

*Town of Atkinson  
Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
September 28, 2015*

**W. Baldwin opened the Regular Meeting of Monday, September 28, 2015 at 6:30pm and led all present in the pledge of allegiance.**

**Members Present:**  
W. Baldwin, Chair  
P. Consentino  
W. Friel  
J. Grosky  
H. Morse, Vice Chair

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:**  
J. Cobb, Chair Library Trustees  
S. Coppetta, Planning Board  
D. Heer, Director Kimball Library  
B. Innes, Town Administrator  
A. Phair, Vice Chair Library Trustees  
T. Stewart, Road Agent

## **Budget Presentations**

### *Library – Dian Heer and Jim Cobb*

Ms. Heer and Mr. Cobb appeared before the Board of Selectmen to present the 2016 Library Budget and made comments to the following budget lines:

| <b>Account No.</b> | <b>Description</b>         | <b>Budget</b> | <b>Proposed</b> | <b>Change</b> | <b>Comments</b>  |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| 45501.110.01       | Librarian                  | 63,908        | 67,132          | 5.04%         | Trustees negotiated \$67,103 for 2016 contract. 5% this year and 5% next year.                               |
| 45501.110.02       | Youth Services Director    | 43,680        | 45,760          | 4.76%         | Reflects an increase in salary in the amount of \$1.00 per hour – from \$21.00 per hour to \$22.00 per hour. |
| 45501.110.03       | Aides (Library Assistants) | 113,340       | 123,407         | 8.88%         | Reflects merit raises and the addition of 10 hours at \$15.00 per hour.                                      |
| 45501.410.00       | Electricity                | 15,500        | 18,755          | 21.00%        | Reflects increase provided by Mr. Innes.   |
| 45502.390.00       | Other Prof Services        | 12,700        | 13,540          | 6.61%         | Increase of \$840/year for a total IT budget of \$12,426/year.   |
| 45502.740.00       | Computer Hardware          | 10,000        | 10,000          | 0%            | Plan to replace ten old computers but may need to use it for a new copier machine.                           |

**J. Grosky made a motion for discussion to accept the 2016 Library budget under preliminary approval in the amount of \$445,703 with an increase of 5.01%. Second. H. Morse. Mr. Grosky asked for the rationale behind increasing the Librarian’s salary by 5%. Mr. Cobb and Mr. Phair explained these negotiations were made two years ago, prior to the salary matrix built by Mr. Innes. Even though the salary has increased by 22% over the past 6 years, the Trustees feel as though the salary needed to be increased in order to match other salaries in the surrounding communities. The salary also accounts for certain benefits not being offered to Ms. Heer. Ms. Heer and the Library Trustees claim that the salary matrix designed by Mr. Innes is old data and will provide the Board of Selectmen with data recently collected by Ms. Heer to assist the Trustees in arriving at their decision for the salary increase. 5/0/0.**

***Planning and Zoning – Sue Coppetta***

Ms. Coppetta appeared before the Board of Selectmen to present the 2016 Planning and Zoning budget as level funded.

**W. Friel made a motion to accept the 2016 Planning and Zoning budget under preliminary approval as level funded in the amount of \$22,153. Second. J. Grosky. 5/0/0.**

***Building Inspections – Sue Coppetta***

Ms. Coppetta also presented the 2016 Building Inspections budget in the amount of \$67,512 with an increase of 24.39% due to new projects being started at Sawmill Ridge. There will be 100 condominiums going in off of Main Street. This budget is offset by revenue. Revenue is tracked in the revenue budget.

**W. Friel made a motion to accept the 2016 Building Inspections budget under preliminary approval in the amount of 67,512 with an increase of 24.39%. Second. J. Grosky. 5/0/0.**

***Information Technology***

Mr. Innes did not have accurate numbers and asked to put the topic off until next week. The Board of Selectmen approved this request.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

- Minutes
  - 9/21/2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- Assessing
- Donations:
  - Elder Services Transportation Fund - \$165

**J. Grosky made a motion to approve the consent agenda of 9/28/15 as presented. Second. W. Friel. 4/0/1. H. Morse abstained from the motion.**

**Old Business:**

***Highway Department Roof***

Mr. Innes explained he is still waiting to hear back from Mr. Wood on whether or not they can fulfill the RFP. The roof is in failure, but it is not critical to fix immediately so there is some time.

