

## **SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES**

**2/4/97**

Regular meeting of the Waterboro Board of Selectmen.

Present: Dennis Abbott, Dale Witman, Bob Fay, Ralph Stanley, Pat Sicard, Patti Berry.

Guests: Mr. And Mrs. Hopkins, Jon Gale, Paul Pelletier, Richard Batemen, Bob Gobeil.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

7:00 Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins enter meeting at their request to discuss a variance on their garage, as it sits. They were told that the Board of Selectmen do not have the authority to grant a variance, that is the role of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Dale Witman explains that there are 4 criteria set by the State that need to be met for the Zoning Board of Appeals to hear the request for variance. 1. The violation is not caused by the owner or the previous owner. 2. The violation does not alter or affect the character of the neighborhood. 3. Unusual characteristics of the property, topography of property, 4. the violation would cause the owner not to experience a return on investment.

There was an offer made by the Board of Selectmen to the Hopkin's about 18 months ago, for the Board to sign a consent agreement if the Hopkin's would agree to a clause that the Town is not liable to any damage done to their garage because it is in the right of way of Hamilton Road. At that time, the Hopkin's say they did not understand that offer. They got a lawyer after receiving the offer and it has gone on since then for various reasons. Ralph explains that the Selectmen do not have authority to grant a variance. A consent order is all parties agreeing that there is a violation but the town chooses not to take any action on it. It is files with the courts. Mr. Hopkins says he has a plan to make the garage attached and move it back. Dennis would like enter into the same consent agreement with the liability clause as was proposed 18 months ago, with the understanding that the Town would not make this offer again. The decision that was agreed upon by all is that the Town will sign the consent order that was drafted by our attorney at the time of the first offer, who is Harry Center. The Hopkin's can think about it this week and they have an appointment with the Selectmen next week for all the sign the consent agreement.

Ralph reports on the Jones' junkyard permit. Ralph has completed the permit form including his conditions. We will set up a public hearing after town meeting.

8:45 Paul Pelletier enters meeting at his request. He would like to know if he pays his back taxes in full, will the selectmen drop the interest. Dennis says that there are lien fees that must be paid with the back taxes. The selectmen agree that they will be agreeable, but more so when Paul comes to them with money in hand.

8:50 Dick Batemen enters meeting at his request. He attended a session on Government access. He requests the selectmen to fill out a questionnaire for the cable company. After we do that the negotiations will continue. Dick gives an update on negotiations. They have received a new contract, it will be for 10 years instead of 1. They are presently planning to go to fiber optics. I-net talked a lot about communications between towns and their fire departments. There would be 3 channels, Government, public and education. There would be a central broadcasting area. We could possibly broadcast our own selectmen meeting while another town broadcasts theirs at the same time on the same channel. Pat Sicard asks about the high school getting the capability to have their own video station. Dick says the presentation for education is tomorrow.

At this time Jon Gale enters meeting. He asks where we are on getting the Warrant done. The Draft will be ready Thursday. The Warrant must be done and posted by 2/28, it should be mailed by the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Jon feels the finance committee and selectmen should get together so the two are speaking the same language on revenues. They agree to meet sometime after Thursday to compare recommendations.

## **DISCUSSION**

A discussion on vacation time for Library Personnel began. The employees at the Library say they were told that the selectmen would be approving Dwayne Morin proposed Personnel Policy and that it included vacation time for library employees. The selectmen never approved that proposed policy and feel that the library employees should follow the current policy of Town of Waterboro employees. Bob suggests that we invite the library employees to discuss this with the selectmen next week.

The Warrant for Town meeting was discussed. The selectmen decided to take out the Article asking the town to pick the date for next annual town meeting.

Dale motions to move Article 56 to Article 7. It is the article in which the board asks the town to authorize them to add planning duties to the code enforcement office.

The selectmen decided for no increase in their salaries. The selectmen voted on the amount they want to request for selectmen assistant. They agreed on \$34,000.00. The board decided to format articles 56 to article 8, article 20 to 9, article 19 to 10, article 17 to 11. The articles concerning the treasurer, clerk and tax collector was discussed and the board decided to wait until after they meet with those people to make their recommendations.

The board decided to add to the road articles "to be spent under the direction of the road commissioner with approval of the board of selectmen." (excluding the Fire roads article.)

Bob Fay motions to recommend no funding this year on the Ross Corner request from the Road Review Committee, but to wait until 1998 in the interest of saving money. In place of this request they will recommend that the New Dam Road project be funded. Dennis agrees. Motion is passed.

