

**Town of Auburn
Board of Selectmen
March 3, 2014**

Selectmen Present: Russell Sullivan, James Headd & Paul Raiche

Also Present: Michael Dross, Road Agent; Brad & Kim Sargent; Rick Eaton, Audrey Trickett, Scott Norris, Paula Marzloff, Linda Dross, Jill Wheeler; John H. & Mary Ann Rolfe, Mickey Rolfe, Scott Rolfe, Dennis Vieira, Tom Gonyea, Ryan Maher, Jim Boisvert, Frances McFarland, Jim Cloutier and Greg Santuccio, Residents; Kathryn Skoglund, Recording Secretary

Mr. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Accounts Payable for Week of March 3rd, 2014

Mr. Raiche moved to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$832,182.31 for the week of March 3rd, 2014; Mr. Headd seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda – Week of March 3rd, 2014

Land Use Change Tax

JMJ Properties, LLC – Chester Road/Lovers Lane (Tax Map #8, Lot #2) -- \$233,100.00

Pistol / Revolver License

One (1) License

Mr. Headd moved to approve the Consent Agenda for the week of March 3rd, 2014; Mr. Raiche seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sullivan acknowledged that Mr. Raiche's term as Selectmen is coming to conclusion and that Mr. Raiche will be missed. Mr. Sullivan continued by stating that he appreciates the time that Mr. Raiche has put into the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission and Highway Safety Committee over the years. Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Headd both thanked Mr. Raiche.

New Business

Appointment of Ballot Clerk

Ms. Skoglund noted that the Town Clerk is recommending the appointment of Feria Hanscomb as Ballot Clerk. Mr. Sullivan verified that this would be effective for this coming election. Mr. Skoglund stated that was correct.

Mr. Raiche moved to appoint Feria Hanscomb as Ballot Clerk, Term to expire November 2014; Mr. Headd seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

NHDOT Preliminary Estimates – Griffin Mill Bridge

The Board reviewed a memo from Town Administrator Herman along with the Preliminary Estimates. Mr. Sullivan noted that as many of those present know, the Griffin Mill Bridge has been discussed and re-discussed. Mr. Sullivan went on to brief Mr. Herman's memo and NHDOT's letter, when it was first thought that the Town could move forward under the Bridge Aid Program the Board agreed to request a preliminary estimate for the cost of repairs from NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT). NHDOT estimates the rehabilitation of the bridge would cost \$330,000, while the full replacement of the bridge would cost approximately \$1,145,000.00. Mr. Sullivan commented that NHDOT's estimate for rehabilitation agrees with Stantec Consulting's estimate.

Minutes

February 24th 2014 Public Meeting

Mr. Raiche moved to approve the minutes of the February 24th, 2014 public meeting as amended; Mr. Headd seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Mr. Sullivan asked if there was any other new or old business to come before the Board. Ms. Skoglund stated that she had none.

Mr. Dennis Vieira asked why the Board was not talking about the investigative report. Mr. Sullivan asked Mr. Vieira what he felt there was to talk about at this time. Mr. Vieira went on to summarize to the Board that his theory is that Mr. Wetherbee was looking for work and Road Agent Dross told him he could bury tree stumps on the Town Garage site and Mr. Wetherbee took that opportunity to pad his time by burying the additional materials. Mr. Vieira continued that after Mr. Dross and Mr. Wetherbee had a falling out the Police Department took the opportunity to try to hang Mr. Dross in retribution for his role in the Traffic Control Ordinance. Mr. Vieira stated that he won't put up with this kind of buffoonery and went on to state that he has nothing against the police force and spoke to his relationships with other police forces. Mr. Vieira again commented that this whole thing has to do with police details and the Drosses and the Rolfes do not deserve to have their names discredited and their livelihoods threatened. Mr. Vieira noted that his own family is worried that because he has been so vocal there will be retaliation against him.

