

## SELECTMEN'S MEETING

### Annual Town Caucus and Public Hearing

February 11, 2015

Executive Board Attending: David Upton, Susan Hansel, Maury Collins, Edie Drinkwater, Admin. Assist.

Others attending: General Public attendance

The meeting was opened at 7:00 PM by Chair David Upton.

David welcomed the audience and explained that the purpose of the meeting would be to review the proposed Town Warrant and to present information to help voters understand each article. David offered special thanks to the Monadnock Folklore Society for their extensive contributions to the Town Hall which included the new sound system, lighting and floor refinishing.

The Selectmen took turns presenting an overview of each article on the Warrant. It was noted that the first three articles would be heard first in the Warrant due to the borrowing involved.

Maury and Mike Tarr spoke to the article for Purchase of a Gravel Pit. A brief history of the Gravel Pit was presented noting the first opening was approximately 1951.

All research indicates that the Pit is "Grandfathered" for continuation of use.

Mike estimated that between 600,000 and 700,000 yards of minable soil should be available with the possibility of mining the ledge in the future.

Many questions followed: cost of insurance on the property, how long would it last the Town, could the unused land be sold to help cover the cost of the remaining land, and what is involved in the harvesting process.

Mike Tarr explained that he uses the various products for road sustainability and public safety.

David explained there would be a cost of debt service as well as various expenses to be considered in addition to the cost of the property.

A separate article would cover the costs of a feasibility study to determine the value and cost effectiveness of the purchase.

Susan read the article for the construction of a new Fire Station at Granite Lake and went on to explain the term "Opinion of probable cost".

Bud French was invited to come forward to present details of the proposed new Fire Station on Granite Lake Road. He explained the difficulties of parking a vehicle in the old building due to the incline of the drive and the inadequate height of the door openings as well as code concerns.

A question came forward regarding a covenant attached to the property. Further research will be done to see what impact, if any, this would have on the proposed project.

Bud went on to explain the many problems with the currently owned pumper truck including inability to secure replacement parts for the pump due to its age. Multiple options have been placed on the warrant concerning replacement of this truck. Each option was briefly discussed.

Several questions followed: has closing the Granite Lake Station been considered, what are the details of construction of the proposed building, could the old building be sold to offset some of the cost, would there be any danger of pollution to Granite Lake during construction, would DES permits be needed.

It was suggested that neighboring Towns come together to discuss the sharing of these costly resources that support and aid one another.

The operating budget was reviewed with brief questions regarding the ongoing PSNH law suit that is affecting many cities and towns in New Hampshire. Testimony is now being heard but it is expected to be several months before any ruling from the court.

Explanation continued regarding the much needed building repairs and painting as well as a necessary climate control system for the new archives.

The final payment for the Highway Truck approved in 2011 must be paid in 2015 as well as the interest payments for the Library and Town Hall projects voted in 2014. It was noted that the principle payments for 2015 (over \$26,000) will be completely covered by donations.

In response to a question regarding future cost cutting measures, Lisa Sieverts noted that Selectmen /Town Buildings Committee is researching alternative energy options such as solar.

David thanked the audience for coming.

Before adjourning the Board agreed to meet briefly on Wednesday February 18, 2015 at 2:00 PM in the Town Office.

With nothing further, Maury made a motion to adjourn.

David seconded the motion.

The motion then carried by a vote of 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 PM

February 11, 2015

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David Upton, Chair

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Maury Collins

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Susan Hansel