The board decided to take the wording of "Road Review Committee requests" out of the articles and put in the wording "Road Review Committee estimates."

The board voted to place the wording in the Library's article that "all employees of the Library follow the personnel policy of the Town of Waterboro employees."

Bob Fay motions to recommend \$19,055.00 on the contributions article. Dale votes yes. Dennis votes no. Motion is passed.

Dennis moves to recommend \$12,500.00 on the Old Home Days article. It is agreed upon. Motion is passed.

The board decides to include the request for \$500.00 for Health Officer in with General Government.

Bob motions that no recommendation from the selectmen be put in the request for the Saco River Corridor Commission. Dale agrees. Dennis feels that the selectmen should support the commission since we have two active representatives for Waterboro.

The board decided to add a line item in the General Gov. article, requesting \$2,000.00 for advertising expense.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Bob asks Pat to call Russell Wright and get more information on the roof of the Town Hall.

Bob asks again, who the portable toilet bids were mailed out to. As far as Pat and Patti know, there was an add put in the smart shopper. Dave did this because of the purchase order policy which states merchandise over \$1,000.00 must go out to bid. A discussion of the purchase order policy begins. Bob wants to see where it was voted in, in the minutes. It was voted in on April 9, 1996. The Board explained that the policy states "merchandise" over \$1,000.00. It does not apply to contracting jobs.

A discussion of the job description for the Park's and Rec. director begins. There are some suggestions and Pat will get a revised copy to the Board when finished. Dale requested that along with other requirements listed that "attending counsel meetings" be added.

Bob Fay asks "Who calls the Town's attorney, and who has authority to call." Pat informs him that anyone who has called, has gotten an O.K. from her, first. Bob says as long as that is the case, he has no problem with it.

Bob Fay brings up a Planning Board discussion. He has suggested sending out a letter to planning board asking their opinion on keeping Sharon Abbott as their secretary or not. A suggestion was made to just have Pat call them individually and solicit their opinions. Bob would like to send them a letter and hold a secret ballot at the next planning board meeting.

A request was made to close the dump on March 8 so that employees could attend Town Meeting. The request was voted on and denied by the board.

Bob asks about assistant code enforcement officer. The board appointed Sharon Abbott as assistant CEO and that still stands.

Pat Sicard is told to invite the elected officials that work at the Town Hall to meet with the Selectmen next Tuesday night, to air opinions and discuss the referendum questions that concern them.

The Selectmen approved a work plan that was drafted by Pat Sicard and Fred Fay for all road projects in the future.

## **SIGNED**

The Board of Selectmen signed the Warrant for Bills and Payroll.

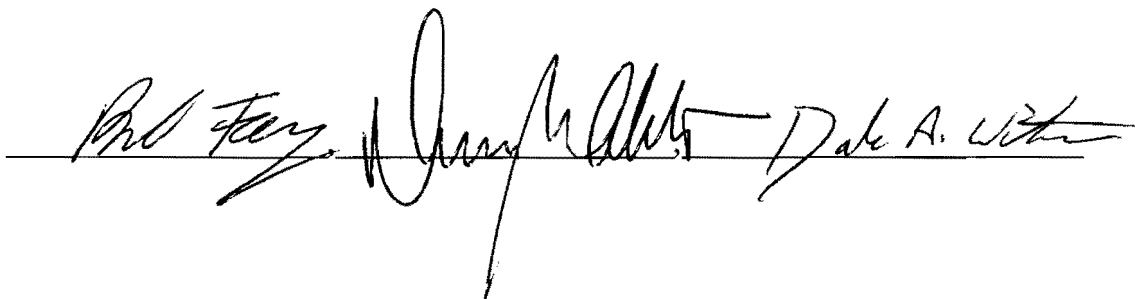
They also signed:

1. Purchase Order for a new copier in the office across hall.
2. Supplement agreement with the Water District.
3. Selectmen minutes for 1/28/97.
4. Evaluations of performance of Dave Dittmer and Patti Berry.
5. 1996 landowner report.
6. one tax abatement.
7. one building use application for Richelle Hammond.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion for adjournment was made at 10:35.

**APPROVED** Date 2/11/97

The block contains three handwritten signatures in black ink. From left to right, they appear to be 'Bob Fay', 'Sharon Abbott', and 'Dale A. White'. The signatures are written over a horizontal line.