

**Board of Selectmen
January 10, 2007**

Present: Paul S. Morrill, Chairperson; Mark P. Duffy; John J. Blackwood; Robin L. Frost, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

Also present were David Lee; Bruce & Jennifer Rich, Robert Barnes; Joe Arnone; and Tom Dunn, Local Government Center.

Mr. Morrill called the posted meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Appointments

a) Public Hearing re: Belleau Lake Property Owners' Request for Expenditure from Invasive Species Fund – Mr. Morrill opened the public hearing to solicit input regarding the request of BLPOA for \$9000 from the Town's Invasive Species Fund for the 2007 treatment of Belleau Lake for milfoil. No comments were forthcoming. The public hearing was closed at 7:03 p.m.

Mr. Morrill noted that the normal routine is to reimburse the association for expenditures made. Mr. Blackwood asked how the treatments are working. Mr. Rich believes the treatments are slowing down the existence of milfoil and hopes that new and better methods of treatment will be developed that may have more of an effect. Mr. Arnone noted that the State will only allow them to treat the area of the lake where milfoil is present, and only allows that to occur once per year. Mr. Rich presented a copy of their check for \$6625 in down payment of the 2007 treatment. The Town will process this reimbursement. BLPOA will submit the final invoice when received. **Mr. Morrill moved to approve the request of the Belleau Lake Property Owners' Association for \$9000 from the Invasive Species Fund for treatment of Belleau Lake in 2007. Mr. Duffy seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

b) Tom Dunn, LGC – Mr. Dunn reviewed the Town's having health, dental, property liability and workers' compensation insurance through LGC. The property liability and workers' comp rates are guaranteed for a 3 year period at a 'package price', with the intent to offer another multi-year rate at the expiration of the current package. Likely they will not be able to guarantee that the rates will not increase during the life of the package. Mr. Morrill asked whether the Town's rates are affected (for workers' comp) if it is part of a risk pool, even if the Town itself has no claims. Mr. Dunn noted that the property liability is true pooling. However, the workers' comp rates are set for the pool, then each Town is viewed for exposure. The property liability pool has 300 members; the workers' comp pool has 120 members. Other options include membership in a pool with one of LGC's competitors. Mr. Morrill feels it is unfair to the taxpayers to experience increases based on the fact that other communities may not be as safety conscious as the Town of Wakefield.

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Ms. Frost asked if there are other pools for property liability. Mr. Dunn stated that some towns are self-insured; others are in separate pools.

Mr. Dunn advised Mr. Blackwood that specific representatives are available to discuss questions regarding the dental plan.

Mr. Duffy confirmed that all towns in our pool have health insurance through Anthem. He believes we should be offered a better rate through Anthem in this case. Mr. Dunn estimated that insurance rates (other than for health insurance) would be approximately 25% higher if the Town were not in a pool. Mr. Dunn referred to various programs, such as the wellness program. Mr. Morrill spoke to the cost of health insurance and the percentage of the employment package that this is continuing to represent. He expressed concern regarding the rise in these costs.

Mr. Dunn advised that he would have news this spring regarding expected rates for workers' comp and property liability. Discussion followed regarding the risk training seminars offered by LGC in which various Town employees have participated. Briefly discussed flexible spending plans for health insurance which LGC could set up for an administrative fee.

2. Old Business

The Board reviewed the list of pending items as follows: The Woodard & Curran contract has been completed and can be removed from this list. 'Elevator' will be added to the Public Safety 2nd Floor reference. The Boudreau issue is complete and may be removed. Discussion followed regarding various sidewalks. In Union, the State claims no ownership. These sidewalks need to be resurfaced from Martha Pratt's to the railroad crossing, which would not be a large problem. On the other side of the railroad tracks the sidewalk area is being used for parking. No funds have been included in the 2007 budget. Perhaps the Highway Department can do some light repair. If paving is necessary, an estimate will be required from Pike.

Old Town Hall repairs: Mr. Duffy advised this will be discussed by the Heritage Commission at their meeting on Monday (Jan 15). Perambulation: The Boy Scouts are not interested in this project. Nate Fogg has expressed an interest, and Mr. Duffy will discuss this further with Mr. Fogg.

3. New Business – None forthcoming.

4. Correspondence- None forthcoming.

5. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment – None forthcoming.

6. Administrative Matters

a) Liaison Reports – Mr. Duffy: Spoke with Peter Brown and Pam Judge regarding his non-support of their request for funds for utilities of various buildings. They seemed to understand and agreed that the funds may be available elsewhere. Mr. Duffy also discussed with them the repairs to the Old Town Hall. Perhaps all involved should meet together to discuss repairs and responsibilities in more detail. Mr. Duffy believes that the Silcock's should be paying for any electricity associated with the pump to their well that is located within the Grange Hall (which may already be the case).

Mr. Duffy spoke to Rodney King at Time Warner after he received complaints about the Patriots' game not being broadcast in high definition. This issue should be fixed by this weekend. Also discussed with Mr. King the fact that the Internet was 'dropped' one day this past weekend. We are now officially on Roadrunner, and digital telephone service will be available by the end of the month.

Mr. Blackwood: Planning Board heard a minor site plan for an assisted living facility on Province Lake Road, for which the Board must review association restrictions. They approved an insignificant change of use regarding a business office at the Garvin Building. Family Oil now has office space at the Ring facility in Woodman. Jim Tully had applied for a 6 month extension for conditions on his plan regarding drainage, which request was granted until June 2007. Issues with his Certificate of Occupancy were also addressed. Planning Board has nominated Rod Cools to continue as a Commissioner to Strafford Regional Planning Commission.

Mr. Morrill: He has been working through budget issues with Ms. Frost. Mr. Morrill complimented Ms. Frost on the compilation of material for the budget. The Budget Committee meeting of January 9 was continued to Thursday, January 11, immediately following the School's bond hearing. A brief discussion regarding the bond issue followed, which article must pass by a 3/5 vote.

b) Administrator's Update

--Transfer Station Layout: Ms. Frost asked for confirmation that she is now expected to discuss with CMA the cost and placement of scales and the necessity of striping. Mr. Morrill gave that confirmation and suggested that the Board view the site this weekend after closing time. Placement of scales is necessary and will likely require some roadwork. Ms. Frost has a meeting on January 11 regarding a gate system at the wastewater treatment facility.

--The Groundwater Discharge Permit Renewal Application was executed by Mr. Morrill.

c) Building Permit Releases – Mr. Morrill moved to approve the building permit release for O’Keefe on Elm Street. Mr. Duffy seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

d) Pride Day Route – Mr. Morrill moved to approve the Pride Day Parade Route as submitted by the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Blackwood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

e) SRPC Commissioner – Mr. Morrill moved to appoint Rod Cools as a Commissioner to Strafford Regional Planning Commission, for a term through December 2010. Mr. Blackwood seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

f) Potential Tax Deeding – The Board agreed by consensus not to accept any deeds for non-payment of taxes.

g) Minutes – Mr. Morrill moved to approve the minutes of December 27, 2006, as presented. Mr. Blackwood seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

h) Non Public Session – Mr. Morrill moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Duffy seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Blackwood – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’; Mr. Morrill – ‘aye’. Motion passed unanimously and the Board entered Non Public Session at 8:25 p.m.

The Board returned to public session at 8:50 p.m., at which time the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary