

LYNDEBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2014

Members Present: Chairman Kevin Boette, Selectman Arnie Byam and Selectman Fred Douglas

Staff Present: Interim TA Burton Reynolds and Administrative Assistant Cindi Hasty

Public Present: Wally Holt, Andy Philippy and Mil Philippy.

Media Present: Jessie Salisbury

Recorder: Kathleen Humphreys

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Approval of Minutes, Manifests, and Items for Signature:

The Board addressed all items that needed their signature.

Appointments:

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Andy and Mil Philippy, Timber Tax Appeal for 46 Broman Way, Lyndeborough.

Overview: The residents are appealing the Timber Tax because their logging operation had issues. A permit was never filed for the logging operation at 46 Broman Way. The State Forester notified the town of the timber operation after checking on a neighboring lot because his timber operation had issues and discovered the Philippy residents had a cutting operation going-on without a permit. The logger for both properties is currently in jail. The resident of the neighboring property contacted the town once they realized their logging operation had problems and have paid their taxes in full. Mr. and Mrs. Philippy only had a verbal agreement with the logger and proper paper work was not filed with the town and they are concerned with the tax deadline. Trees were cut and hauled off the property but the owners never received mill receipts. The job was not completed and the stumps remained. They then hired John Strong to haul the remaining stumps from the property. The original logger's first name is Rob.

A report was submitted by State Forester Jessie Bushaw, NH DRA dated: October 22, 2013.

Mr. Reynolds explained that when a landowner severs wood from the stump a timber tax is due. The tax does not speak to difficulties the landowner has with the logger or other extenuating circumstances. What is owed the town is based upon stumpage. The State Forester came out and evaluated what he saw and what he thought was fair and from his perspective it is that simple. You owe that money no matter what happened to the wood.

Mrs. Philippy said they hired John Strong to take away all the scrap that was left on the property and she is not debating they owe taxes but stated "there was so many stumps and lots of stuff left on the ground we don't feel we have to pay for that."

Chairman Boette explained that once that tree is cut that tree is taxed as a stump. Mr. Philippy said the value of the trees left on the ground is zero. Mr. Reynolds explained that maybe its residual value is that but the initial value is probably something that was reasonable.

Selectman Douglas asked if they were living on the property when the logging operation was on-going and at what point did they realized there was a problem and if they received mill slips. They were living on the property and by October 12, 2013 realized there were problems he never received mill slips. Selectman Douglas noted that no paper work was filed and the residents called the town because they had a problem with the verbal agreement. He also informed them it is the landowner's responsibility to have the mill slips and either cease the logging op and get the slips.

Chairman Boette asked the appeal be tabled so the town can consult with Town Forester Bob Todd ask him to look at standard practices. The appeal deadline is also paused while the issue is tabled.

The Board also discussed other logging operations in town that had issues and the possibility of the Town Forester walking the property either before or during the logging operations to inspect.

HIGHWAY DEPT.

Road Agent Kent Perry informed the Board he has a candidate interested in a backup driver position. A MVR and criminal background check will be ordered.

Mr. Perry gave an overview of the year-end budget and they were over by about \$28,000 and spent about \$12,000 in salt because of three storms and some OT costs. Repair costs were normal and the "big storm" took 39 hours with four employees to plow the town roads. The overtime budge was \$9,700 and \$12,500 was spent.

POLICE

Chief Rance Deware was present.

The Board reviewed the Police Department Budget. The budget was adjusted to accommodate the change to the hourly rates that was approved at the last meeting reflecting no earned time for officers working under 20 hours per week. The state has not approved the locked-in gas prices so the figure used is the per gallon price from the previous budget.

Chief Deware has two finalists for open police department positions. He would like to hire a sergeant and patrolman. The department is hiring one full-time and two part-time positions; one being the sergeant's position. Chief Deware provided resumes for the perspective candidates and felt they are a good fit for the town.

VOTE: Selectman Douglas made a motion to allow Chief Deware to proceed with the conditional officer of hiring of one sergeant at the rate of pay proposed and one other

officer at the part-time rate proposed. Chairman Boette seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The sergeant rate is \$27.50 and the part-time rate is \$23.50.

Chief Deware was recently named President of the Hillsborough County of Chief of Police Association.

The Board discussed police veteran's pensions and the recent changes in the law. Selectman Douglas and Chief Deware are collecting a pension so town needs to report their hours each week to the NHRS.

Community Forum

Wally Holt was present to discuss the improvement to the garage on Center Road. He was informed it will be half used by emergency management and the police would like to store their trailer and 4-wheeler there. An alarm system was discussed.

Jessie Salisbury informed the Board she found a photo taken no later than early 1940s that clearly shows there was no tree and no driveway at Center Hall at that time. The Heritage Committee plans to install a plaque for when three maple trees was designated.

Fire Department Review

Chief Rick McQuade was present and the Board reviewed the fire department budget. Discussed a point system vs a paid per call system for the volunteers.

The Board discussed the septic system problems at the fire station. Selectman Byam has an estimate from Monadnock for a septic system design.

VOTE: Selectman Byam made a motion to proceed with the septic design from Monadnock Survey per estimate of \$1,300. Selectman Douglas seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Old Business

Winter Wanderers requested to add Gulf Road to the list of approved roads for snowmobile club.

VOTE: Chairman Boette motion to allow the Winter Wanderers to use Gulf Road as an approved snowmobile road pending the approval of the Police Chief. Selectman Douglas seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Reynolds will sign a contract with NRPC for an electricity provider.

Town Report Update:

Kate Thorndike will work on the 2013 Town Report. The pay rate will be \$14 per hour. Hours will be flexible and she can work from home.

The Board discussed encumbering money for a lap top for the Town Administrator for future work.

Safe Routes to School

The wording is established for the state and looking for approval of the \$5,000 project then the 7,500 project.

ENCUMBRANCES

The town has around \$90,000 without the block grant that is available to be encumbered.

Items that can be encumbered are:

Funds put aside in 2012-2013 for the police vehicle purchase.

Cemetery: Repair headstones. The Ash tree was cut and billed before 2013 closed.

Wiring improvements at Citizens' Hall, Center Hall, Highway Garage, Town Barn and Center Road Emergency Building.

Citizens' Hall: Basement repairs and painting of front and side facing Rt. 31.

Fire Department: Septic system design and installation.

Complete any work not done related to the installation of the server at Citizens' Hall and the police department office.

Date of Charter on sign.

Emergency Management: Improvements to Center Road building such as the stairs and second floor reinforcement.

Town-wide security alarm system.

Electric conduit to allow lights for proposed Christmas tree at Center.

Laptop for Town Administrator

New Business

Plodzick and Sanderson Questionnaire. It's the auditors asking BOS if they know of any fraud going on. Burton filled it out and asked it to be reviewed. It needs to be done by April or May when audit happens. Members reviewed Mr. Reynolds' responses and will it sign at next meeting.

Selectmen's Budget will be reviewed at the next meeting on January 22, 2014.

Health insurance return of premium

Primax gave the town \$8,717 back that had to do with 2008 health insurance benefits.

Burton felt that does not all belong to the town and some of it belongs to the employees at that time so the town will return \$1,744 at 20% to them. Another payment is expected next year.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at the J.A. Tarbell Library.**

Selectman Boette updated the Board on information he learned at the previous night's School Board meeting regarding Wilton's plans to renovate the Florence Rideout Elementary School and the SAU

Adjournment:

All scheduled items having been addressed, the public meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Date: January 8, 2014

Kathleen Humphreys, Recorder

Kevin J. Boette
Chairman

Arnie Byam III

Fred Douglas

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON JANUARY 22, 2014