

***Town of Atkinson***

***Board of Selectmen***

***Regular Meeting***

***Monday, March 30, 2009***

**At 7:30pm on Monday, March 30, 2009 Chairman Childs called the Regular Meeting to order in the Atkinson Town Hall.**

**Members Present:**

Chairman Fred Childs  
Bill Friel  
Bill Bennett

**Approval of Minutes**

*March 23, 2009 Regular Meeting*

The Board reviewed the minutes.

Page 2 - The line reads Mr. Bennett stated that FEMA guidelines and rules state they will only pay for overtime. Mr. Bennett states the FEMA representative told Mr. Bennett that they would only pay for overtime, but the guidelines are clear that it is something different.

**Mr. Bennett made a motion to accept the minutes of March 23, 2009 with the correction, seconded by Mr. Friel, carried unanimously.**

*March 23, 2009 Non-Public Session*

The Board reviewed the minutes. General discussion of difference between Tax Collector putting a lien on property and deeding property. The minutes to remain the same.

**Mr. Friel made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Bennett, carried unanimously.**

**Assessing**

*Abatements*

Map 14, Lot 84-2 for \$219.93 plus interest

Map 18, Lot 66-1 for \$430.94 plus interest

Map 18, Lot 103 for \$209.53 plus interest

**Mr. Friel made a motion to grant the abatements, seconded by Mr. Bennett, carried unanimously.**

*Veteran's Tax Credit*

Map 17, Lot 86-5

**Mr. Friel made a motion to deny the Veteran's Tax Credit for Map 17, Lot 86-5 - 9 Olde Common Drive, seconded by Mr. Bennett, carried unanimously.**

Map 21, Lot 1-32F

**Mr. Friel made a motion to accept the Veteran's Tax Credit for Map 21, Lot 1-32F - 32 Chandler Drive, seconded by Mr. Bennett, carried unanimously.**

**Award Bids**

*Athletic Fields and Lawn Care & Care of Grounds*

Mr. Stewart requested waiting until next week until there is further information.

**Department Heads**

*Cable Bids*

Dave Williams appeared before the Board of Selectmen. He stated attending New Hampshire Coalition of Community Media

(NHCCM) meeting and discussed bid with peers. They recommended putting bids in the NHCCM newsletter, state film offices website, and the national version of NHCCM website. The estimated amount for the bid is up to \$21,000.

#### *Cemetery Damage*

Chairman Childs stated during the ice storm last year there was \$1,250 damage done to fence, Primex has given a check for \$250, as there was a \$1,000 deductible. The damage to canopy over the sandbox still needs to be taken care of, Noriko Travers to fill out form for insurance claim. Mrs. Travers or Chairman Childs will show the adjustor the damage.

#### *Elderly Affairs*

Vehicles being re-labeled, the Chief is waiting for a drawing to come in and will look at it before moving forward.

#### *Highway*

##### *Cemetery Roads*

Chairman Childs stated the previous plan to hire a chipper and use highway department help to clear brush, this has been cancelled because they have found someone to come in to do it for less.

#### *Laborers' Hourly Rate*

Last week a motion was made regarding the hourly rate of the Highway Department laborers pending review of the policy. In August, 2008 a policy was made to pay laborers \$10.50 an hour.

**Mr. Friel made a motion to revise the \$9.00 motion to \$10.50 an hour, pending receipt of clear background check-up, including driver's license check-up from the employees, seconded by Mr. Bennett, carried unanimously.**

#### *Plow Damage*

Mr. Friel to discuss issue with Mr. Stewart further.

#### *ProBark Contract*

No answer on contract for year from ProBark at this time.

#### *Police*

##### *Water Test*

Mr. Friel states he has not spoken to the Chief Consentino regarding the water test. Chairman Childs stated the test was done within the last year. A voucher was signed today for water testing at the Police Department. Mr. Bennett to speak with the Chief or Sandra LaVallee to get the test results.

#### *Tax Collector*

##### *Property Tax Liens*

Debra DeSimone discussed with the Board of Selectmen that last week she had recommended that the Town not deed the property, there is no advantage to doing that as we get tax money when the property is sold. There was confusion last week regarding liens to the property. If the Town deeds the property it becomes ours and we would be responsible for the property.

#### *AARP Tax Preparation Service*

This is a free service every Wednesday from 9am until 1pm until April 15<sup>th</sup> and every other Monday from 9am until 1pm. Call Joyce for an appointment at 382-9276.

#### *Town Clerk*

Rose Cavalear requested the Selectmen remind the residents to license your dog, the deadline is April 30, 2009. If your dog is over four months old and has had a rabies shot it needs to be licensed per RSA 466:1. Male/Female \$10.00, Neutered/Spayed \$7.50, Puppies \$7.50, owner 65 years or more \$2.00, one dog per owner. Late fee of \$1.00 per month will be charged commencing on June 1<sup>st</sup> per RSA 466:7. Important: be sure to bring your rabies certificate with you. If there has been any change in your dogs status please call the office at 362-4920. Warning: Failure to comply will make you liable to a civil forfeiture penalty of \$25 per RSA 466:13 and 466:14. We are trying to help you avoid the civil forfeiture penalties so please come by and license your dog. Thank you.

#### *Bid Format*

In regard to the recent Lawn care and care of grounds bids Mr. Stewart informed the Board of Selectmen that the bids had gone out with a bid format. No more needs to be done other than to reject bids that do not come in that format.

#### *Energy Efficiency Meeting*

No meeting has been scheduled at this time.

