

**Waterboro Board of Selectmen
September 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

PRESENT: Chairman Woodsome, Selectmen Abbott, Gale, Girard & Littlefield, Town Administrator Gary Lamb, Sharon Abbott, Administrative Assistant Christina Silberman and IT Manager Dave Lowe. Dwayne Prescott, Steve Ross and Doug Foglio, Sr. arrived during reports.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Woodsome opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

HEARING OF DELEGATION: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Chairman Woodsome reviewed the following correspondence;

- a. Rep. Libby's newsletters
- b. Motor Vehicle Agent's August 2014 report

REPORTS & STAFF INITIATIVES

a. Selectmen's reports: None

b. Town Administrator Gary Lamb's report: Mr. Lamb reported the following:

- The Personnel Policy rewrite draft has been sent to Town Attorney Pat Dunn for her initial comments.
- Dog licensing and summons work continues. So far we can document 1,942 licensed dogs in town with another 150 or so being investigated as to whether the dogs are still living or the owners and dogs still live here. Animal Control Officer Wade Andrews is issuing summonses.
- Mr. Lamb met with Ed Doggett of the Little Ossipee Lake Association at Gobeil Park to discuss installing a kiosk at the park next spring with photos, historical info, etc. Selectman Littlefield suggested being mindful of the placement of this sign for drainage issues and Mr. Lamb said this would be coordinated with Public Works Director Doug Foglio and Parks & Recreation Director Mike DeAngelis.
- He met again with Gobeil Park abutter Roger Bouffard to hear his concerns about boat launch issues. Painting of the parking and travel lanes at the Gobeil Park will occur this fall to improve this situation.
- He visited with North Waterboro Church Pastor Tim Hutchins to discuss trash issues and their Good Neighbor Mission. This mission is an impressive volunteer effort that is in its 29th year of operation. They concentrate on clothes but some other things get dropped off. To minimize waste, they supply a couple of area garages with rags and they give away some knickknack and other household items to area flea markets. They have 50-70 bags of clothes picked up by the Salvation Army per month but they still have 1 or 2 trips to our Transfer Station per week. They are working hard to minimize their waste but the public is not reading the signage there and cooperating.

Dave Lowe will investigate if the church could install a couple of cameras to cut down on unwanted merchandise drop-offs.

- The Townhouse Road “Welcome to Waterboro” sign was destroyed by a distracted driver accident on Sunday Sept. 7th. The Town will ask the driver’s insurance company to replace the sign.
- At the 20/20 Committee meeting they finalized some language for the Governance Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan update.
- Mr. Lamb attended the State Senate candidate’s night forum at Central Station with 4 of the 11 Senate candidates attending. About 25 people attended from 6 of the 12 Town Group towns. This forum was sponsored by the 12 Town Group and there will be a similar forum for the State House candidates on October 13th at Central Station.
- The Economic Development Committee is planning to hold a Waterboro Business Summit to stimulate economic development discussion and activity. This may be held on a Friday morning in November.
- Tax bill processing is done and tax bills should be received by early next week. The tax club membership has increased from 90 last year to 108 this year. Tax Club members make 10 monthly payments instead of payments twice per year.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Discuss status of Town Audit: Mr. Lamb reported that Chris Backman of RHR Smith, the Town Auditor, plans to be here the week of Oct. 13th to continue work on the Town Audit. Selectman Littlefield asked if we are prepared on our end. Mr. Lamb replied that most of our preliminary work is complete. Selectman Abbott said he was hoping to have a draft be mid-October. Mr. Lamb will check to see if Mr. Backman can start sooner. The Board suggested having some contractual deadline dates in place.

b. Initial discussion regarding possible Town Charter changes: The Selectmen discussed low attendance at the Annual Town Meeting over recent years and a possible change to the Town Charter. The current Town Charter states that Town Meeting will be held the second Saturday in June and the previous charter had a range of time from March to June, which allowed more flexibility.

Selectman Abbott said that a recent article in the *Maine Townsman* echoes similar attendance issues at Town Meetings throughout the State. He explained that even if the Selectmen are in agreement that specific changes are needed, the Board cannot dictate these to a Charter Commission. Charter Commissions make recommendations that they feel are best for the Town. It is a shame to have 36 people voting on a \$5,000,000 budget.

