

**Town of Atkinson
Board of Selectman
Regular Meeting 7:30 pm
Monday, March 8, 2010**

Open Regular Meeting:

Chairman F. Childs opened the Regular Meeting of the Town of Atkinson Board of Selectmen at 7:30 p.m. and led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Childs announced Selectman Bennett would not be present due to illness.

Members Present:

F. Childs, Chairman
W. Friel

Others Present:

P. Smith, Town Administrator
J. Sapia, AYBS
T. Stewart, Road Agent

Approval of minutes from last meeting:

Chairman Childs read minutes from March 1, 2010 Mr. Friel had no changes and made motion to accept as written. Chairman Childs seconded the motion and the Board voted two in favors, with Selectman Bennett absent to deny the request of accepting the minutes as read.

Assessing Abatement:

Chairman Childs informed the Board that there were two requests from the Assessing Clerk. The first was for 12 Hovey Meadow Road and the second was for 44 Academy Avenue. A Veteran's Tax Credit was requested for at 4 Birdsall Lane

Chairman Childs made motion to approve the request for abatement at 12 Hovey Meadow Road. Selectman Friel seconded the Motion and the Board voted in favor.

Chairman Childs made motion to approve the request for abatement at 44 Academy Avenue. Selectman Friel seconded the Motion and the Board voted in favor.

Selectman Friel made motion to approve the request for a Veteran's Tax Credit at 4 Birdsall Lane. Chairman Childs seconded the Motion and the Board voted in favor.

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Department Heads:

Chairman Childs requested that Mr. Teddy Stewart, Road Agent, step before the Board. Mr. Stewart reported on emergency operations due to the severe storm damage from Friday, February 26, 2010 to Monday March 4, 2010.

Mr. Stewart stated that the road crew used backhoes to clear trees from roads and put up high water barricades. The debris clearing was still under way at this time.

Stopped chipping debris as of Thursday and hired a grapple truck to transport the debris and fallen trees to the transfer station.

Mr. Stewart stated that the Court sent a laborer, Mr. Barry Rossetti, to work 62 hours of Community Service. Mr. Rossetti was a hard worker, who put in twelve and fourteen hour days and Mr. Stewart wanted the Board to acknowledge that and that the extra help was really needed and appreciated during the storm clean up.

Mr. Stewart stated that the crew was sent home and no over-time was incurred on Sunday. Mr. Stewart stated that he stayed to survey what course should be taken for the following week. There is one bridge behind Community Center that was on the walking trail report damage. Mr. Stewart stated that the use of gravel was made to the bridge for the repairs and that no structure was lost.

Mr. Stewart stated that the previous repairs done to the spillway behind the Community Center were still intact and that no repairs were necessary.

Mr. Stewart stated that that a section of beaver dam was lost off Hovey Meadow Road and the culvert clogged up hill and the combination caused a 60 foot section of Hovey Meadow Road to wash out. Also noted were the eroding shoulders of Old Coach and Mill Stream Drive causing approximately twenty tons of material to wash out. Mr. Stewart hired a company that is equipped to clean up the road debris.

Mr. Stewart stated that on Thursday all equipment for the clean-up showed and he had to prep for paving. Crews prepped Hovey Meadow Road for paving and the road was ready for the morning commute. There was patching of the intersections of Salem and North Broadway as well as, intersections of North Broadway and Sawyer and intersections of Sawyer and lower Maple Avenue.

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Mr. Stewart stated that there was an issue with Salem Road in the Town of Salem where a section of culvert washed out, which affect the Town of Atkinson. The Town of Salem was not certain the amount of damage until the water receded. Signs and barricades were put up to detour traffic on Town of Atkinson side of Salem Road. The signs were place at the intersections of Pheasant Lane and Salem Road. Road signs are being taken down by town's people daily. The Town of Salem has placed cement barricades on their end. Mr. Stewart would like to place detour signs for drivers and the safety of the town residents as the repairs is likely to take months.

Chairman Childs commented that the signs would be helpful for all concerned.

Mr. Stewart stated that the town truck is in the shop needing repairs to the front end. Results were a front end alignment.

Mr. Stewart stated that the crew was readying the parking lot for the Town Elections.

Mr. Stewart stated that fifty tons of gravel would be dispersed by Wednesday and that the department was back to doing its routine duties.

Mr. Stewart presents the Board a list of repairs as well as the cost for submittal to FEMA.

Chairman Childs stated that Mr. Stewart meet with the Chiefs of the Fire and Police Departments to coordinate the list for reimbursement from FEMA

Mr. Smith, Town Administrator requested to look at the reports submitted by the Fire and Police Departments before submission. Chairman Childs stated that the Board should have a copy for Mr. Smith. Chairman Childs made a motion to have a sign placed at Pheasant Lane and Salem Road stating Road Closed, residents only, as well as detour signs. Concerns were stated for businesses on lower Pheasant Lane. Mr. Stewart will place a temporary signs while a more permanent, reusable sign is being made.

Chairman Childs stated to Mr. Stewart that Mr. and Mrs. Morelli wanted to inform the Board that the sign in front of the cemetery blew off. Mr. Stewart will look at repairing and replacing the sign.

Selectman Friel commended Mr. Stewart on his efforts during the storm.

In closing Mr. Stewart stated the Town received monies from a C-TAP Grant.

Chairman Childs wanted to thank Michelle Veasey for all her hard work, .that led to the grant of \$7,800 through surveying all town buildings.

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Appearances:

Mr. Jack Sapia, Atkinson Little League, stated opening Day is set for May 8, 2010 start time is approximately 12 o'clock.

