

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 27, 2001
REGULAR SESSION
"MINUTES APPROVED"

Present: Chairman Peter S. Cunningham, Clerk Dann Chamberlin, Member Thomas P. McCuin, Jr. and Administrative Officer Jean E. Kitchen.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05:

LANDFILL CAPPING UPDATE

Mr. Cunningham noted that the bids for the landfill capping were opened on August 24. Seven bidders responded. Jamie Greacen, Landfill Capping Committee Chairman, said the bidders bid on four alternatives. Two bids were for capping with clay, one using the Town's topsoil or using their own, the other two were using a plastic liner. The low bidder was Littleton Environmental. The Landfill Capping Committee is reviewing the bids.

Mr. McCuin asked if the Town saved enough money to dredge the pond. Mr. Greacen said it had. He said the Town could rebid for the pond closure and award the capping to the lowest bidder. Littleton Environmental could do the dredging. The third option was to have a change order on the landfill capping. Mr. Greacen recommended rejecting the pond dredging bids. Mr. McCuin asked what the time line was. Mr. Greacen said the Order of Conditions for dredging is good from August 15-October 15. If the Town waits to dredge the pond it will put off the landfill closure that much longer. Mr. Greacen said the bid documents gave the option to the bidder until October 2002 to close the landfill. Littleton Environmental would like to do some of the work this fall and complete it in the spring. Mr. Cunningham said the Landfill Capping Committee needed to do the reference checks. All the bids showed that there is an advantage to using the dredged materials. Mr. Greacen said the engineering oversight would cost approximately \$15,000. Mr. Cunningham and Dave Hopper thanked Mr. Greacen for his leadership role in this project.

Mr. McCuin moved to reject the entire pond dredging bids. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

KEYSPAN ENERGY ROAD OPENING

Harold Cooper, Keyspan Energy, stood in for Francis O'Leary. The request for a road opening permit was for the purpose of replacing the 4" gas main on Pleasant Street. Mr. Cunningham and Mr. McCuin mentioned that it might be best to coordinate the project with the bridge reconstruction.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the approval of a road opening permit for the purpose of installing and maintaining approximately 80 feet, more or less, of existing 4" gas main in Pleasant St. from house no. 58 west to house no. 60, and for the work to be coordinated with the rail trail bridge reconstruction, as mutually feasible. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

The second road opening permit request was for the replacement of a gas main on Route 119.

Mr. Cunningham said he did not want the work to be performed during commuter times. He preferred the work to be done between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Highway Surveyor Tom Delaney did not want dirt trenches left over the weekend. This project is estimated to take 60 days.

Mr. Chamberlin moved to authorize a road opening permit for the purpose of installing and maintaining approximately 3,070', more or less, of 4" gas main in Main St. from the existing 4" gas main in Main St. at West and School Streets, southeast to Main St. near Broadmeadow Rd., the work to commence after 8:00 AM and to be completed by 3:00 PM, compaction and the final cover to meet the specifications of the Highway Surveyor. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

BOWMAN EARTH REMOVAL

Mr. Chamberlin moved to postpone consideration for an earth removal permit at 96 Overlook Drive until September 17, at the request of the applicant. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

SQUANNACOOK SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

Ms. Kitchen explained that the Town needed to come up with a scholarship fund. She is working with the Club's attorney in hopes of having something ready for Town Meeting. Liza Judge, Recreation Director, hoped that the building would not be turned into offices. She thought the Council on Aging would like space for a men's group and outreach expansion. Mr.

Cunningham said it should be as open to as many groups as possible. There will be expenses to consider, i.e. purchasing the property, upgrading the septic system and sprucing up the building. Mr. McCuin expressed an interest in keeping the indoor shooting range.

RE-OPEN SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Mr. Chamberlin moved to re-open the Sept. 24 Special Town Meeting Warrant to include an article submitted by the Town Accountant. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved to close the Sept. 24 Special Town Meeting Warrant for article submission. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING HEARING

The hearing was opened by unanimous vote. See attached draft warrant. Following are the results of the discussion on the warrant articles for the Sept. 24 STM, with the Selectmen's positions on each article.

Art. 1-3 – Support Unanimously

Art. 4 - At Town Meeting

Art. 5 – Support Unanimously

Art. 6 – At Town Meeting

Art. 7 – 2 Support, 1 Not Support

Mr. Friedrich said that, according to the David Ross Associates report, a survey is not necessary because his property goes to the middle of the old road and much of the old road is in the river. Mr. McCuin did not support this article because he felt that surveying the line between the fairgrounds and the Friedrich property would provide the information needed and therefore it would be unnecessary.

Art. 8 – Support Unanimously

Attorney Collins explained his articles.

Art. 9 – Support Unanimously

Art. 10 – Attorney Collins asked that this article be removed because it won't be needed.

Art. 11 – This article will be split into 2 articles – both articles were Supported Unanimously. The Selectmen decided to co-sponsor Atty. Collins' articles. Atty. Collins requested that the Board submit something to the Planning Board regarding the 4 Corners plan.

Art. 12 – Support Unanimously

The public hearing was closed by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Appointment

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Craig Auman as a member of the Conservation Commission, term to expire June 30, 2001, as recommended by the Conservation Commission. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Web Site Committee Appointment

This agenda item was postponed until the Town Meeting article regarding the Capital Planning membership was addressed. This will be on the Oct. 1 Selectmen's agenda.

Minutes

Mr. Chamberlin moved approval of the regular session minutes of August 13, 2001, as amended. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

MRPC

The Board received a letter from the MRPC requesting that the Board write a letter of support for the MRPC's transportation goals. Mr. Chamberlin is the Town's representative on the MRPC. He said that the commuter lot expansion is controversial. The express train service needs to be looked at regarding the cost verses the use; expanding the commuter rail service to Gardner, Guilford may not want his; double tracks between W. Concord and Ayer. Mr. Chamberlin will respond to MRPC's letter and inform them that he is the Town's representative.

Rail Trail

Mr. Cunningham gave an update on the rail trail project.

Land West Proposal

In response to the Planning Board's request for comments on the Land West proposal, Mr. Chamberlin suggested telling the Planning Board that there needed to be a sharp reduction in the number of houses the plan proposed. This would reek havoc on the ecology and wildlife in the area. The whole area is environmentally sensitive. The other Selectmen agreed to send a memo to that affect to the Planning Board. The roads cannot handle the traffic.

NEBS Proposal

The Selectmen had no objection to the proposal for more parking at NEBS.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:40 PM Mr. Chamberlin moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Approved: _____
Dann Chamberlin, Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,
Jean E. Kitchen
Administrative Officer