

*Town of Atkinson
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
February 23, 2015*

Open Meeting:

W. Baldwin opened the Regular Meeting of the Atkinson Board of Selectmen at 7:30 PM on Monday, February 23, 2015, in the Atkinson Town Hall.

Members Present:

W. Baldwin, Chairman
P. Consentino
H. Morse

Others Present:

Michael Coppeta, Eagle Scout Candidate
T. Troy, Boy Scout Pack 9
B. Snicer, Assistant Town Administrator
E. Stewart, Road Agent

B. Baldwin invited M. Coppeta and T. Troy from Boy Scout Pack 9 to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda:

➤ *Approval of Minutes:*

- February 2, 2015 – H. Morse noted that the Board of Selectmen did not approve of keeping the Recycling area open (p.2).
H. Morse made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 2, 2015, as amended. Second: P. Consentino. Vote: 3/0/0.
- February 9, 2015
W. Baldwin made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2015 as submitted. Second: H. Morse. Vote: 2/0/1.
- February 9, 2015
H. Morse made the motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Meeting of February 9, 2015, as submitted. Second: W. Baldwin. Vote: 2/0/1.

➤ *Donations:*

- The Board of Selectmen gratefully accepted \$697 in donations to the Elder Services Transportation Donation account.
- The Board of Selectmen gratefully accepted \$226 in donations to the Elder Assistance Expendable Trust Fund, and directed the Trustees of the Trust Funds to deposit the money in the Trust Fund.

- *Assessing:*
 - Veteran's Tax Credits

Map/Lot	Address	Rod's Rec.	\$
Map 7 Lot 154	59 Summit Drive	Grant	500
Map 13 Lot 29-10	32 Winslow Drive	Grant	500

P. Consentino made the motion to approve the Veterans' Tax Credits for Map 7 Lot 154 and Map 13 Lot 29-10, in the amount of \$500 each beginning 2015. Second: H. Morse. Vote: 3/0/0.

Appearances:

- *M. Coppeta, 5 Murray Drive:*

Michael Coppeta introduced himself to the Board of Selectmen. He is a member of Atkinson Boy Scout Troop 9 and a candidate for Eagle Scout, and is taking this opportunity to outline his Eagle project, "Rehab and Reorganization of the Atkinson Community Center Trinity and Table Rooms". (copy attached) Following his presentation, W. Baldwin asked if there would be other scouts helping. M. Coppeta replied that there would be others involved. W. Baldwin then asked where the money would come from to pay for the supplies. B. Snicer replied that it would come from the General Government Buildings – Community Center account. P. Consentino added that there were other organizations that might be willing to help with the cost of the project – for instance the Atkinson Lions' Club.

P. Consentino made the motion to approve M. Coppeta's Eagle Scout project at the Community Center. Second: H. Morse. Vote: 3/0/0.

- *E. Stewart, Road Agent:*

- Winter Over-expenditure

E. Stewart reported that his Winter Contract Labor & Equipment line was over-expended by more than \$3,000 a week ago, and that there have been two more weather "events" since then. He suggested that, should the construction/reconstruction projects have been put into the Operating Budget instead of warrant articles, the Selectmen might have been able to postpone one or more of the projects to make up the winter shortfall. In addition, he cautioned that the failure of a major culvert or roadway during the spring floods could cost in excess of \$100,000, with no way to cover the additional costs under the current budget scheme. W. Baldwin asked where the money will come from to cover this winter's over-expenditures and anything that might happen next November or December. P. Consentino asked if we have used any of the Winter Expendable Trust money. E. Stewart replied that we should wait until next fall to consider using that money. B. Snicer added that, if there were a catastrophic problem, we

could go to the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) and ask to use some of our Undesignated Fund Balance (UFB).

- Bid Island Pond

W. Baldwin asked if there were an emergency plan in case there was flooding. E. Stewart responded that Big Island Pond has been lowered 11 feet, but the rest of the ponds and retention areas are full. He added that he had submitted a request to the State for assistance in developing and implementing a Stormwater Management system in the Big Island Pond area, but was turned down.

E. Stewart said that he was proud of the limited salt use in this area by comparison to Hampstead and Derry, both of which also have watersheds which end up in Big Island Pond. In addition, he noted that he doesn't dump snow in Big Island Pond. There are two areas being used as "snow dumps": the retention pond at the Library and the Brush Dump. W. Baldwin pointed out that the State has recently issued guidelines for snow removal, and said he would get a copy to the Road Agent.

E. Stewart noted that there were three issues creating problems for snow removal: The first is items in the town's right-of-way, that area approximately twelve feet from the edge of the pavement. A few years ago, a concerted effort was made to identify all items, such as pillars, gates, rocks, shrubbery, granite or iron posts, basketball nets, etc. He suggested that there has been no further action to have these removed. During the summer, they look lovely, but in the winter they are frequently the cause of broken plows and wings, which costs the town money. H. Morse asked for the list and said this would be discussed further.

The second problem is snow obstructions. Under RSA 236.20, it is a violation to put or place any snow or ice upon the surface of the traveled portion of the road. That would include cul de sacs, on some of which residents have put enough snow to prevent a fire truck from turning around. E. Stewart said it is inappropriate for the Road Agent to enforce state law and asked that the Police Department cite individuals when officers see snow or ice in the roadway.

