

*Town of Atkinson
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2015*

H. Morse opened the Regular Meeting of Monday, May 11, 2015 at 7:34pm and led all present in the pledge of allegiance.

Members Present:

P. Consentino
J. Grosky
W. Friel
H. Morse, Vice Chair

Others Present:

J. Corson, Resident
W. Corson, Resident
B. Innes, Town Administrator

Roll Call

H. Morse initiated a roll call

Members present: P. Consentino, W. Friel, J. Grosky, H. Morse

Members absent: W. Baldwin (excused for military duty)

Public Hearing – Discretionary Public Easement

37 Maple Ave. Barn – Justine Corson and Wayne Corson

Under RSA 79-D, the State of New Hampshire allows a tax incentive to owners of certain agricultural structures in return for the preservation and improvement of these structures, known as Discretionary Preservation Easements, or “Barn Tax”. This property tax relief may be given to owners who can demonstrate the public benefit of preserving their barns or other old agricultural buildings, while agreeing to maintain their structures through a minimum of a 10-year renewals easement. In return, the Selectmen provide tax relief of 25% to 75% of the full assessed value of the building and the land underneath it.

Mr. and Mrs. Corson have submitted all the necessary paperwork associated with the renewal of their Discretionary Preservation Easement, and the Town Assessor, Rod Wood, has looked at the property and recommended that both the barn and cobbler’s shed be assessed for 40% of their current value. This would result in a reduction of the total assessment of \$12,395, or a reduction in taxes of \$236.74, according to the 2014 tax rate.

P. Consentino made a motion to grant a discretionary preservation easement to Map 9, Lot 34-1 for 10 years at 40% or in the amount of \$12,395 which equals a reduction in taxes of \$236.74 according to the 2014 tax rate, per the recommendation of the Assessor, Rod Wood. Second. W. Friel. 4/0/0.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- 5/4/2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- Donations: Elder Assistance - \$175.00
- Abatement:

Map/Lot	Address	\$	Recommendation:
Map 6/Lot 73	1 Twin Oaks Drive	\$1,056.23 plus interest	Grant

P. Consentino made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Second. W. Friel. 4/0/0.

Old Business:

Sandown School District Withdrawal – Jason Grosky

The Town of Atkinson and surrounding towns have received notice that Sandown is conducting a study on whether or not it is best to leave the school district. During this study, Sandown will not be held responsible for any new capital expenditures and will be fully responsible for the cost of the study. Per Mr. Grosky and his conversation with Dr. Metzler, if the Town of Sandown left the district, the following will happen:

- Sandown will get Sandown Central back
- Sandown will need to buy out the three towns that share Sandown North
- Sandown will need to pay out its share of the bond for the PAC
- Sandown will lose its equity in Timberlane Properties
- Leaving the district will cost Sandown an estimated cost of 10 million dollars

The Sandown Withdrawal Committee will be meeting on Thursday, May 14th at 7pm at the Timberlane High School Library. The Committee is asking for a Selectman from each town within the district to sit on this Committee and Mr. Grosky offered to do that.

W. Friel made a motion to elect Jason Grosky to sit on the Sandown Withdrawal Committee. Second. W. Friel. 3/0/1. J. Grosky recused himself from this motion.

Conflict of Interest Seminar – June 22nd

Mr. Morse inquired about the Conflict of Interest Seminar being held on June 22nd and whether or not Mr. Innes has invited the surrounding towns. Mr. Innes has not done so yet.

Search for a Town Administrator

Mr. Innes informed the Board of Selectmen that NHMA no longer provides support for job searches. Discussion occurred around whether or not spending \$6,500 for MRI to search for a Town Administrator was the right thing to do. For now, Mr. Innes will send an email out to the Town Municipal Management Association, announcing his plans to retire and that the Town of Atkinson will be looking for a replacement Town Administrator. In the meantime, the Board of Selectmen will hold a workshop on Monday, May 18th at 6:30pm to discuss what the pay and benefits should be for the Town Administrator position.