**New Business:**

***2015/2016 Building Maintenance Proposal***

Mr. Innes presented a building maintenance overview to the Board of Selectmen and asked for approval to over-expend the building maintenance budget in the amount of \$9,075. Mr. Innes highlighted the items falling under this request in green. This request would bring the total over-expend amount to \$17,250 but there will be an offset to this from unanticipated revenue to be in excess of \$100,000. When asked which items out of the \$9,075 were critical, Mr. Innes responded by stating the concrete-front sidewalk in the amount of \$1,425 and the removal of the flagpole at the Police Department in the amount of \$400.

**W. Friel made a motion approve Mr. Innes to over-expend the Building Maintenance Budget in the amount of \$1,824 by slating the concrete-front sidewalk in the amount of \$1,425 and for the removal of the flagpole at the Police Department in the amount of \$400. Second. H. Morse. 5/0/0.**

**The Board of Selectmen took a 5 minute recess**

**Mr. Baldwin opened a Public Comment Session to discuss the 3-way stop sign at Island Pond Road and Westside Drive at 7:25pm.**

Mr. Baldwin explained that the Board of Selectmen are interested in hearing what the public has to say on this matter but will not be doing a question and answer session. Mr. Baldwin went on to explain that each person have the opportunity to speak once, and should approach the desk, sign-in, and introduce themselves, and will have three minutes to speak. There have been two email received on this matter from Susan Morris Thibeault and Betsey Kirsh, both opposed to the removal of the stop signs (see attached).

Mr. Innes explained the issue arose from complaints made to the Road Agent about noise caused by large trucks and motorcycles stopping at the intersection. The Road Agent initiated a study of the intersection be performed by the Rockingham Planning Commission. The results of the study concluded that switching to a two-way stop control allowing for Island Pond traffic to progress through the intersection without stopping is a feasible undertaking that should not impact the function or safety of the location in any significant manner. The Rockingham Planning Commission also recommended the Town initiate a review made by a licensed traffic engineer under the Town’s supervision. Per this advice, The Road Agent had the intersection reviewed by Keach-Nordstrom Associates Inc. (the Town’s licensed traffic engineer). Keach-Nordstrom could not recommend the elimination of the current stop conditions at either the northbound approach of Westside Drive or the eastbound approach of Island Pond Road to the intersection, but could support eliminating the existing stop control at the westbound approach of Island Pond Road. After consideration of this information, the Highway Safety Committee supported these recommendations and referred the matter to the Board of Selectmen.

***The following comments were made by members of the audience (see the attached copy of the sign-in sheet):***

| Name               | Address             | Comment   |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| <b>John Pool</b>   | 45 Westside Drive   | Mr. Pool explained he does not understand the reason for taking out any or all stop signs from the intersection. He stated that the study does not mention anything about people taking a left on Westside Drive. He just saw someone run the stop sign tonight. People cut the corner too tight. Mr. Pool believes the stop sign should stay. People need to stop, turn left and swing wide. Mr. Pool also believes the area needs more patrolling and would be more concerned about people speeding rather than the stop signs.                               |
| <b>Dan Delaney</b> | 19 Island Pond Road | Mr. Delaney has been a resident of 19 Island Pond Road of 38 years. He remembers at least 2x per year someone takes down his fence. It is very dangerous if people don’t stop there. If he travels at 30 miles per hour, people pass him. He has tried to walk down the street for exercise, but it is too dangerous. The stop signs are needed.  |
| <b>Judd Nathan</b> | 4 Westside Drive    | Mr. Nathan has collected 135 signatures against the removal of the stop sign (see attached). The stop signs should be there for safety reasons. He would not have purchases his home if there were not any stop signs. With more drivers, new house, and the distractions of cell phones, there would be nothing positive coming from the removal of the stop signs. Mr. Nathan would not be able to get out of his driveway if it weren’t for the stop signs. Mr. Nathan also complained that he tried getting in touch with the elected officials but did not |

