

COUNCIL MEETING

2/18/97

Dale Witman calls meeting to order. Reminds everyone that candidates night is 2/26 at 7. Reports that selectmen met with Neal Courtney where they discussed Neal's preliminary recommendations for the Fire Department, one of which is for the Waterboro Fire Department to become a municipal entity. Neal will meet with the fire department. The selectmen will be working on this issue. The selectmen are working on job descriptions for various employees. They will also be working on a personnel policy, and will be updating it in the near future. Another project in the works is starting a business directory. We will be looking for input, and would be happy to hear from anyone interested in being on the committee. We will be working on community block grants in the near future also.

Pat Sicard reports that we are working on a business kick-off, "We have a wonderful community, and are calling this kick-off" doing business in your own back yard." It will highlight what is available in town. There is a business list available that we've started, everyone is asked to look it over and if they see anything missing to please call so we can make additions. In April the town will be having a seminar on computers and software for the local businesses.

We are also working on forming a welcoming committee. We have two volunteers so far, we will be working on reaching out to businesses to put a foot forward to new people in town to welcome them. We need more help for this committee. I

Pat Thanks Dave Dittmer and the Parks and Rec Committee for Winter Carnival, it was a wonderful opportunity for people to get together.

Pat congratulates Sharon Abbott for passing her CEO examinations, she is now a certified code enforcement officer.

There is a brief public hearing at this time on the four road articles requested by citizens of Waterboro, and on the two referendum questions that will be voted on at Town Meeting.

Article 33, what sum of money will be raised for maintenance of McLucas Road submitted by Herman Allen. Road Review committee recommended, Dave Benton reports that the residents asked for help last year and the agreement was that the town would put some gravel and work into the road and the residents would maintain it in the winter. Fred reports that there is still \$1,400.00 to put into this road this year. Dennis reports that we will be rewording this article to state winter maintenance. Bob Fay states that these articles will be decided on the town house floor at town meeting.

Article 34, to see what sum the town will raise to maintain Thyng's Mills road ½ mile past the Hickey residence, submitted by residents of Thyng's Mills Road. David Benton reports for road review committee that they recommend no money be spent on this road at this time, because the road is not up to any standards, it would only be passable with an 8'

plow. Fred said that a big plow would never get down through there. Mrs. Trioni asks what about emergency vehicles. Dennis Abbott explains that there was an amount of money raised last year to get the road in a condition where it wouldn't mud up in the spring, which the town did. The balance of the money that was left over from that was zeroed out and returned to general funds. The only work that can be done is the work that is intended in the wording of the Article.

Article 35, to see what sum of money the town will raise for winter maintenance of Long Causeway road submitted by Barbara Andersen. David Benton reports the Road Review Committee recommended no moneys be spent on this road. It is a private road. If residents build the road to town specs and deed it over to the town the committee would re-look at it. Barbara Andersen says that the road is too narrow, there are 12 kids that live there, an emergency vehicle could not get down there. The town sands and grades the road. Fred Fay agrees that the town has sanded and graded that road for years. Bob says to come to town meeting and bring voters to get the article passed.

Article 36, to see what sum of money the town will raise to pave the entire length of Ricker Land, submitted by the residents of Ricker Lane. Dave Benton reports the road review committee recommends that a few things need to be done, fences need to be moved back behind the right of way, both sides of the road needs to be ditched. They recommend no money be raised, that if these things get done to the road, the money would come out of ditching and tar accounts.

The Road Review recommendations will be put in the Articles.

Millard Genthner asks how far back the fences need to be. Dave Benton answers that all fences would have to be outside of the right of way.

Bob Fay begins the discussion on the two referendum articles. 1. When the current term expires for the tax collector for that position to be appointed by the selectmen. 2. When the term expires for the treasurer for that position to be appointed by the selectmen.

Bob asks if there are any questions. There are none. Bob informs everyone that these two questions will be voted on as part of secret ballot in the voting booths.

Discussion of the Warrant for Town Meeting begins.

Millard has a question on Article 7 and 8. He asks if article 8 should come first. If article 8 passes, wouldn't the selectmen's assistant pay change? Dennis says possibly.