#### *Glacial Energy*

No input from the Board of Selectmen at this time. Possibility of adding to the agenda for the Area Selectmen's Meeting. Mr. Friel stated we can schedule a meeting with Glacial Energy at another time. The town is trying to get at 24% reduction in electric fees. The town will still pay Unitil for power lines to get electricity here.

#### *New Library*

Ron Lamarre sent Mr. Friel the punch list for the library and they are waiting for a start date. Mr. Friel to schedule a meeting.

### *Signs*

Mr. Bennett stated there are two blog signs up in town, they have not received any complaints from residents. If anyone would take responsibility for the signs please contact Mr. Bennett to discuss the signs. They can call the Selectmen's office and speak with Barbara Snicer to get Mr. Bennett's home number and e-mail address. The zoning ordinance section 250:1 states: *except as hereinafter provided, no building or structures shall be erected, moved, altered, or expanded and no land, building or structure shall be occupied for use unless in conformity with these regulations herein specified for the district in which it is located or proposed to be located. Any use not specifically permitted by these regulations shall be deemed prohibited.* The signs are against the zoning ordinances. Signs in the state right of way have been cleared by state. The signs are not political signs or temporary signs. The Board of Selectmen are requesting the signs be taken down within one week.

Mr. Bennett stated that action items decided at the Selectmen's meeting should be noted for staff.

Mr. Friel stated he will do an action item list until a Town Administrator is hired.

### **New Business**

Mr. Friel stated the meeting at HAWC to be discussed once the minutes are available.

Mr. Friel stated he was contacted by Kate Rochford of the School Committee and Big Island Pond board, they are having a meeting regarding chemicals to be put in the pond for the milfoil issue and is concerned that residents swim in the water and once the chemicals are in there is a two week no swim time. To be posted on Channel 20.

Mr. Friel stated he would like to log the correspondences, incoming and outgoing, and be made part of the meeting minutes. This has been done in the past. Barbara Snicer to set up the log. In the case of a sealed envelope to an individual Selectman it should be logged that a communication was received. Correspondences will be kept track of and responded to properly.

### *DES*

Recent submittal from Emery and Garrett, the engineers for Hampstead Area Water Company, regarding the process for large ground water withdrawal. As part of the application we have a 15 day period where we can request a public hearing, we have requested the hearing and within the next week or so DES will tell us what the terms and conditions are to publish and to set up the hearing. Mr. Friel stated Christine Bowman from DES will get back to us. Discussion of venue for hearing.

Plans sent to town regarding work on Route 111 as courtesy. Craig Green of DOT would like to set up meeting with Board of Selectmen, fire department, police department, and Hampstead to discuss issue. Once the date is set it will be open to the public.

April 2, 2009 Area Selectmen's Meeting at 7pm Plaistow Town Hall this meeting is open to the public.

### *Committee Vacancies*

Appointments to be made April 6, 2009.

### Openings:

Atkinson Cable Advisory Board

1 year appointment under Franchise Agreement

Municipal Budget Committee

1 for 1 year

Building Needs Committee

6 for 1 year

Conflict of Interest Committee

1 for 1 year (they appoint)

Conservation Commission

2 for 3 years

Family Mediation

2 for 1 year

Hazardous Waste Committee

1 for 1 year

Highway Safety Committee

AFD, APD, Highway, Recreation, Resident, Selectmen for 1 year

Homeland Security Director

1 for 1 year

Assistant Homeland Security Director

1 for 1 year

Insurance Committee

1 year  
Joint Loss Management Committee  
1 Selectman & 1 from each building; must have equal management and employees for 1 year (in house)  
Library Trustees  
1 for 2 years  
Library Trustee Alternate  
3 for 1 year  
Planning Board  
2 for 3 years, 1 Selectman  
Planning Board Alternate  
1 to 5 for 3 years  
Recreation Commission  
2 for 3 years  
Rockingham Planning Commission  
2 for 1 year  
Stormwater Management Commission (MS-4)  
Ted Stewart

Technology Committee  
Multiple openings  
Zoning Board of Adjustment  
1 for 3 years  
Zoning Board of Adjustment Alternate  
1 to 4 alternates for 3 years

If you are interested you can pick up an application at Town Hall or get a copy from the annual report or request an e-mail application from Barbara Snicer in the Selectmen's Office.

**Mr. Friel made a motion to form an Ad Hoc Committee for Annual report, seconded by Mr. Bennett, carried unanimously.**

April 7, 2009 Meeting with Unital at the Performing Arts Center

This is a public hearing with the P.U.C. and H.L.S. on the ice storm. Residents are welcome to come and address issues.

April 21, 2009 Street Re-numbering Hearing

This is a public hearing. Notices have been sent out to Coventry Road and Washington Street residents. The meeting is to address complaints and concerns. The Fire Chief, Police Chief, and E911 should be at the meeting.

Mr. Friel addressed concerns from employees regarding the policy manual. For example the mileage reimbursement. The current mileage reimbursement is 41¢, the Library Trustees have voted to increase the rate. There is a conflict with our employees and library employees regarding policies and procedures. The library employees are town employees. Mr. Friel suggested a meeting to discuss policy issues. Chairman Childs suggested a meeting to discuss mileage first and attend a Library Trustees meeting.

May 1, 2009 Silver Star Banner Day

**Mr. Bennett made a motion to adjourn at 8:33pm, seconded by Mr. Friel, carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen J. LeBlanc

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Fred J. Childs, Jr., Chairman

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William G. Friel

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William M. Bennett