TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN  
Minutes of Meeting November 05, 2013

Present:  Randy Morrison, Steve Davis, Francis Muzzey and Catherine Stover  
Also Present:  Peter Holden, Mark Stetson, John Emery, Brian Kennedy, Bob Durfee, Ellie Murray, Palmer Koelb, Craig Pasco, Paul Ducharme, Chief Kevin Kay and Kenyon Karl (recording the meeting)

Francis motioned to open the meeting at 6:00 pm, seconded by Randy and approved.

The Board reviewed and signed Vendor payments.

Francis discussed with the Road Agent the parking lot repair to be done at Wentworth Elementary. John discussed with the Board a proposal from TLC to trim the trees around the Town Common. Palmer, stated the best thing the Town could do is to fertilize the trees. Francis discuss the Park and Rec budget. Randy asked Palmer who could do it, and Palmer said if the Town buys the materials (fertilizer), he will do the work. John also discussed a request received from a resident on Cape Moonshine to remove an unneeded concrete drain. Francis motioned to approve the request, seconded by Randy and approved. The Board reviewed requisitions submitted by John Emery, and approved the requests.

Selectmen reviewed 3 Intent to Cut forms. One of the Intents have a property tax balance. The Board asked the office to contact the owner and request they pay the overdue taxes, or a do a bond. Randy signed the Intent, and Francis stated he will sign after either the taxes have been paid or a bond is received.

John reported that all the old steel from the Dufour Bridge has been delivered to the Garage.

Peter Holden (Holden Engineering) gave a status on the Dufour Bridge. The beams are out and delivered to town garage and new beams will be tensioned together this week. Next week the overlay is to be poured. They have contacted the State regarding the guard rail in the area of concern by Barbara Russin’s property. They will bend the guard rail around as they do for roads; this will take about an extra week. The extra cost will come out of the contingency fund, and should not cost the Town any extra money. He will try to meet with Barbara and the Road Agent towards the end of the week.

Mark Stetson (Avitar), was in attendance to address the Board regarding the assessment of religious/educational organizations. The Board reviewed the letter from Avitar regarding the Equalization ratio. Francis asked about the sales listings for Wentworth. Mark stated the report is attached to the letter that Francis was reviewing, and explained the sales in Wentworth. Francis stated he also spoke with Mark a while ago and requested data to assist his cousin doing an extensive analysis of the data. Francis stated his concerns regarding properties that are in current use and possibly incorrectly identified. Francis listed his 3 acres as an example of land that is in current use and is listed as unproductive, but in reality is productive. Mark stated that he believes part of the error is the way in which the land owner categorizes the land, and that Francis himself had listed his land as unproductive. Francis stated he felt that there were probably others that have done the same, and stated his desire to have this corrected. Francis stated that he wishes to wait until his cousin can be present, as he is the one doing the research. Mark stated that he can run reports. The Board signed the DRA Equalization Ratio certificate.
Mark discussed charitable/religious orgs. He stated he is looking to the Board regarding direction in how they wish to proceed. He discussed with the Board the Wentworth Baptist Church’s exemption, that although they do qualify for the religious exemption, he does not believe that all of the land of 19 ac, is being used as described by the RSA, directly for religious purposes, and therefore does not all qualify to be exempt. He does believe that some of the land (possibly 18 ac) could qualify for Current Use, which would amount to $10.00-$20.00 per year in taxes. He is asking the Board what they would like to do. He would like to meet with and speak with the church, and discuss and filling out a Current Use application.

In regards to the Baker River Bible Church, which has 25 ac, along with the issue of land that may not qualify to be exempt, but could possibly qualify to be put into Current Use, Mark stated that they have answered “no” on the exemption application to the question of whether they are a recognized and constituted denomination, creed or sect, which he feels they probably just answered incorrectly.

Steve Davis joined the meeting at 6:44 pm.

Francis stated that he believes the additional acreage not used for religious purposes should be treated the same for both Churches. Randy agreed and asked Mark if he would be getting back to them on it. Steve stated he is against taxing the Churches, and wishes to leave it as it. Francis stated there are court cases backing this up and we must follow. Steve said he would take care of the taxes himself, and will pay the taxes every year for the rest of his life.

