

TOWN OF THORNTON
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: April 9, 2008

The Thornton Board of Selectmen met and held a public meeting on,
Wednesday, April 9, 2008, 7:00 PM at the Thornton Town Hall.

Selectmen present:

Arthur Gross, Chairman
Jim Parziale, Roy Sabourn

Others present: Tom Dubey, Road Agent, Jim Demeritt, Sally Kriebel,
Barry Van DeMoere, Howard Clement, Geraldine Benton and Marianne Peabody taking notes.

Regular Business

At 7:00 PM Chairman Gross opened the meeting.

The weekly manifest, building permits, and intents were approved. Correspondence was reviewed.

Memorial Day Cemetery Flags – Sandy Moulton, Thornton PD received a phone call from Lyn King of the Plymouth VFW. He informed her that for the past several years his post has been supplying the Veteran Soldiers cemetery plots with Memorial Day flags. The Towns of Plymouth & Campton raise and donate dollars each year to be applied towards the purchase of these flags, and the Town of Thornton does not. He informed Sandy that he is ordering the flags and if Thornton would like their veterans honored with flags at their grave side this Memorial Day the cost of each flag is \$1.45. He estimates that the Mad River Cemetery presently there are 65 Veteran's laid to rest. After discussion and further information relating to this subject the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to donate the following: To donate with a thank-you on behalf of our Thornton Veterans the amount of \$100.00 to the Plymouth VFW, and to donate with a thank-you on behalf of our Thornton Veterans the amount of \$100.00 to the American Legion Post 83, PO Box 401, Lincoln, NH 03251. The Legion Post 83 places their flags out for Veterans at the Pine Grove Cemetery, the old Route 3, Cemetery and the Memorial Monument on Route 3. In March the amount of \$500.00 under the category of patriotic expenses was appropriated for this purpose. Mr. King will be contacted to inform him that a check will be forthcoming.

Fire Commissioner Jim Demeritt –Reported to the Board of Selectmen that he has just returned from a Commissioners Meeting and a decision was made regarding a procedure adopted relative to revenue funds that have been generated from the new ambulance service. They have contracted with a billing service whose fees are 9% of the revenue generated. A separate account has been set up under the name of *Ambulance Service Receipts* and the first amount deposited into it is \$938.00 to be distributed between the three towns (Campton, Thornton & Ellsworth). The three towns will receive their respected percentages on a monthly basis, leaving \$100.00 remaining in the account.

Mr. Mark Santoro – Cancelled

Mr. Howard Clement – Mr. Clement has come before the Board with concerns relating to recent approved appropriations made by the legislative bodies at the March, 2008 town and school meetings. The dollars raised from Town, local School, Pemi Regional High School and the County are all contributing to an increase to the tax rate. By adding all the dollars raised he estimates that our property tax rate could increase by as much as \$2.00 to \$3.00 per thousand come November 2008.

Mr. Clement has requested the advisory budget committee be re-activated, and he would like to see better communications between the above entities. Mr. Clement requested that the Selectmen through good public relations inform the public that the rate is expected to increase. He feels that there should be a mechanism in place where the public is informed of the overall big picture.

Geraldine A. Benton – Came before the Board of Selectmen on behalf of her sister, Genevieve J. Benton of Kittery, Maine. She submitted a letter to the Board of Selectmen (on file) explaining the history relative to a parcel of land known as “The Interval” that was warranty deeded from her Father, the late Alton G. Benton to himself, Genevieve Benton and Alton G. Benton II in 1988 as “joint tenants with rights of survivorship”. In here letter she is requesting that the Board of Selectmen let the official documentation (deed) speak for the ownership of the property. The town assessing records for “The Interval” has Alton G. Benton Trust listed as owner of record. After discussion the Board of Selectmen informed Geraldine Benton that it appears that the towns records do need to be changed and will, upon receipt of a letter from the Executor of the Estate of Alton G. Benton.

Barry Van DeMoere – Asked the Board of Selectmen if the March 19, 2008 meeting minutes were approved? The reason for his question was that he did not read anything in the minutes mentioning a threatening verbal incident made by an employee to a citizen at that meeting. Barry Van DeMoere asked if the Selectmen have taken any discipline course of action against the employee. After discussion. Road Agent Tom Dubey stated: “This individual will not be hired back next year.”

Highway Department Loader Motor – Road Agent, Tom Dubey discussed with the Selectmen options he has researched regarding the replacement of the breakdown loader motor. The Board of Selectmen agreed to order a re-manufactured motor from Kabota from HP Hazleton and we would put in for the cost of \$5,575.00 VOTED TO APPROVE 3-0.

Senior Rental Housing – An e-mail dated April 4, 2008 addressed to the Board of Selectmen from Phil Grandmaison via Darlene King was submitted that reads as follows:
Dear Selectmen:

Pursuant to discussion at your meeting with Darlene Jennings who appeared on our request regarding the possibility of affordable senior rental housing on the Neighborfest site, I am writing to confirm that Southern New Hampshire Services, a non-profit Community Action Agency, has approached the US Department of Housing & Urban Development about stipulating that such housing would remain so in perpetuity.

It was my impression that evening that this might be the only condition standing in the way of the Board of Selectmen's support for SNHS' application to HUD later this year. Kindly inform me if otherwise. Thank-you

After brief discussion the Selectmen stated: "They are very concerned with two issues relating to this project."

1. They are not convinced that it will remain housing for seniors forever.
2. Density requirements should be met.

Other Business

Sellingham Rd – The Selectmen are aware that there are issues relative to maintenance, snow removal as well as an inability for the owners of the road to get along. Whatever the issues are it is clear that they are civil matters and the town will not get in the middle of it.

Jim Demeritt – Jim Demeritt has submitted a request to apply for a position on the Advisory Budget Committee. (Written request on file.) Jim has brought to the board two concerns:

1. The deep hole by the Steele property. He is requesting crushed gravel be placed in it and when the weather permits he would like cold patch put down.
2. The head walls at the culvert at the Hidden Acres Phase IV are plugged. He would like to see this taken care of.

Minutes –The Selectmen are waiting for the March 31, 2008 meeting minutes to approve.

This portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next scheduled meeting will be held on, Wednesday, April 30, 2008, 9:00 AM at the Thornton Town Hall.

At 8:30 PM all parties present left the building and at 8:35 PM the Board of Selectmen entered into a non-public session. RSA 91-A: 3.

At 9:30 returned from non-public session. A motion was made and seconded to seal minutes. VOTED 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted

Marianne Peabody
Posting Date: 04/14/08