Bob agrees that article 8 is one of the more controversial articles. It authorizes selectmen to add land use planning duties to the code enforcement office. The selectmen's assistant position has grown, and land use should be with the planning board, not the community development or the financial part of planning. There are not enough hours for assistant to be involved with all of that. The selectmen are very happy with the work Pat has done

with the selectmen's office. They can't ask a person to work night and day, without losing her. Bob asks who do the townspeople want to pick their code enforcement officials, ½ dozen power brokers in town, or the selectmen. All that Bob has heard around town, besides two complaints about the code enforcement office is that "it is tough but fair" which is all Bob would ask. The Code enforcement officer has not been here long enough for townspeople to dislike him.

Millard asks "didn't Dwayne Morin have land use planning duties" Bob says, Dwayne was the second planner hired, the selectmen then asked the town to vote to combine selectmen's assistant duties to planner. Now they are trying to split the jobs back up. Dennis Abbott explains that this is not an issue of personalities in the offices. It is a matter of appropriate departments doing the jobs they are most knowledgeable in. Dianne Holden states that she also suggested that planning be separated from selectmen's assistant, when she was doing that job. Although, she was doing three jobs at that time.

Dave Benton asks about the Ross Corner article and why the selectmen decided to drop it and add New Dam Road in its place. Bob explains that the vote was to hold Ross Corner until next year, not to drop it altogether, and that it was in the interest of keeping the expenses from excise tax down. David states that the road review committee met with the selectmen and thought that everyone was agreed on what road would be put to vote at town meeting this year. The Road review committee was going to take the money for New Dam road out of the roads and bridges account. Bob Fay says this is the first time the finance committee has voted against the board of selectmen on a road article.

Parks and Recreation Article is discussed. The finance committee is not recommending full time funding for the parks and rec director. Bob Fay thinks the director deserves funding for another year. He thinks Dave has done a wonderful job.

The selectmen asked for \$10,000.00 for renovations to the town hall, for needed renovation to continue to use this town hall. (to make it handicap accessible and to make better use of the space we have, which is a long way from the \$1 million it would cost for a new municipal building. The finance committee recommended no funding.

On the Planning Article for fee changes, Bob feels the fee changes should be between the selectmen and the townspeople. If article is passed, there will be public hearings before any changes are made.

Bob Gobeil asks on Article 15 isn't there money left from last year. (The article for renovations to the town hall) There is 15,000.00 left from last year, which will be spent before June 30th, this year. The \$10,000.00 request for next year is what is required to complete the renovations that would make the town hall handicap accessible and make better use of space.

Article 64, to lower the level of Ossipee Lake an additional foot every five years starting the year 2000, to make shoreline repairs. Don Holden explains, the lake association took this idea to the general population of the lake.

Bob Fay states that although he sounds hostile towards the finance committee, he appreciates all the work they've done and they are entitled to their opinions.

Article 65, Millard asks what safety adjustments need to be done to the traffic light. The problem is that the light is too low, it keeps getting hit by logging trucks.

Dennis comments about using fees from planning board for code enforcement office. There are fees generated from subdivision plans and CEO permit fees, that in the past go to the planning board and at the end of the year, the money that doesn't get used ends up getting rolled over into surplus. The selectmen need to sit with the planning board to discuss this. Dennis feels these moneys should go towards funding the code enforcement office.

Dianne Holden asks why the finance committee is recommending using miscellaneous fees. She had relayed to the committee that the town's auditor has advised us not to do that, to be more specific where the money is coming from. Dennis Abbott says that the selectmen would welcome Dianne's input. If there is a vast difference, the selectmen will put together more information for town meeting.

Andrea Lefebra asks on Article 39, where does the finance committee come up with the figure in their recommendation. The finance committee moved the moneys for the Parks and Rec Director under the Parks and Recreation committee request, from the general government request, and they also recommended for part time not full time.

The meaning of articles cannot be changed from the floor of town meeting.

Dennis Abbott states that traditionally problems have been with zoning articles. An article like parks and rec. can't be added to on town house floor, (the intent of the article cannot be changed.) Bob Fay says that is the law. Dale Witman talks about Article 50, on the zoning change. He has heard a lot of unhappiness about our zoning, this is the first step in an ongoing process, and he asks strongly for everyone to consider supporting of this article.

Bob Fay at this time asks Jim Libby our State Senator if he would like to speak. Jim is mailing out a survey to people in the 13 towns that he represents about issues that he will be voting on soon. He would like input from everyone before he votes so that he has a better idea of how people feel before he votes. One issue is the way the county budget is formulated. At present there is a budget committee and there is a bill to give the commissioners more power in the final say of the county budget. Dale Witman comments on this, being on the budget committee he feels it comes down to who has the power. The system needs to have a checks and balance system. He thinks the budget committee's

power should be reduced to an advisory board, and in the event of a deadlock between the two give power to legislature to make decision. Jim doesn't feel comfortable with legislature having the final say because they don't work that closely with the county commissioner.