Third is vehicles parked in the right-of-way during snow removal activities. E. Stewart indicated that he had to cease snow removal for 45 minutes until a delivery truck moved out of the way. He had asked the driver to move, but the driver was unreceptive. The town's Snow Removal Policy states, under Parking: *"Further, it shall be unlawful at any time of day to park any vehicle on any street during snow removal operations in such a manner as to hinder snow removal."*

P. Consentino asked that a letter be written to Chief Brackett outlining these problems and asking that the Police Department take action if an officer sees snow being put in the road, or vehicles in the right-of-way during snow removal operations. W. Baldwin agreed.

Old Business:

➤ *Trash Collection:*

P. Consentino said he had sent an e-mail to Bill Thomson, Co-Owner of Northside Carting, reiterating the various problems that have been occurring with trash and recycling pick-up since B. Thomson appeared before the Board on February 2. P. Consentino suggested checking with Town Counsel regarding cancelling the contract with Northside Carting and re-bid trash and recycling service. H. Morse asked that B. Snicer contact officials in towns which do not have Northside to see what kind of problems are occurring elsewhere and how they are dealt with. P. Consentino asked that this issue be put on the agenda for the next Selectmen's meeting.

➤ *New Desks*

H. Morse asked when the new desks would be in for the Selectmen's Office. B. Snicer replied that, as of last contact, they should be in by the end of the month. She also noted that the chairs, computers, office supplies, etc. have been ordered, and added that B. Innes is in constant contact with the prison, where the desks are being made.

New Business:

➤ *Investment Policy:*

B. Snicer presented a proposed Investment Policy to the Board of Selectmen. She has submitted the existing policy to Michael Turell, Town Treasurer and former banker, to examine, and this proposal has incorporated the modifications he recommended. W. Baldwin suggested that the policy first be sent to Town Counsel to be sure it covers the Town adequately. B. Snicer will do so.

➤ *Plaistow Rail Study:*

On behalf of the Plaistow Rail Study Committee members from Atkinson, Dave Harrigan and Bob Clark, B. Snicer brought to the attention of the Selectmen that there has been a request to extend the Plaistow Rail Study an additional three months. Per the February 18, 2015 e-mail from our representatives, the MBTA found that a layover station on Hilldale Avenue would be unacceptable because it is too far from the Plaistow passenger platform, therefore leaving only two sites east of Route 125 for the layover yard, or to just accept the status quo. Therefore, since there are only minor details to be completed, and the Selectmen have, individually and as a Board, opposed a layover station in this area, B. Clark has suggested that a letter be sent from the Board to Executive Counselor Christopher Sununu recommending that the extension not be granted. The Selectmen asked B. Snicer to write such a letter and send it on behalf of the Board.

➤ *Right-to-Know Law:*

W. Baldwin announced that a free workshop concerning the current issues under the Right-to-Know Law will be held upstairs in the Plaistow Town Hall, 145 Main Street, Plaistow, on Thursday, March 12, 2015, from 7 PM to 9 PM. He asked all department heads and supervisors, both paid and volunteer, to attend, adding that all governmental entities are responsible to these rules. It is necessary to sign up in advance at www.nhmunicipal.org under CALENDAR OF EVENTS. Each member of the Board asked B. Snicer to register him.

➤ *Safe Community:*

W. Baldwin announced that the Town of Atkinson was acknowledged as the second safest town in New Hampshire, by SafeWise, a national home security company. P. Consentino noted that this was based on statistics compiled by police departments around the country two years ago and provided to the FBI. W. Baldwin pointed out that this was a result of the outstanding work done by Fire, Highway and Police departments primarily responsible for public safety, none of which could have been achieved without the cooperation of Atkinson's residents. He added that this was why he lives in Atkinson and is proud to serve our community.

➤ *Timberlane Public Hearing:*

W. Baldwin announced that the Timberlane Regional School Board will be holding a mandatory Public Hearing on Thursday, February 26, 2015, to discuss Timberlane Article #10 Amend the Articles of Agreement. He noted that this article was not recommended by the School Board or the School Budget Committee, and emphasized that the intent of this article is to change the way towns are assessed operating costs. This would result in a substantial increase in the portion of taxes Atkinson residents must pay. At present, operating expenses are based on the average daily membership (ADM) of those attending Timberlane schools from each town; and capital expenses (buildings, additions, etc.) are based on the equalized valuation of the Town. This article proposed to change the operating expenses based on equalized valuation as well. The Selectmen encourage voters to get the correct information from the Public Hearing, and make their feelings known on March 10 by voting.

Future Agenda:

- *2/26/2015 – Public Hearing on Articles of Agreement PAC 7 PM*
- *3/2/2015 – Candidates' Night Atkinson Town Hall 7 PM*
- *3/10/2015 – Voting Day Community Center 7 AM to 8 PM*
- *3/12/2015 – Right-to-Know Workshop Plaistow Town Hall 7 PM*
- *4/11/2015 – Boy Scout Electronics Recycling Community Center 8 AM*

Adjournment:

P. Consentino made the motion to adjourn at 8:20 PM. Second: H. Morse. Vote: 3/0/0.

William M. Baldwin, Chairman

Philip V. Consentino

Harold J. Morse