

Selectmen's Meeting
October 3, 2011
Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Andrew, Janice Mulherin, Cheryl Lewis
Secretary: Janet Sherburne

The minutes of September 26, 2011 were accepted as written.

Jeanie Forrester met with the board to provide an update on what she has been working on since elected and to ask if the board had any questions or concerns. One concern of the board is the possibility of a primary in December as the town did not budget for this. Ms. Forrester will get some information about this.

Emergency Management: Bill Taffe met with the board and asked the board to approve the purchase of an antenna for the Town Office Building. The new antenna will provide 2x the range of the current antenna and will provide the necessary radio coverage for the town. There was \$2500.00 budgeted to troubleshoot and fix the radio problem and with the purchase of the antenna the entire amount spent will be approximately \$850.00, the remainder could be used for bridge or road repairs. After discussion, the board approved the purchase of the antenna.

Ambulance Inspection: Bill Taffe notified the board that the ambulance was inspected today and one deficiency was found. The ambulance needs an updated child car seat; the cost would be between \$100-\$200 and must be purchased and placed on the ambulance within 10 days. The board approved the purchase of a car seat for the ambulance.

EMS: Bill Taffe explained that the ladies auxiliary had offered to pay for half of the cost of a stair chair for EMS. The total cost would be \$2500.00 and some of the cost would come from the EMS budget. The board asked Bill Taffe to hold off on this purchase until emergency repairs to the roads and bridges are made.

Roof Bids/Town Hall (Historical Society): One bid was received for roof repairs. The bid was from P.R.E.P. for \$6700.00. The bid was reviewed and the board voted unanimously to accept the bid from P.R.E.P.

Rest Area: The State has placed two porta-potties at the rest area for 30 days while an agreement is being worked on. If an agreement is not reached within 30 days the porta-potties will be removed and the barriers will be put in place.

Trick-or-Treat: The board agreed that trick-or-treat hours will be held on October 31st from 5-7pm in Rumney.

Highway/Frank Simpson: Frank met with the board with an update on road and bridge repairs. Frank met with representatives from FEMA on Friday. No dollar amounts have been discussed yet. The FEMA reps took measurements and pictures of the damaged areas in town. He has a meeting scheduled on Thursday morning regarding the bridge on Doetown Road. The highway crew will start graveling Groton Hollow Road on Tuesday.

Buffalo Road Bridge: The bridge near 66 Buffalo Road washed out on Saturday. The selectmen met at the bridge on Saturday to view the damage. Frank reported that he contacted the State DOT regarding a bridge inspection and the State will try to send a representative to look at the bridge this week, Frank will be present for the inspection.

Groton Wind: Selectman Lewis has questions regarding the board's position on Groton Wind and when the neutral position became official as there is nothing in any of the minutes she has reviewed about the board making the decision to be neutral. Mark explained that the neutral position was a response to a discussion the board had with the town attorney during a non-public session. Selectman Lewis feels this should have gone out to the public in a public meeting and feels it is a lack of communication between the board and the town. Selectman Mulherin explained the residents had an opportunity to submit a petitioned warrant article for town meeting and also there have not been a huge number of residents commenting on this issue.

The board reviewed and discussed the town attorney's recommendation regarding the request made that Selectman Lewis recuse herself regarding Groton Wind. Selectman Lewis feels that she is being bullied by Groton Wind. The board also discussed having the town attorney come to a meeting. Selectman Lewis would like some questions answered in person but the board has budget concerns.

Privilege of the Floor: Jim Buttolph spoke and explained he is interested in what the town attorney's orders are from the selectmen when framing an opinion and how the questions are asked of him. He also stated he hopes the board is challenging the town attorney on some of the questions and opinions he gives. Mr. Buttolph also questions the board's position of neutrality. He asked if the board would consider sending a letter to the Supreme Court. (The board had drafted a one-page letter to the Supreme Court Clerk and had forwarded the copy to the Town Attorney for input).

The board discussed sending a one-page letter to the Supreme Court Clerk as discussed at the September 26, 2011 meeting. Cheryl Lewis recused herself from this discussion. Mark Andrew is in favor of having Bernie send the letter that was sent for his review. Janice Mulherin is not in favor and does not feel it is necessary to spend the money for the town attorney to send the letter. She will think about the matter more. No decision was made.

Fire Department: Dave Coursey asked Cheryl Lewis to mention to the board that if money is taken out of the fire protection line item of the Fire Dept. budget and equipment cannot be purchased then the department may not be in compliance. He also wanted the board to know that at a recent mutual aid meeting it was voted on to switch to a new communication system next year and the cost to the town could be \$12,000.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm

Respectfully submitted,
Janet C. Sherburne