Steve asked Mark about the FairPoint lawsuit. Mark gave a summary of the 2011 and 2012 lawsuits. All 2011 have been consolidated in Merrimack County, and no trial date has yet been set. The outcome of these cases, will impact our case, and as a result may not even make it to court. Avitar will not be representing us in this lawsuit, as it is filed in Superior Court, not the Board of Land and Tax Appeals. Mark stated these cases arise from the fact that for years phone companies have been exempt from taxation, and recently the law that exempted them has expired. FairPoint states they are unfairly taxed, and they dispute the amount of taxation.

Steve discussed the repair of the Wentworth Elementary school parking lot. He stated he was contacted by the School Board. Randy said he received a request from Bill Ames to see if they can get it filled in. Randy said he would speak with the Board. Steve stated he has no problem with it, but they need to acknowledge that and vote on that to make sure it is on the record. Francis said he had spoken with Keith and Keith said he would talk the School Board. Francis made a motion that the Board direct John to grade the school parking lot, subject to the school paying for the gravel, and the Town to pay for all other costs. Randy seconded the motion, and Steve also approved. Steve stated that he is available 24/7, and asked the Board to contact him and inform him of these types of decisions.

Steve wanted to thank the Town for the use of the Town Hall last weekend. He stated that he saw some deficiencies in the stove piping. Steve stated he will get the materials, he will hire a crew and will pay for the needed repair. Palmer stated he thought that a granite step is missing a granite step. Ellie stated she didn’t think so. Steve said he will check it out, if it is missing a step, he will purchase himself and build back to specs.

Steve Davis left the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Bob Durfee (Dubois & King) was in attendance and gave a status update regarding the Evans Bridge. Bob stated they are waiting for final close out documents from the subcontractor. Bob discussed a summary of the contract costs, modifications, change orders, performance evaluations and close out procedures required by the DOT. He anticipates having the final payment invoice to give to the Town for Dubois & King and Coleman. The Board discussed filling out Performance Evaluations for Dubois & King and AJ Coleman. Francis felt it should be done in a Non-Public
meeting, some in the audience felt the documents should be public. The Board decided to review them following the public meeting in a Non-Public meeting.

Bob Durfee also discussed the time frame, options and costs of the Frescoln Road Bridge restoration. He suggested possibly using monies refunded from the State from the Evans Bridge project to begin the Engineering Study. He suggested the Town wait no longer than 2017 to begin.

Brian Kennedy (Meredith Ford), was in attendance. The new truck has been delivered, and he and John Emery filled out paperwork to present to the Board for review and signature for the completion of the purchase of the new truck and transfer of the 450.

Chief Kay gave a Police Department status. Francis requested that Chief Kay be moved up on future agendas behind the Road Agent. Chief Kay said they have shortened the speed zone on Route 25. He said the light on cruiser still needs to be fixed. Also, they have received notice regarding the radio channel the frequency; the Canadian government has denied the frequency, and he will contact 2 way radio. Chief Kay requested a Non-Public meeting per RSA 91-A:3, II(g) Consideration of security-related issues.

Francis made a motion to go into the Non-Public meeting at 7:55 pm, seconded by Randy and approved. No decisions were made. Francis motioned to come out of the Non-Public meeting at 8:00 pm, seconded by Randy and approved.

The Board signed a request for Capital Reserve funds to be transferred from the Highway Capital Reserve Fund to the General Fund for the purchase of the new Dump Truck. (It was later discovered that these monies were previously transferred).

Randy motioned to close 8:20 pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Respectfully submitted, Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by
TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN
Amended Minutes of Meeting November 05, 2013

Present: Randy Morrison, Steve Davis, Francis Muzzey and Catherine Stover

Also Present: Peter Holden, Mark Stetson, John Emery, Brian Kennedy, Bob Durfee, Ellie Murray, Palmer Koelb, Craig Pasco, Paul Ducharme, Chief Kevin Kay and Kenyon Karl (recording the meeting)

Francis motioned to open the meeting at 6:00 pm, seconded by Randy and approved.

The Board reviewed and signed Vendor payments.

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Selectmen reviewed 3 Intent to Cut forms. One of the Intents have a property tax balance. The Board asked the office to contact the owner and request they pay the overdue taxes, or a do a bond. Randy signed the Intent, and Francis stated he will sign after either the taxes have been paid or a bond is received.

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Francis made a motion to go into the Non-Public meeting at 7:55 pm, seconded by Randy and approved. No decisions were made. Francis motioned to come out of the Non-Public meeting at 8:00 pm, seconded by Randy and approved.

