

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

January 3, 2012

Board Members in attendance- Margaret Schillemat, Chair, Winston (Bud) French, and Administrative Assistant Edie Drinkwater

Others on the Agenda or present- Bert Wingerson, Rick Church, Gordon Peery, Edith Notman, Trisha Jones, Terri Upton

The meeting was opened by Margaret Schillemat at 7:06 p.m. Upon review of the Agenda Margaret and Bud discussed the need to stay on track with each item in order to complete the agenda in an orderly and timely manner.

1. The first appointment was resident Bert Wingerson. The topic of her discussion was access to the second floor of the Town Office Building in her role as a member of the Municipal Records committee. She stated that she and other have been very patient but she feels she has no access and felt like a suspect. She stated strongly that this was "Not Acceptable", emphasized by a hand slap on the table.

She was told by Margaret that her access was not denied. Anyone requiring access need only to call Warren Hammack or (Bud French while Warren is away). The door would be unlocked for her to retrieve whatever she needed and a work area would be available to her downstairs in the Town Office.

Bud tried to assure her she was not a suspect for any reason. Bud thanked her for coming in and again offered her the access as previously stated. She refused the offer stating they want the same access she was previously used to and again stated it was "Not acceptable" and walked out.

2. The next appointment was resident Edith Notman and resident Trisha Jones representing the Trustee of Trust Funds Committee as members. Edith voiced a concern that no "Financial Person" is on the Trustee of Trust Funds Committee.

Trisha said she would like to clarify the issue of the paperwork transfer from former member Peter Brnger. In review Trisha stated she had attended the previous selectmen's meeting and had agreed to try to contact Peter to retrieve the Trustee records still in his possession. Trisha stated that Peter was the only authorized signature on file and a deposit needed to be made. Trisha was able to meet Peter to pick up some of the records and she was accompanied by Tom Newcomb. Tom has agreed

to serve on the committee but has not been sworn in yet. During this transfer of records Peter took care of the deposit because although he had resigned his signature was still the only authorization. Edith voiced concerns citing RSA-91A because, although a member, she was not notified as to when this paperwork transfer was taking place. Bud explained that there had been some difficulty making contact with Peter so it was decided at the last Selectmen's meeting that Trisha would try again and if she was unable to make contact with Peter and retrieve the records then Chief Pratt would be called to make the necessary arrangements.

Margaret added that Tom Newcomb went only to observe and get information about what the position would require of him before finally agreeing to accept

Edith stated that she is still concerned that a meeting was not called for this event. Margaret stated that the board felt this was nothing out of the norm and was just to retrieve paperwork and give a potential new member an idea of what would be required of him

Edith continued, saying she wants a formal outline of policy and procedure for calling meetings and any other activity. Edith then gave a brief history of past order of calling meetings and the chain of command.

Margaret then directed Trisha and Edith to get Tom Newcomb sworn in, meet as a board and decide upon a policy and procedure for calling a meeting, the chain of command and any other activities their committee is responsible for.

Edith says she still has concerns about appearances as the person who keeps the book determines any action to be taken.

Trisha presented a form to the selectmen to be completed so that signatures may be changed on Trust accounts.

Edith again voiced an objection to being "left out of the loop". Edith requested a certified letter from the selectmen to Peter Brnger to turn in all remaining paperwork.

Trisha said that fines were pending if certain items were not completed.

Margaret apologized for not instructing Trisha to include Edith in the effort to retrieve paperwork. Edith then stated she would have preferred that the Police handle the matter.

The selectmen felt that a simple transfer of paperwork from past committee members did not require Police assistance unless a problem arose. Margaret then said get Tom sworn in and have a meeting of your new board.

After a brief discussion it was agreed to place the box of retrieved paperwork upstairs in the Town Office building. Trisha emptied the box in front of the selectmen and Edith showing a white note book, check stubs all attached to proper paperwork and copies of all items attached. The items were then returned to the box and Bud accompanied Edith upstairs to store the items until the board requests them.

3. Next on the Agenda was Linda Cates to review the status of the library Budget and when it would be completed. Linda said they usually have a number ready by Caucus. This year the caucus is February 8, 2012. Linda said a warrant is also usually ready at that time. She stated that the last five years the library budget has been \$20,600 and may remain the same but that has not yet been determined by the Trustees. They are now working on "Project Media". Linda further stated that a subcommittee had been formed to look into better investments for the library funds and how much to lock into an account and how much to keep accessible. Finally the selectmen requested the

report, warrant, the budget, and anything they wish to include about their long term projects as soon as would be convenient.

4. Resident Gordon Peery was next on the agenda. Margaret received an email from him regarding concerns because he had been informed that there was no access to the upstairs of the Town Office Building. Gordon stated he was concerned over what seemed to be a secretive nature of all town business.

Margaret told Gordon he was misinformed because access to the upstairs was and has been available for anyone needing it and that a work space was also available. Margaret also informed Gordon that the Local Government Center would be scheduling a presentation which would include ethics and standards of conduct for all town committees and boards. He mentioned a letter presented by Edith Notman and Terri Upton at a previous selectmen's meeting and said he feels they had valid points.

Margaret invited Gordon, in the future, to request an appointment to be on the Selectmen's Agenda instead of private emails to just one or two members.

Gordon brought up last year's Town Meeting and the mistrust and at that point got up to leave the meeting.

Trisha popped back in to say she could meet Bud after work on Tuesday or Thursday regarding picking up the paperwork from upstairs for the Trustees of Trust Funds.

5. Resident Rick church was next on the Agenda in response to a letter he sent to the Selectmen. Margaret mentioned the earlier agreement (at opening the meeting) of the need to stay on track with the issues being presented due to the lengthy agenda. Margaret then informed Rick they had received and read his letter.

Rick stated that he wanted access to the upstairs room of the Town Office to return to the (less controlled) access of the past. He gave a brief history of his own use in the past.

Both Margaret and Bud said access still remains and has remained. Upon request anyone authorized need only to call Warren (Bud while Warren is away) and he would respond to let them retrieve any necessary paperwork and they would be provided ample work space for their needs during regular Town Office Business hours. At this point Terri Upton (Town Clerk/Tax collector) came into the room as she overheard the conversation and shouted "That is not true". She was then corrected by Bud with a review of the recently adjusted terms of access to the upstairs which houses the older town records. She then left with words briefly being exchanged between Terri and Bud over the wall of the meeting area.

Rick Church, clearly upset with the decision, said that was not acceptable and he left.

6. The next issue was to address a letter from Grace and Sally Warner requesting a reconsideration of a previous denial of the Elderly Exemption as it had been determined by the DRA audit that they did not qualify. A second review took place and it was determined that they still did not qualify due to asset limits and were again denied. The Administrative Assistant was instructed to compose a final letter of denial to Grace and Sally Warner.

7. There was then a brief discussion of the new Loss Management Committee being required by the NH Dept. of Labor. Nelson will need a four member committee requiring 2 from management and 2 employees. The committee must be formed by January 12, 2012. The selectmen are working to meet the deadline.
8. All necessary paperwork was read, discussed and signed and upon a motion from Margaret, seconded by Bud they voted to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM. One further note: Upon entering the meeting each person was introduced to the new Administrative Assistant, Edie Drinkwater.

January 3, 2012

Margaret Schillemat

Warren Hammack

Winston O. French