

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting May 15, 2015

Members present: Jim Andersen, Chairman, Lynn Sweet, and Bryant Scott

In attendance: Greg Messenger

The Selectmen's meeting commenced at 5:30PM.

Greg Messenger, Town Road Agent, met briefly with the Selectmen to review the estimate from Pike Industries for asphalt work. Greg explained the reasoning behind the increase from the original bid; that being the possibility for extra asphalt needed for the upcoming work on Parson's Hill Road.

After a short discussion, Jim Andersen made a motion to renew 2 preservation barn easements for terms of 10 years with an option for renewal. The Kitz barn, due to location, was given a 75% reduction, the Huckins barn, due to location, a 50% reduction. The motion was seconded by Bryant Scott. A vote was taken:

Jim Andersen – Aye, Lynn Sweet – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye

The Board then reviewed the new application for preservation easement on a second barn on the Kitz property. After some discussion about its meeting the qualifications for the program, Jim Andersen made a motion to approve the application for a term of 10 years with an option for renewal at the end of the term. A 75% reduction was granted. The motion was seconded by Bryant Scott. A vote was taken:

Jim Andersen – Aye, Lynn Sweet – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye

A public hearing on the easement applications was held on May 12, 2015 at 6:00PM.

The Selectmen's Office is researching telecommunication options for the Town Hall. A quote for service through Metrocast is on hand. NE Security will be contacted to ensure compatibility.

A public auction for 2 Town owned/tax deeded properties will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2015. James St. Jean Auctioneers have been contacted; they will handle the publicity and conduct the auctions. Both properties will be available for preview prior to the auction. The auction will be conducted at the Town Hall in the conference room. The Board hopes to hold the auction at 10:00AM, but that time has yet to be confirmed by James St. Jean. Lynn will represent the Board of Selectmen on the day of the auction.

The Selectmen approved a small increase in the stipend given for the placement of flags on veterans' graves for Memorial Day

The members of the Board reviewed correspondence from the NH Department of Safety concerning the approval of an application for an auto inspection station. The Selectmen determined that this is a matter for the Planning Board and have passed it to them for review and respond to both the State and the applicant.

The members of the Board briefly discussed residents' concerns about several apparent code/ordinance violations; the properties of concern are located in the Second Crown Point Road and Parker Mountain Road vicinity. The Selectmen will direct the appropriate departments to make further investigation into these matters.

The Selectmen will continue to be involved with regional group of municipalities, SVERTA.

The equalization ratio prepared by NHdra examines sales of property in Strafford (and all municipalities) and prepares a ratio of sale prices to assessed values. The Town's overall ratio for 2014 was 99.9%. However the water access strata, although based on a limited sample sales, was significantly higher. After some discussion, Lynn made a motion to adjust the water access valuations by 20%. Jim seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Jim Andersen – Aye, Lynn Sweet – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye

The Selectmen signed correspondence directing the assessor to carry out this directive. A motion was made and seconded to have Liz Evans do the actual data entry work. A vote was taken:

Jim Andersen – Aye, Lynn Sweet – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye

The Town's current assessing contract expires at the end of 2015. The Selectmen would like to secure a contract with an assessor for the 2016 Revaluation and general assessing by the end of summer. They will seek bids from assessors who work with the Vision Appraisal software.

There was a brief discussion about the coverage for the Town's liability insurance upon learning that, as of July 2016, Property Liability Trust will no longer offer insurance to municipalities. The Town's liability insurance has been renewed through them until July 2016. Possible options for coverage elsewhere were discussed.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board a motion was made, seconded, and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:24.