Selectman Girard said this is indicative of everything going on in Town. If you look at the boards and committees, not many of them are full. Some of the people that are serving on boards and committees are serving on 3 or 4 different ones. People seem to be more focused on home and family, not on civic duties.

Selectman Littlefield agreed and said he thinks there is an expectation by the citizenry to let the elected officials take care of it. To a certain extent there is general apathy from people that don’t want to be involved. Maybe the date and/or time for Town Meeting should be changed.

Selectman Gale compared Town Meeting to referendum voting. He feels it may be better to stay with Town Meeting. At Town Meeting the attendees are interested and informed whereas with referendum voting you will have people voting on the budget that are not informed. Selectman Abbott said that there is a movement in communities with Town Councils where the voters want an option to call for a referendum vote when they do not agree with the Town Council.

Public Works Director Doug Foglio, Sr. said that the quiet majority speaks the loudest meaning that when the people don't speak they are generally satisfied. Mr. Foglio feels that it is important to maintain the Town Meeting form of government. The Selectmen and Town Administrator are making decisions that are approved at Town Meeting. Mr. Foglio said that he has pushed for years to have two tax bills sent out, on different paper to bring attention to the fact that the Town is not getting all of the tax dollars and the schools are getting a lot of it. He suggested having a mock town meeting one evening to see if attendance would increase. He also remarked that volunteers are not rewarded so there are fewer volunteers. Perhaps Town Meeting could be held in the evening instead of in the morning.

Steve Ross said that many members of the Charter Commission felt that the latest charter update would be good for ten years. If the Town isn't hearing from the silent majority, then they aren't too far wrong. If the Selectmen do something the citizenry doesn't like then you would have people going to the Town Meeting. It may be that people are satisfied with what the town is doing. He hopes the Town will work with the current charter for a few more years.

Mr. Lamb said he has been thinking a lot about sense of community and what the Town can do. He is glad the Economic Development Committees is planning a summit. He would like to see a Massabesic Chamber of Commerce. He feels that there is not enough of a community core here for monthly activities. He cited the lack of volunteers to hold the Old Home Days event this summer. He did not take one phone call from people that were upset the event was not held.

Public Works Director Doug Foglio asked the Selectmen if they have any questions for him about town roads. Selectman Gale said that a street sign had come loose at the end of his road. He tried to reattach the sign to the post but it needs to be tightened. Perhaps other missing signs fell off as well. Mr. Foglio said the signs usually hold pretty well and a lot of the loss to signs is due to vandals and theft. Mr. Foglio said that quite a few homes have been converted to year round homes around the lake and there are a lot of year round homes there now. Traffic on these roads is increasing significantly. He is working on a "to do" list for where we are and what we will need in the foreseeable future to improve the quality of roads. Mr. Foglio said that he gets many calls every week about roads and whether they are town roads, discontinued roads, public rights of way, etc. He sees many issues that need to be addressed. Mr. Foglio and Mr. Lamb talked about the status of the waste lagoons and the work of the Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Foglio suggested that funds should be channeled to having a legal review on the status of some of these roads.

OLD BUSINESS: None

OTHER:

a. Discuss/vote to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2014 Regular Meeting:

Selectman Girard moved to approve the Minutes of the August 26, 2014 Regular Meeting, seconded by Selectman Abbott, voted and passed, **5 years**.

b. Discuss/vote to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2014 Special Meeting:

Selectman Littlefield moved to approve the Minutes of the September 2, 2014 Special Meeting, seconded by Selectman Gale, voted and passed, **5 years**.

PENDING DECISIONS:

a. Review status of Annual Town Meeting: This was discussed under new business.

WEEK'S ACTION LIST:

- Gather information on McLucas Road.

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS:

- Massabesic High School Principal Chris Elkington has an appointment on the agenda.

Mr. Lamb mentioned that he will attend the School Board meeting tomorrow. There is a chance that the Town may be given a bus by the school that they are retiring and it could be used as a heating/cooling station for the Fire Department. Mr. Lamb expects that the School Board will vote tomorrow on the athletic improvement bond question.

ADJOURN: Selectman Girard moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 pm, seconded by Selectman Gale, voted and passed, **5 years**.

SIGNED:

- Minutes of the August 26, 2014 Regular Meeting
- Minutes of the September 2, 2014 Special Meeting

APPROVED: Date: _____
