman Perron inquired if the Fire Commissioners minutes are available on the web site. Fire Chief Tobine responded that they are not. The board reported having received a verbal resignation from a commissioner. They are awaiting a written resignation prior to posting the opening. The board requested the TA contact Nancy Byerly to request the Fire Commissioners meeting minutes be posted on the web site.

The TA is to send a general notice to the various boards relative to posting meeting minutes on the web site.

6:30 The Budget Hearing was opened. Present were Marianne Peabody, RA Tom Dubey, Fire Chief Dave Tobine, Police Chief Walter Joyce, Mike Piazza, Ian Halm, Jim Demeritt, Russell Gilman, Jim Parzially, and Barbara Sellingham.

The board read aloud the budget line-by-line.

The Board discussed increasing the assessing expense lines in that the total ratio is dropping for the town. It was decided to keep the proposal amount as proposed.

The Selectmen broke down the Planning Board lines separating out Capital Improvement Maintenance and Training lines as there will be a new elected Planning Board.

It was noted that ADAPT grant monies are drying up, thus they are requesting the \$25,000. Barbara Sellingham suggested a separate warrant article for the \$20,000, and keeping the \$5,000 in the regular operations article. The board agreed that a separate warrant article would be posted for the additional amount. Selectman Perron agreed that a discussion should be had. Barbara Sellingham stated request needs to be more transparent.

It was questioned what is to be done with the Conservation Fund if established. Selectman Freeman responded that it could be used in the future to acquire grants or lands conservation easements. Marianne Peabody inquired what the proposed index would be for. Selectman Perron responded it would inventory natural resources such as water and wetland areas. Selectman Freeman stated that software would show the build out of the town.

Barbara Sellingham inquired if there is land to survey at the Old Town House, or is it just the footprint of the building. The board believes there is surrounding land and we need to define it through a survey.

It was noted that the Ambulance Capital Reserve account would be dissolved with the monies used toward an ambulance purchase should the article pass. Marianne Peabody inquired why no money is budgeted in the Ambulance Capital Reserve account? Selectman Perron responded the account would only close out if the ambulance passes; if the ambulance does not pass, then the capital reserve account will remain..

It was verified that the Town of Campton is also going to have ambulance and fire truck articles. YES

Selectman Freeman stated there appears to be a 3.6% difference in what needs to be raised by taxation between fiscal years 2006 and 2007.

Barbara Sellingham noted that the voted increase in tax credits and exemptions cost everyone.

Chief Tobine reported that the Fire Department has been approved for a grant in the amount of \$61257. There were 31,000 fire departments competing for the grant monies. The department will use the funds for new turn out gear and fit tested SCBA masks. The Chief reported his department has received grants totaling over a ½ million dollars over the last four years.

The board inquired if there were other questions and comments relative to the proposed budget. There were none. The Budget Hearing was closed.

7:43 It was moved to enter non-public session relative to a personnel issue. Present were the Board of Selectmen, Road Agent and TA. PASSED (x3). 8:25 The Board returned to public session. It was moved to seal the minutes. PASSED (x3)

8:26 It was moved to enter non public session to review minutes of the non public session of 2/6/07. Present were the Board of Selectmen and TA. PASSED (x3). 8:27 The Board returned to public session. It was moved that the minutes remain sealed. PASSED (x3)

8:29 It was moved to enter non public session for a personnel issue. PASSED (x3) Present were the Board of Selectmen. 8:30 The Board returned to public session. It was moved to seal the minutes. PASSED (x3)

APPROVALS:

Intent to Cut

15 1 3

Anderson Investment Trust

3 7 2

R. Sabourn

Veteran Tax Credit

10 2 1-03

J. Piantedosi

Abatement

15 1 39

R.Kavonian

error on building sketch

8:32 It was moved to adjourn. PASSED (x3)

**The next scheduled Selectmen's Meeting
Will be
Tuesday February 20, 2007
5:30 PM at the Municipal Building**