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|                       |                     | get a response and would like to know how to get in touch with them when need be.   |
| <b>Barbara Brown</b>  | 7 Island Pond Road  | Ms. Brown would like there to be signs put up indicating there is a 3-way stop sign. She would also like to see the road patrolled more. Everyone thinks this road is a cut through. Ms. Brown would like to keep the street quiet and calming.   |
| <b>Joanne Lakin</b>   | 2 Stonewall Terrace | Ms. Lakin explained she has had 3 to 4 cars on her property each year due to speeding. She questioned what it would do for the speed if the stop signs were removed. Ms. Lakin expressed concern about studies being done by people who don't live in our town and have to live through the accidents incurred by speed. Ms. Lakin asked the Board to think beyond the study. |
| <b>John Costigau</b>  | 2 Noyes Lane        | Mr. Costigau currently lives on Noise Lane but lives on Brookside Terrace for 20 years. He spoke before the Board of Selectmen at the initial meeting to have signs put in and supported it then and supports the signs staying in now.   |
| <b>Peter Gosselin</b> | 1 Westside Drive    | Mr. Gosselin objects to the removal of the signs because he has seen fences taken out, walls being hit, and someone hit in a motorcycle accident. It is a very dangerous intersection that needs stop signs. It is not the stop signs, it's the people who cause the accidents because people don't obey laws.  |
| <b>Carolyn Biros</b>  | 4 Stonewall Terrace | Ms. Biros has been there for 39 years. She cannot walk to her mother's house because it is too dangerous and she can't take her grandchildren on the busy road. Taking the stop signs down would be a problem.  |
| <b>Jonathan Biros</b> | 4 Stonewall Terrace | Mr. Biros explained it is currently not safe for children or neighbors who like to walk or walk their dogs. He is opposed to the removal of the stop signs and asked the Selectmen to look at the fact that people who pay their taxes deserve the right to decide.   |
| <b>Less Wordell</b>   | 17 Island Pond Road | Mr. Wordell explained he is new to the neighborhood. He sees a lot of big trucks going right through the stop sign. He doesn't understand why the police are not enforcing the laws. It is noisy and there is a lot of traffic but 75% of the cars go right through the intersection and do not stop.   |
| <b>Steve Gingrass</b> | 56 Ridgewood Drive  | Mr. Gingrass has been commuting into MA for about 40 years and has noticed delivery trucks speeding through the stop signs trying to deliver their materials. There are kids who have been partying, drinking, and speeding. He has seen some terrible accidents over the years and does not see the point in removing stop signs that could help slow people down.           |

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| <b>David Ewing</b>     | 3 Island Pond Road      | Mr. Ewing has lived on Island Pond Road since March and there is a speed issue. He is aware there have been deaths on the road before his time there. In Mr. Ewing's opinion, it is not a traffic issue, it is a safety issue. It is noisy as well. Mr. Ewing has a 3 ½ year old son who he does not want to let play in the front yard. Mr. Ewing asked the Board of Selectmen to not move forward with changing the stop signs. |
| <b>Todd Desjardins</b> | 21 Island Pond Road     | Mr. Desjardins explained that stop signs are part of safety. When he travels on the road at 30 miles per hour, cars are backed up. Eliminating the stop sign would only allow people to pick up speed and keep going.   |
| <b>Dan Hebert</b>      | 4 Oak Ridge Drive       | Mr. Hebert explained since there have only been two accidents, the stop signs must be working. Speed is a big factor in the community and there are not enough police officers to monitor the roads. People are slowing down for the stop signs and Mr. Hebert can't imagine why you would want to remove the stop signs and lessen the safety for animals and people walking.  |
| <b>Lisa Costa</b>      | 10 Oak Ridge Drive      | Ms. Costa explained she has lived on Oak Ridge Drive for 18 years and has raised two children there. She has almost had the front end of her car taken off by people not stopping at the intersection. Ms. Costa also pointed out that people use Westside as a cut through because that is where GPS takes people. Ms. Costa explained there is no downside to keeping the stop signs.   |
| <b>Brian Keefe</b>     | 17 Oak Ridge Drive      | Mr. Keef believes that taking one stop sign away would not work because the average person can barely handle two.   |
| <b>Neil Grotenise</b>  | 61 Providence Hill Road | Mr. Grotenise recommends removing the stop sign. He explained he lives on Providence Hill Road where there is a ton of speeding. Stop signs do not slow people down.  |
| <b>Christine Dyer</b>  | 86 Maple Avenue         | Ms. Dyer does not believe stops signs are the answer to stop speeding. She also believes that 3 way stop signs are not intuitive. As a nurse, Ms. Dyer has been the first responder to many accidents at the intersection on Maple Avenue. Safe driving and no speeding is the answer.  |
| <b>Damien Bailey</b>   | 2 Rose Lane             | Mr. Bailey has lived on Rose Lane for 10 years and believes that speed is an issue. He has called the police several times. He is in strong favor of keeping the stop signs and would not be shocked if there wasn't a huge accident if the stop signs were removed.  |
| <b>John Goulet</b>     | 33 Academy Ave.         | There are skid marks from last night. Speed is an issue. Anytime you come to a T stop – you don't stop when you are   |

