

Town of Canterbury
Selectmen's Meeting
April 2, 2018

Selectmen Present: Cheryl Gordon
George Glines
Art Hudson

Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM

Sign: A/P Manifest
P/R Manifest
Correspondence to Congressmen/Senate
Interfund Transfer
Intent to Cut - Tax Map 103 Lot 18
Tax Map 241 Lot 28
Tax Map 102 Lot 69

Minutes

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the March 19, 2018 Selectmen's meeting. George made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Appointments

Senator Harold French, Representatives Howard Moffett, Howard Pearl and Mike Moffett.

A general discussion was held on the recent legislation regarding Town Meetings and who can re-schedule them. Senator French explained that the Moderator can change the business meeting, but cannot change the Election Day. It is in the Constitution that elections will be held on the second Tuesday in March.

Howard Moffett spoke to HB 324 (*establishing a commission to study utility property valuations and recommend legislation to reform the current system of taxing utility property in New Hampshire*). Howard explained that there is a committee to study and recommend to the legislation how the utility properties should be assessed in the towns. Ken explained that originally the State was going with the DRA valuations and was a big concern that the Towns would be losing tax revenue. It was also a concern that the process for standard rates not be set by the lobbyist for Utility Companies. Howard has attended 10 work sessions and has drafted an amendment passed a few weeks ago, to have a committee find a formula that would be fair and equitable solution. The report is due on November 1, 2018.

Ken wanted to discuss another house bill, HB 1323 (*Relative to employment of Chief Executive Officers under the right-to-know law*). Ken explained that he would find it difficult to meet with perspective employees and have those discussions privy to the public. Some of the

conversations should be held in a non-public session. The Legislation voted I.T.L. (Inexpedient to Legislate).

The Selectmen wanted to discuss HB1673 (*relative to the interest charged on late and delinquent property tax payments*). Howard Pearl explained that the fact that the Towns can charge 18% on delinquent taxes is a disadvantage to the poorer residents. Cheryl explained that back in the 80's the interest rate was much lower and residents used the town as a bank and the Town suffered. It was cheaper for the residents to pay the interest rate charged by the Town vs. interest charged on credit cards, loans, etc. Ken explained that the Selectmen are sensitive to the resident's situations and historically have worked with the resident to set up a payment scheduled. Mike Moffett reported that this has passed in the house. Senator French said that they will look at it. Howard Moffett stated that you can't give the people the feeling that it's okay not to pay your taxes.

HB561 (*relative to part-time employment of a retirement system retiree by a participating employer*).

Howard Pearl explained that this bill had passed both the House and was amended in the Senate and sent back to the house. The Selectmen expressed their concerns and how this would affect Canterbury.

Ken explained that with looking at small towns that hire part-time employees. He had attended a hearing on this bill and the NH Retirement System had said that there is not a huge drain on the retirement system, out of 3,000 retirees there are approximately 200 are working part-time. If the people that run this program say it's not a big deal, why change it. This would only penalize the towns.

The Board discussed their concerns with the Department of Transportation and lack of communication and willingness to work with the Town. Last fall they had discussed doing some paving at the intersection of Morrill Road and Kimball Pond Road. The Town wanted to pave a small section of Morrill Road where it meets Kimball Pond Road. The goal was to pave a section on the inside corner. Jim Sawicki had contacted the State and was told that they do not want the Town to do anything, they will need to look at it.

The Selectmen updated the Representatives and Senator on the Intervale Road project. The State had agreed to fix the State portion of Intervale Road and then turn it over to the Town. During the final walk through, the Selectmen asked to have a guardrail put up at the corner. The State said no, the Engineers said it didn't warrant guardrail. Town Counsel had asked the Town to get a copy of the Engineers report.

Ken stated that there have been times they don't get any response from DOT when we contact them. There is a big disconnect, they are unresponsive to the Town that they have roads through.

Howard Moffett asked if the Selectmen are interested in taking on some of the State roads if the State would re-engineer the roads (proper drainage, etc.). Howard offered to arrange a meeting with the Engineers from both districts. Howard Pearl said to let them know and they will try to attend the meeting too.

The Selectmen thanked them all for attending.

New Business

Ken reported that the windows and doors from the Sam Lake House will be left outside at the Transfer Station for the taking, if no one is interested after a short period of time, they will go into the dumpster.

Ken submitted the Fire Warden Appointment slips for the Board to sign.

Ken reported that he had been contacted by Jim Sawicki. Jim explained that the sweeper they have continually breaks down and would like to hire an outside firm to sweep the roads. George felt that it was a lot of money and Jim should look into fixing the sweeper that the Town has.

The Selectmen reviewed a letter from a local business asking the Board to waive the interest and penalty on a late tax payment. The Board of Selectmen denied the request.

Ken updated the Selectmen on the Sam Lake House project.

Cheryl made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. George seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

The next scheduled Selectmen's meeting will be held on April 16, 2018 at 5:00 PM at the Meetinghouse.

Jan Stout
Administrative Assistant