Eagle Scout Projects

Mr. Consentino commented on what an excellent job the Eagle Scouts did at the Community Center. Mr. Innes added that the Eagle Scout has also done an excellent job in the new storage room at the Community Center. Mr. Grosky commented on the benches at the Atkinson Academy baseball field and that they are not in the best shape and whether or not that was a project for the Eagle Scouts. Mr. Innes will ask Mr. Stewart to look into the benches repair..

Police Department

Mr. Innes has not had time to address the radon unit at the Police Department. Mr. Consentino will provide the name of a contractor to evaluate the radon system.

New Business:

Resignation – Code Enforcement Officer

Mr. Innes announced the resignation of James Kirsch from the Code Enforcement Officer position. Mr. Innes will set up an exit interview on Monday, May 18th at 7:00pm. In the meantime, Mr. Consentino will speak to Mr. Kirsch in attempt to keep him on board.

Property Line Rock Wall – Approval to Remove

Mr. Innes explained that resident Jason Landry is requesting permission from the Board of Selectmen to remove a rock wall in front of his property at 25 Sawyer Road. Mr. Landry would like to improve the landscape and look of his front yard and the rock wall makes it difficult to see when pulling out of his driveway. Mr. Landry realizes that prior to the removal of the wall he will need to have the property surveyed and new boundary markers placed in order to identify property lines in the absence of the wall.

P. Consentino made a motion to allow Jason Landry of 25 Sawyer Road to remove the rock wall in front of his property and to place boundary markers in order to identify property lines in absence of the wall. Mr. Landry will also need to obtain a driveway permit. Second. J. Grosky. 4/0/0.

Police Department Server – Approval to Purchase

Mr. Innes asked the Board of Selectmen for permission to purchase a new server for the Police Department through First Choice Networks in the amount of \$3,060. Per the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Innes will seek out three bids. Mr. Innes will also post on the web and ACTV that the Town of Atkinson needs help on the Technology Committee.

Playground Repair

Mr. Innes asked the Board of Selectmen to allow SAJ to install Douglas fir posts from Feuer Lumber. The total cost including lumber and installation will be \$9,769 (\$8,500 for repair and \$1,269 for the lumber).

P. Consentino made a motion to allow SAJ to install Douglas Fir posts from Feuer Lumber for a total amount of \$9,769 (\$8,500 for repair and \$1,269 for the lumber). Second. J. Grosky. 4/0/0.

DHHS Health Alert – Lyme Disease

Mr. Innes announced that DHHS has initiated a health alert regarding Lyme disease and other Tick-borne diseases in NH. The recommendation is for residents to take precaution by dressing appropriately when outdoors and to think about getting their property sprayed.

Help Needed in the Town Administrators Office

Mr. Innes asked the Board of Selectmen for permission to hire someone to help out with filing of assessing documents in the Town Administrator's office. It is estimated that the work will take from 40 to 80 hours to complete. The Board of Selectmen approved this request and asked Mr. Innes to look internally first and then a college or high school students who might like the work.

Future Dates:

5/14/2015 – New England Carousel Museum – Bristol, CT – 9am – 5pm - \$40 – pre-registration required

5/16/2015 – Household Hazardous Waste Day – Plaistow Recreation Field, 51 Old County Road, Plaistow, NH – 9am – 12pm.

6/30/2015 – Deadline for low/moderate property tax relief filing

W. Friel made a motion to go into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) hiring an employee – planning administrator. Second. J. Grosky. Roll Call Vote: P. Consentino: Yes, H. Morse: Yes, W. Friel: Yes, J. Grosky: Yes.

Return from non-public session. Mr. Friel made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:27 PM; Second by Mr. Grosky – Vote 4/0/0

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Lueders

William Baldwin, Chair

Phil Consentino

William Friel

Jason Grosky

Harold Morse, Vice Chair