Mr. Raiche stated that the Board of Selectmen never made statements insinuating Road Agent Dross was involved. Mr. Vieira commented that Mr. Sullivan did to him outside of a meeting. Mr. Sullivan denied that. Mr. Jim Boisvert agreed that he never heard anyone at a meeting say Mr. Dross did anything. Mrs. Jill Wheeler noted that at a previous Selectmen's meeting Mr. Boisvert asked what the Board was going to do to fill the Road Agents positions when he was found guilty. Mrs. Wheeler asked the Board what they are going to do about Darren Wetherbee. Mr. Sullivan stated that as was moved last Monday the Board is waiting for town counsel to provide their opinion regarding any civil action. Mr. Mickey Rolfe stated that he would like to hear from the present Selectmen candidates regarding the matter.

Mr. Rick Eaton stated that he thinks he knows how this all got started but he is not sure but the personnel investigation has been complete and the process of potential civil action and any other criminal investigation needs to now run its course. Mr. Eaton continued that some deep

healing needs to happen in town, in his door to door campaign there is a lot of division, there is no need of this. Mr. Eaton would like everyone to try to get back to doing their respective jobs and in some ways let a dead dog lie. Mr. Vieira commented that he is all for that but Mr. Dross's character has been defamed, his livelihood threatened; Mr. Wetherbee needs to pay for everything that the Town has. Mr. Vieira continued that he is still behind Mr. Dross 100% and he will push for an FBI investigation if there is no resolution. Mr. Vieira stated he wants to see justice for Mr. Wetherbee and he's never been so opposed to the practice at a Police Department. Mr. Sullivan stated that the personnel investigation was forwarded to the County Attorney's office to handle any criminal activity and forwarded to the Auburn Police Chief as well.

Mrs. Marzloff commented that she has not heard the Board of Selectmen say anything against Mr. Dross but she has a rhetorical question; where does Mr. Dross go to get his reputation back.

Mr. Maher commented that he understands the need for closure and asked what they (i.e. Mr. Vieira, Mr. Dross) need to get closure. Mr. Maher noted that he too was frustrated with how long this process has taken and he does not want to see this continue to drag on either but again asked what they (i.e. Mr. Vieira, Mr. Dross) want. Mr. Maher noted that Mr. Dross was exonerated through the Personnel Investigation. Mr. Vieira stated that he wants to see Mr. Wetherbee arrested and prosecuted. Mr. Sullivan noted that the Board of Selectmen does not have the power to arrest. Mr. Dross noted that he thinks Mr. Vieira is also getting at that Mr. Wetherbee didn't act alone. Mr. Vieira stated that he thinks Mr. Sullivan was part of it. Mr. Raiche stated that the Board of Selectmen will not rush to judgment, as they did when people were calling for Mr. Dross's job the Board will continue to proceed with caution.

Mr. Vieira stated that Mr. Dross and his sub-contractors deserve accolades. Mr. Raiche stated he agrees.

Mr. Santuccio asked if the town's attorney gave a timeframe for their opinion. Mr. Sullivan stated no. Mr. Santuccio asked if the Board would review the non-public minutes pertaining to this matter and release them. Mr. Headd stated that he would like Mr. Santuccio's request in writing and asked that if Mr. Santuccio is looking for something specific he should inform of that. Mr. Headd informed those present that resolution is not something the Board can give tonight, as was previously noted the Board is waiting to hear back from town counsel and the County Attorney and the Auburn Police Department were both given copies of the investigation report. Mrs. Trickett verified that the Board was waiting to hear back from the lawyers and the County Attorney. Mr. Sullivan noted that the Board of Selectmen would likely not hear from or have anything to do with the County Attorney's investigation but hopefully they would have some direction from Town Counsel by next Monday.

The Board noted that they had previously agreed not to meet the Monday evening before election so the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen would be Monday, March 17th.

Mr. Raiche moved to adjourn; Mr. Headd seconded the motion; all were in favor, the public meeting ended at 7:36 p.m.