The Board signed a request for Capital Reserve funds to be transferred from the Highway Capital Reserve Fund to the General Fund for the purchase of the new Dump Truck. (It was later discovered that these monies were previously transferred).

Randy motioned to close 8:20 pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Respectfully submitted, Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by

____________________________________  ______________________________________  ________________________________
Present: Randy Morrison, Francis Muzzey and Catherine Stover

Also Present: Chief Kevin Kay

Chief Kay requested a Non-Public meeting per RSA 91-A:3, II(g) Consideration of security-related issues.

Francis made a motion to go into the Non-Public meeting at 7:55 pm, seconded by Randy and approved. No decisions were made.

Francis motioned to come out of the Non-Public meeting at 8:00 pm, seconded by Randy and approved.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by
TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting November 12, 2013

Present: Randy Morrison, Steve Davis, Francis Muzzey and Catherine Stover

Also Present: Palmer Koelb, Craig Pasco, Paul Ducharme, Chief Kevin Kay and Kenyon Karl
(recording the meeting)

Francis motioned to open the meeting at 6:00 pm, seconded by Randy and approved.

Steve requested to have a Non-Public meeting tonight per RSA 91-A:3, II(e) – Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Steve passed copies of a 2007 document from LGC to the Board, and the Administrative Assistant.

Francis stated he wanted to add to the agenda regarding information regarding the Committee for Directive Authority. Paul Ducharme stated it was in regards to the NH Community Development Finance Authority with Kevin Flynn as the primary Director of Communications.

Steve stated he would like to respectfully acknowledge the passing of Councilor Raymond Burton, who died today. Steve requested permission of the Board to draft a letter of condolence to Ray Burton’s family. Randy agreed with the request, and Steve stated he will send a draft to me for finalization. Francis stated he would not sign it.

Steve asked Francis why he had not signed John Emery’s payroll check. Francis stated that he has no problem with the 4 or 5 hours worked during the weekend (snow storm) but stated that there were 45 hours prior to the weekend. Steve asked if Francis knew why he had done that and Francis said no. Steve read through documents submitted by the Road Agent and reviewed an explanation of the overtime. Steve stated that the majority of the Board has signed and approved the payroll, and he considers the matter closed.

The Board discussed the Transfer Station attendant booth which is in progress and the trees which were removed on the Town Common

Francis and Steve discussed the subject matter regarding Steve’s request for a Non-Public meeting. Francis stated that wished for Palmer to be aware of it and Steve stated that Palmer already has a copy of it. Steve stated the topic has nothing to do with Palmer or Ellie, it has to do with the Town Hall, of which they are members of the Steering Committee.

The Board reviewed and signed vendor payments, payroll and the following:

• Meeting Minutes of October 29 & November 5
• Report of Cut for Friedrich, OP#13-475-03
• John Corso’s Rate of Pay form
• Updated Medical and Life update and renewals for 2013 & 2014
• Septic Design for Menfi, 13-04-24
• PLT (Property Liability Trust) renewal for periods Jan 14-June 14 and FY 15-16
Francis asked Palmer about the picnic tables. Palmer said he has 2 prices, both are for 12 ft. tables; $450.00 unpainted for 2 tables, and $850.00 painted for 2 tables. Paul Ducharme asked about getting some for Riverside Park. Palmer said we got 2 a year or so ago.

Chief Kay gave a status update. He is reviewing the budget and beginning to figuring out what to do for next year. They are keeping up with the case load. He also stated that the Prosecutors Association has said their portion for the association should stay somewhat similar. The Chief said if the Town of Campton comes on board and shares costs, the costs to Wentworth may go down. Chief Kay said that Officer Hill has been out and about on his own last few days. The cruiser is doing ok. Steve asked if he was going to ask for a replacement cruiser. He said no, but maybe in the next year or two. Chief Kay stated that they hope that for the Town meeting in the year of 2015. The Board discussed the costs of a replacement cruiser.

Steve discussed proposed tax rate received from the DRA in the amount of $24.09. He stated the per the DRA documents, the unassigned fund balance is $670,829, less the voted surplus leaving an amount to retain of $638,529. Steve stated his desire to use a portion of the UFB to reduce the tax rate. Francis stated he has itemized some of the town’s over expenditures. Francis stated he is ok with using some of the UFB but not going overboard.

Steve made a motion to ask Randy to sign the Property Liability Trust renewal agreement, seconded by Francis.

