

**Board of Selectmen
April 24, 2013**

Present: Richard C. Edwards, Vice Chair; Connie M. Twombley; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

Also present were: Steve Brown; Jerry O'Connor (videotaping); Ed Comeau (videotaping); Tom Beeler, *The Granite State News*; and Mikaela Reynolds, *Fosters Daily Democrat*.

Mr. Edwards opened the posted meeting at 3 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Appointments – None scheduled.

2. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #1 – None forthcoming.

3. Unfinished Business – None scheduled.

4. New Business

a) Highway Safety Grant Sobriety Checkpoint \$1872 – Ms. Twombley moved to approve the application as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Mr. Brown believes the sobriety checkpoint violates the 4th amendment. He also believes this is not good use of money, adding the money would be better spent doing moving patrols. Mr. Brown also questioned where the money would actually come from, as the federal government has no money. He asked about the statistics from the checkpoint. Mr. Edwards advised that in 2010 there were 31 arrests, 37 arrests in 2011 and 28 arrests in 2012. Mr. Brown questioned whether the checkpoint was truly making a difference. Mr. Edwards suggested the checkpoint may be keeping some people off the road who should not be driving. He personally is in favor of our rights provided by the 4th amendment; however, he has no problem with the checkpoint. Mr. Brown agreed that those who drink should not drive; however, he questions whether this is the best use of funds. Mr. Edwards noted one should not be bothered at seeing a police cruiser if one is not doing anything wrong.

Ms. Twombley stated that the Town should take advantage of the available grant. If just one person's life is saved (by picking up someone who will not then cause a fatal accident), it is well worth it. Mr. Brown agrees in principle, but he is not sure this is the best use of patrol cars. More patrols might be better than sitting in one spot for 6 hours. Mr. Edwards stated there is more personal interaction with the checkpoint, which allows for a better opinion on the part of the police department. The cars must stop at the checkpoint, while the police must have a valid reason to stop vehicles when on regular patrol. Ms. Twombley added that there are many officers on site at the checkpoint, which could be beneficial if something "big" occurs.

Mr. O'Connor noted that he is also concerned with the 4th and 5th amendment; however, the petition with Superior Court is similar to an officer getting a warrant in that there are restrictions to which one must adhere. The Carroll County Sherriff's Office, Ossipee Police Department and our local police all participate in this process. Mr. O'Connor stated that it must be working if the numbers are going down. He noted that both the Chief and the Lieutenant view the process very closely, and if they see a better way to go, they will pursue it. This money is specific to the checkpoint and could not be used for added patrols. Mr. O'Connor advised that he has attended and taped the event each year. The checkpoint may change the pattern of those traveling to other locations and may alter their plans to have more to drink.

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Mr. Comeau commented that the federal highway grant comes from the federal government, which means that the money actually comes from China. Obviously drinking and driving is bad. Mr. Comeau referred to the actual document filed at Superior Court and asked whether the Board has that document. Mr. Edwards advised the Board does not have that information, but Chief Fifield does. Mr. Comeau asked whether the application shows long-term numbers (prior to 1990). Mr. Edwards advised it does not, and he added that there is more to the process than sobriety. Mr. Comeau asked whether other avenues were presented to reduce drinking and driving. Mr. Edwards replied no other avenues were presented. Mr. Comeau does not believe the Board has enough information to make a decision on this grant.

Mr. Edwards noted that the checkpoint has been occurring for several years; however, perhaps the voters should have a say in the future. Mr. Comeau reiterated that the Board does not have enough information to accept this grant. He also questioned where this would stop. People often say, "This is the way we have always done it," but what about other avenues for education. Ms. Twombly noted that the application refers to a list of violations looked for during the checkpoint stops. Mr. Comeau has an issue with the list, and he sees it getting longer. When one circumvents an amendment, the situation can snowball. Ms. Twombly will be anxious to view the results over the next several years to see if Mr. Comeau's fears are confirmed. Mr. Comeau noted it is more difficult in NH than in other states to establish checkpoints. Live free or die! **The motion then passed 2-0.**

5. Proposed CRF Expenditures

a) PD Vehicles \$452.50 – This reflects an invoice from Suburban Accents for the lettering package for the new cruiser. It does not include the cost to apply the lettering. **Ms. Twombly moved to approve the \$452.50 expenditure from the PD Vehicle CRF. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.**

6. Correspondence – None scheduled.

7. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #2

--Mr. Beeler noted that the checkpoint may be part of the reason that highway fatalities have decreased and added that those involved are looking to find people who should be picked up.

--Mr. Edwards referred to an article in the newspaper written by Tom Beller regarding the Sanbornville Water Precinct.

--Mr. Comeau asked whether there is any update regarding the wipes being found at the pump station. Mr. Edwards believes the situation is under control, perhaps as a result of the public being made aware of the issue. All agreed that Michael Soucy does a great job!

