

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting June 18, 2019

Members Present: Lynn Sweet, Chairman, Bryant Scott and Scott Young

In Attendance: Mr. Fitzpatrick, Judy Dupré, Dave Copeland

Appointments Scheduled: 5:50 Judy Dupré

6:00 Dave Copeland

The Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:35PM.

Appointments

5:50 – Tax Collector Judy Dupré and the Selectmen discussed providing a lock box in the lobby of the Town Hall into which residents may place taxes when the Tax Collector is not available or if residents do not wish to wait in line. All agreed it was a great solution and will be instituted immediately.

6:00 - Building Inspector Dave Copeland and the Board discussed 2 building permit situations. Mr. Copeland explained his reasoning for issuing 1 permit and the conditions placed on the permit. Another involves a property in Strafford with its only access from Northwood. Mr. Copeland will allow the permit to go forward with a firm understanding and documentation that Strafford provides no services and that the owners meet with the Selectmen and zoning boards of both Towns.

Continuing Business

A great number of towns in the State have been in a legal battle with Fairpoint, now Consolidated Communications, concerning the assessment of their equipment. A decision favoring Fairpoint has been made by the court. Fairpoint has made an offer to the individual towns for settlement. Based on the counsel of our attorneys, Strafford Selectmen voted unanimously to join other towns who will decline the settlement offer and will wait to hear the ruling from a higher court.

New Business

The Selectmen reviewed and approved payment of bills and payroll. Board members read and approved minutes from the June 4, 2019 Selectmen's Meeting. Board members signed an Intent to Cut Timber and a Current Use application.

The Town attorney will conduct some training for the Planning and Zoning Board, the Board of Adjustment, and the Selectboard this summer on an evening that members find convenient. Several dates have been selected from which members may choose.

Information from the Selectmen's Office concerning assessing, the beach and the Recycling Center has been submitted to the July Community Calendar and will be available on the website, in the lobby of the Town Hall and at the post office.

Mr. Fitzpatrick, Parker Mountain Road. stopped in to inquire about using the Town Hall parking lot for his portable basketball hoop. The Board members explained the liability issues involved and regretfully denied his request.

The State will not be testing the water at Bow Lake beach this summer. The State has decided to concentrate its efforts on lakes that have historically had higher E.coli readings. Bow Lake beach in Strafford has not historically had problems with the E.coli readings. The Selectmen voted to conduct testing of our own twice during the summer months using a local water analysis lab. If any readings are above the acceptable level, proper notification to the public will be made.

Representatives from HealthTrust visited the Selectmen's Office earlier this week. We learned that we might anticipate increased rates for insurance. As members of the "large" buying group, SVERTA, the Town receives a rate as a large employee group and that benefit is grandfathered. That status will be lost if we are not members of that buying group. By unanimous decision, the Selectmen decided to continue with the SVERTA buying group.

There being no further business to conduct, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:38PM.