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|---------------------------|----------------------|---|
|                           |                      | going straight. The stop sign should be removed.  |
| <b>Melenie Blum</b>       | 32 Island Pond Road  | Ms. Blum asked the Selectmen to please leave the stop signs. She also asked if for the Town to post a 35 miles per hour sign and to think about putting irreversible speed bumps on the road. The road is unsafe and people speed. Police Officers are more than welcome to come and sit in one of their driveways to observe the speeding. |
| <b>Christine Green</b>    | 32 Island Pond Road  | Ms. Green is against taking the stop signs out, since it will increase speed. The intersection should be a 2 way stop.  |
| <b>Dennis Stasio</b>      | 19 Brookside Terrace | Mr. Stasio would like to see the Road Agent square the roads off to help with safety.   |
| <b>Kathleen Costigne</b>  | 2 Noise Lane         | Ms. Costigne would like to see a sign telling people there is a 3 way stop sign coming up.  |
| <b>Christine Corilius</b> | 52 Island Pond Road  | Ms. Corilius explained she has a blind driveway and would like a sign put up saying she has a blind driveway.   |
| <b>Kay Galloway</b>       | 56 Aspen Drive       | Ms. Galloway would like to see the speed trap put back on the warrant article this year since it was voted down last year. She also suggested a blinking red light on all three sides and would like to suggest speed cameras be installed.   |
| <b>Ted Stewart</b>        | Road Agent           | Mr. Stewart explained that a lot of decisions made for the road come from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. It would be unfair to leave a 3-way stop sign at the intersection and then not allow it at another one. Stops signs should not be used to slow people down. They should only be used when it is mandatory to stop. |
| <b>Joan Gingrass</b>      | 56 Ridgewood Drive   | Ms. Gingrass visits a friend in Boxford very frequently and noticed there are signs posted that say “speed limit strictly enforced. Speed kills” and Ms. Gingrass would like to see the same sign posted in Atkinson.   |

Mr. Consentino explained he would like to go by the facts and use common sense when making a decision. Mr. Baldwin concluded the public input session at 8:34pm and thanked the audience for attending the meeting and voicing their concerns and opinions. A decision will be made within the next two weeks.

**The Board of Selectmen took a 5 minute recess**

***Health Insurance***

Mr. Innes explained it is time to renew the Town’s Health Insurance. There will be an increase in using the current carrier. Mr. Innes will get solid numbers from Health Trust to present to the Board of Selectmen at a later date a later date.

***Sandown Withdrawal Committee***

Mr. Grosky explained the Sandown Withdrawal Committee meets again tomorrow night. They are in the process of studying potential places for students to go should Sandown withdraw and have narrowed it down to two places, either Sandborn or paying tuition to Timberlane. Mr. Consentino has heard it would cost Sandown 6 million dollars to get out of the district and questioned where they would get that kind of money. Mr. Grosky explained the answer to that question is unknown but is the question is many minds at this point.

**Future Dates:**

10/24 – Republican Breakfast – Community Center 8:00am – 10:00am

10/25 – Lions Citizen of the year award going to Noriko Travers

**W. Friel made a motion to recess the Regular Meeting of September 28, 2015 at 9:03pm and to enter into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3II (a) – Employee Compensation and RSA 91-A:3-II(e) - Legal. Second. P. Consentino. Roll Call Vote: W. Friel: Yes; H. Morse: Yes, P. Consentino: Yes; J. Grosky: Yes; W. Baldwin: Yes.**

**Re-enter public meeting at 9:37 PM**

**H. Morse made a motion to increase Margery Watkins’ salary form \$11.50 per hour to \$14,00 per hour effective Monday October 5, 2014; Second P. Consentino; Vote 5/0/0**

**W. Friel made a motion to recess the Regular Meeting of September 28, 2015 at 9:03pm: second P. Consentino; Vote 5/0/0**

**The September 28 meeting was adjourned at 9:41 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amanda Lueders

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William Baldwin, Chair

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Phil Consentino

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William Friel

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Jason Grosky

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Harold Morse, Vice Chair