Boys try-outs were last Sunday and girls try-out is set for this Sunday, if any one missed last Sunday they are welcome to try-out this Sunday at the Middle School at 12 o'clock. Numbers are up over last year, girls are up significantly. Update on field improvements will be submitted to the Board. Mr. Sapia addressed concerns regarding fence along the bleachers near the Transfer Station. Mr. Sapia suggested a split-rail with a wire mesh but it could be a safety concern.

Chairman Childs stated that the fencing should have been done when the T-ball field was done.

Mr. Sapia addressed taking down trees along the entrance of the Ball Field one and putting in a berm and placing a fence similar to the fencing along the Transfer Station side near the shed. Mr. Sapia added that he wanted to replace larger trees with smaller ones, utilizing the Gardening Club to help "beautify it". Mr. Sapia would like to make the ball field a 70/50 diamond converting it to a dual purpose field hosting two levels of baseball. Mr. Sapia stated that this would help the children of the community to play baseball a little longer (having league play for older kids). Mr. Sapia has drawings from Little League outlining the new design. This would require cutting back some of the infield to accommodate the longer field with two mounds, one being removable.

Selectman Friel made a concern that there would be enough other teams for games outside of Atkinson for the older leaguers.

Mr. Sapia stated that overall towns lack the option of 70 foot playing fields. The league would not be able to utilize an enlarged field option this year. The fields are now 50 foot. Mr. Sapia would like to submit, in time, a report to the Board with all the diagrams and cost.

Chairman Childs raised concerns with the removal of the trees.

Mr. Sapia stated that there would be approximately a dozen trees for removal and that the League had every intention of replacing them with other trees. One problem, Mr. Sapia stated, was that while sitting on the bleacher you could not see the batter hitting at home plate.

Chairman Childs made a suggestion that Mr. Sapia speak with Mr. B. Innes of the Recreation Department about the prospect of replacing the cut trees with "free" trees and bushes.

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Selectman Friel stated concerns of changes without prior submission. Selectman Friel also stated his concerns on the split rail fence and stated that he is concerned with the cost, safety and maintenance of the fence as compared to a chain link. As well as the cost of a chain link would be cheaper in the end.

Mr. Sapia stated the reason for a berm and a fence is a safety issue and that when cars park along the road, "a child could shoot out from two parked cars...." it would be a liability for the Town.

Mr. Sapia read excerpts of a letter to the Board regarding a coach to a parent regarding the outstanding people within organization.

Mr. Sapia stated that he had concerns about a letter dated December 13, 2009 which was postmark was January 14, 2010 and he received on the 15th of January. Mr. Sapia stated his confusion about the allotment of \$2,000 from the Town to the Little League and that the town generally donates \$4,500 which goes towards the insurance. Mr. Sapia would like the Board to reconsider the allotment raising it to the original amount of \$4,500.

Chairman Childs stated as Recreation Liaison that the Board decided to cut the donation to \$2,000 and the Basketball and the Soccer league both get \$300 and the Board decided to use the remaining budget to use towards more recreational and Senior programs.

Selectman Friel wants to know how the expenditure gets approval. Selectman will take it under advisement and wants to look into the expenditures of the Town budgets.

For the record Selectman Friel will call Mr. Chris Lewis regarding the concession stands.

Town Administrator's Report:

Selectman Friel gave an update on the E- 9-1-1 Documentation for Street numbering. The town has requested to map and data collect on the E-9-1-1 which is the State Department who puts together the information collected and looks at the problem areas of street renumbering and street renaming. The Board has drafted a Street Numbering Ordinance that was presented to the State and that the State has some comments and concerns. Selectman Friel, said he plans to follow up with the State tomorrow. The State has moved the town status from 17th to 1st or 2nd. Selectman Friel will up-date the Board at the next meeting.

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Chairman Childs asked Mr. Phil Smith, Town Administrator, where all the Appointment polices came from and Mr. Smith stated he had a meeting with the Local Government and got updated policies and that the Police Chief was not available at this time. Mr. Smith wants to review and update the Town of Atkinson's policies.

Area/Regional Selectman meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the Atkinson Town Hall. Hampstead is confirmed and Plaistow is concerned about the outcome of their elections and they would get back to Mr. Smith with the results. Mr. Smith contacted Mr. Charlie Farrell from Glacial Energy for a presentation.

Atkinson Cleaning Company started March 4, 2010 as a contracted cleaning service.

Mr. Smith asked the Chairman if the Board would consider upping the expenditures amount that department heads are mandated to submit to the T.A and Select board for approval. Currently expenditures' over \$100 need approval by the Town Administrator and expenditures' over \$1,000 to the assigned liaison Select Board Member. The requested upgrades are \$500 and \$1,500 respectively.

Mr. Friel made a motion to wait until Selectman Bennett was available. Chairman Childs asked to table it until Selectman Bennett was available.

Mr. Smith brought to the Boards attention a letter of Appreciation from Officer Christopher Van Hirtum to the Beaulieu Family about Katilyn, Jonathan and Ryan's help during the wind storm on Friday, February 26, 2010.

Chairman Childs read said letter and Chairman Childs acknowledges the Beaulieu Family's efforts. Selectman Friel also commended Officer Van Hirtum's efforts for taking the time to write the letter.

Increasing hours of the Deputy Clerk, was taken under advisement until Selectman Bennett returns.

Announcements:

Chairman Childs read a thank you letter from the Mangini Family thanking the town for their support after their sons recent accident.

Chairman Childs wants to remind everyone that the Town Elections are being held from 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Atkinson Community Center.

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Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Adjournment:

Chairman Childs made Motion to adjourn the March 8, 2010 Meeting of the Town of Atkinson Board of Selectman at 8:25 p.m. Selectman William Friel seconded the Motion and the Board voted two in favor, with Selectman Bennett absent to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Power

X

Fred J. Childs, Jr.
Chairman

X

William G. Friel
Selectman

X

William M. Bennett
Selectman