Another issue is what Jim calls the road give back issue. In Buxton, in July will be given maintenance of the roads that the state used to maintain. A lot of towns are involved. The law was written in 1954 which states after a town reaches a level of 6,000 on next census the state will turn back the roads over to the towns. After town reaches 3,500 towns are responsible for winter maintenance of roads, as of January 1, 1998. The state is turning back 8 ½ miles of routes 202 and 5 back to Waterboro.

Dave Dittmer comments, that policy would make the states coffers look good and make the towns look bad. Taxes will go up in towns and the state will be working on balancing the budget.

Another issue is sludge, although Jim doesn't know how much interest that is to Waterboro. Farmer's have been allowed to use it. Bob Fay states that there have been only 2 applications to use it in Waterboro, that he knows of, and people rose up and wouldn't let it happen. Although, Bob finds out that there are two licensed operations of sludge spreading in town. The Bill allows the planning boards to get involved in the process, although it doesn't allow towns to say no to spreading of sludge it lets them set some rules.

Another issue is tree growth. There is a Bill to fully fund, which Jim supports.

The last issue that he will discuss tonight, but not the last on the survey is cigarette tax. Jim loves to hear what people think about this issue. New Hampshire sales on cigarettes have gone up, while all surrounding states have gone down. The Governor wants to double the cigarette tax.

At this time the meeting turns to council reports.

Len VanGaasbeek reports for Lake Arrowhead Association, that their budget was passed.

Dave Dittmer reports for Parks and Rec Committee that thanks to everyone for their help with the Winter Carnival. Reports that there are tickets available for a March 2 Portland Pirates Game, and tickets available for the Boston flower show on March 9.

Elias Smith reports for the Fire Department that they've had about the same number of calls this year as last. The department did meet with Neal Courtney and they have voted and agreed it would be best for the fire department to become part of the municipal government.

Pam L'Heureux reports for E911, she has a question of the selectmen about Ross Corner Road. She suggest that the selectmen rename the portion from West Road to Middle Road, Upper Ross Corner Road.

Bob Fay commends the fire department for voting to come under the umbrella of town government. He says it's a wise decision and the selectmen will be happy to work with the department.

Dianne Holden reports as Treasurer that she sent out over 250 lien foreclosures and that collections are coming in now.

Nancy Brandt reports as Town Clerk that absentee ballots are in for Town Meeting, if anyone needs one.

Dennis Abbott explains there is an Article to forego foreclosure on two Southern Maine Realty liens because the property is a hazardous waste site.

David Benton says he thought that was cleaned up. Dennis states that the property is "cleansing itself" but the property is still classified by DEP as an uncontrolled hazardous waste site.

Bob Fay introduces all the candidates that are present. Brenda Charland, Payson MacCormack, Fred Fay, David Benton, Dianne Holden, Nancy Brandt, Bertha McAloon. And states that candidates night is 2/26 at 7.

David Kruegar reports for Zoning Board of Appeals, that there is another workshop scheduled for March 5.

Don Holden reports for Ossipee Lake Association that their 1st meeting is in April when they will be discussing which student will get a scholarship for environmental studies.

Fred Fay asks, what about the pine tree that fell in the water behind the church. Sharon reports for Code enforcement office, that after two weeks of being in the water, the part of the tree in the water cannot be touched. It is a DEP regulation. If it is in the water the lake owns it.

Richard Batemen reports for Cable TV Commission that the contract has been extended for 6 months and there have been forms sent to town hall and the school board for suggestions.

Council meeting adjourns at 8:45.

Motor Vehicle Report

February 18, 1997

The electronic registration program is progressing quite well. The amount of mileage reported and the total cost of registering is printed on the yellow registration given to each customer.

Over 320 transactions were processed since the last Council meeting.

Margaret Beavis
MV Agent

Town of Waterboro

February 18, 1997

Robert Fay, Chairman
Board of Selectmen
Town of Waterboro
Waterboro, Maine

Dear Sir:

The following is my report to the council meeting on February 18th,

Motor Vehicle Excise collected to date:

\$317,680.21

Real Estate Taxes collected to 2/11/97

1997 Commitment \$ 1,609,717.32

Bertha C . McAloon,
Tax Collector