--Mr. Comeau volunteered to take any information back to the Brookfield Board of Selectmen. This prompted a discussion regarding the importance of recycling. Currently, only about 30% of the users recycle at the Transfer Station. If we increase our recycling efforts, the cost of operations might be reduced.

8. Administrative Matters

a) Liaison Reports – Ms. Twombley: Initially, Ms. Twombley believed she had nothing to report. Later, however, she remembered that Planning Board had met. She noted that Michelle MacDonald is leaving as the Planning Board secretary, and she has done a wonderful job in that position.

Mr. Edwards: CLH has agreed to compromise on the increase for necessary work on the North Wakefield Bridge and has submitted a contract in the amount of \$156,657. **Ms. Twombley moved to approve the contract with CLH in the amount of \$156,657. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.**

The Police Department had much to report: Burglar suspects were caught regarding a recent incident in Brookfield. Upcoming clinics include one for cats, as well as for rabies shots. Dog licenses are due. The drug take-back program will be April 27 at the public safety building. There is space available for the firearm safety class as well as the women's defense class—call Scott at PD for more info. You can sign up on line at the State for boat safety and hunting safety classes. Summer speed patrols have begun. Reminder: Please make sure your house number is posted so that emergency vehicles can find you quickly. Also, if you are involved in an automobile accident, please report it to the PD immediately!

The Highway Department has taken off the snowplows ☺ The crew is washing the trucks and performing oil changes, sweeping sidewalks and cleaning catch basins. They are preparing to grade Oak Hill, Pond, Old Stage and Marsh Roads. One truck will be taken to Donovan Springs soon for repairs. Fred Clough has solicited for winter sand. He would prefer to have the Highway crew haul the sand. The Board would like Fred to prepare a breakdown of various costs involved to support his recommendation for presentation at the next meeting.

Mr. Brown questioned the status of the vehicle maintenance venture between the Town and the School. Mr. Edwards stated the Board has not discussed this and asked Mr. Brown (school board member) where the School Board stands on this issue. Mr. Brown is not sure, noting that everything changed prior to the election. A former Board member had stated his expectation that the School would be responsible for purchasing all necessary equipment. Mr. Edwards personally believes that this venture would involve much work, and we will need to spend time discussing all aspects. While he is not in favor of the program as proposed, he has no problem with "courtesy mechanics" if the Town's mechanic has time. Mr. Edwards is not in favor of the Town taking over maintenance of the buses because of the increased liability. A certified dealership takes all responsibility. Mr. Edwards added that taking on bus safety issues is more than the Town can chew. However, he is willing to listen. Ms. Twombley believes there would be issues in the winter and could be a real taxation on our Highway Department. Mr. Brown confirmed to Mr. O'Connor that he is speaking as a private citizen, not as a School Board member. Mr. Edwards and Ms. Twombley agree that a meeting should be scheduled. Mr. Brown will contact the Selectmen's office to get on an agenda for a Selectmen, School Board, Vehicle Maintenance Committee discussion of the issue.

b) Administrator's Update – In the Administrator's absence, Ms. Bodah presented the following:

--A purchase order for the new police cruiser in the amount of \$23,563.88 This appropriation was approved in the 2013 budget. The old cruiser was traded in to reduce the overall cost. **Ms. Twombly moved to approve the purchase order in the amount of \$23,563.88, including the trade in of the old police cruiser. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.**

--A sink hole was discovered in the back parking lot over the weekend. The Highway Department has replaced the old culvert.

--Mr. Edwards referred to the lagoon clean-out, but it was unclear who would be doing this work.

c) Building Permit Releases – Mr. Edwards moved to approve the building permit release for Nestor on Elm Street. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

d) Payment Manifests – Ms. Twombly moved to approve Payroll Warrant #8 in the amount of \$60,372.03. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

Ms. Twombly moved to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #15, a voided check in the amount of \$2468.92. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

Ms. Twombly moved to approve AP Warrant #14 in the amount of \$54,943.27. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

e) Minutes – Ms. Twombly moved to approve the minutes of April 4 and 10, 2013, as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

The Fire Department will be assisting the Sanbornville Water Precinct with the flushing project.

Mr. Comeau commended the action of the officer on the scene of an incident in Brookfield. He also referred the group scheduled to use the opera house on April 27 for the Awakening the Dreamer workshop. Mr. Beeler noted it is an effort to get people involved with the community. It will take place from 12:45 p.m. to 4 p.m. Mr. O'Connor questioned the capacity of the opera house. We will follow up with the Fire Chief. Mr. O'Connor referred to the potential issue with accessibility in the event of a fire.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Bodah, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

Kenneth S. Paul, Chairperson

Richard C. Edwards, Vice Chair

Connie M. Twombly