Randy stated he would be willing to use $250,000 of the UFB to reduce the tax rate.

Francis stated that the agenda states the Selectmen will not have a meeting on Dec 24 and there will also be no meeting on Dec 31. He stated that he is not in favor of cancelling both. Steve stated he was in favor of cancelling them. Randy stated they had already voted upon this a couple of weeks ago. Selectmen discussed and agreed to have an alternate meeting on Dec 23, Monday evening, at 6 pm. The Administrative Assistant asked about having time to prepare vendor and payroll. Selectmen stated to tell all employees to submit their payroll hours by the end of the day on Friday, Dec. 20.

Steve stated we have a certification from Young’s stating they have removed all of their trashed vehicles from the property on Rowentown Road. Steve said he authorized with Randy that Randy meet with our legal on Friday on the property to inspect and confirm that the vehicles have been removed. Randy confirmed he will be meeting with legal.

Francis stated that at the end of last week’s meeting, the board agreed to sign an application for Lost Title for the Highway Department’s F450 (the truck we are trading in) and to sign a check in the amount of $25.00 for the Lost Application Fee. Francis motioned to authorize after the fact, seconded by Randy and approved.

The Board again discussed using some the Unreserved Fund Balance to lower the tax rate. Randy motioned to use $250,000, seconded by randy and approved.

Francis made a request to the Board to provide his cousin, Doug Muzzey, with data from the Town’s assessing software for detailed analysis of the information. Francis stated there is no cost to the town and he believes that the assessments in Town are suspect. Steve stated he was not in favor of granting access to the data base. Steve motioned that Doug Muzzey submit a request in writing to the Board and then the Board will release the requested information. Paul Darcharme inquired what the rationale was for Doug Muzzey to have all the data available. Francis said he was doing a data analysis for free and will provide the information and will not cost us any money. Paul asked if Doug was doing a function for the Town. Francis said no, that Doug was doing the analysis for himself.
Randy motioned to go into a Non-Public (1) meeting at 7:04 pm per RSA 91-A:3, II(e) – Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled, seconded by Steve and approved. The Board discussed safety liabilities related to Town owned property. Steve motioned to come out of the Non-Public meeting at 7:14 pm, seconded by Randy and approved.

Randy motioned to go into a Non-Public (2) meeting at 7:14 pm, per RSA 91-A:3, II(c) – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting, seconded by Francis and approved. Selectmen discussed a Health Officers matter regarding the monitoring of a Septic System. The Board decided to revisit the issue in 30 days. Randy motioned to come out of the Non-Public meeting at 7:20 pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Randy motioned to go into a Non-Public (3) meeting at 7:20 pm per RSA RSA 91-A:3, II(c) – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting, seconded by Steve and approved. Selectmen reviewed and completed the Evans Bridge Performance Evaluations. Francis motioned to have Randy sign the PE on behalf of the Board, seconded by Steve and approved. Randy motioned to come out of the Non-Public meeting at 7:25 pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Randy motioned to close the public meeting at 7:25 pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Respectfully submitted, Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by
Present: Randy Morrison, Francis Muzzey, Steve Davis

Also Present: Palmer Koelb and Catherine Stover

Randy motioned to go into a Non-Public (1) meeting at 7:04 pm per RSA 91-A:3, II(e) – Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled, seconded by Steve and approved.

The Board discussed safety liabilities related to Town owned property.

Steve motioned to come out of the Non-Public meeting at 7:14 pm, seconded by Randy and approved.

Respectfully submitted, Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by

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Also Present: Catherine Stover

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Selectmen reviewed and completed the Evans Bridge Performance Evaluations. Francis motioned to have Randy sign the PE on behalf of the Board, seconded by Steve and approved.

Randy motioned to come out of the Non-Public meeting at 7:25 pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Respectfully submitted, Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by

_________________________________  __________________________  __________________________
Present: Steve Davis, Francis Muzzey and Catherine Stover

Also Present: Chief Kevin Kay, Palmer and Deb Koelb, Craig Pasco, Adam Grigarauskas, Ellie Murray, Peter Holden, Martha Richards, and Kenyon Karl (recording the meeting)

Steve motioned to open the meeting at 6:01 pm, seconded by Francis and approved. The Board reviewed and signed vendor checks.

Steve asked Francis if he has spoken with John Emery about the sander for the International. Francis said he has not. Steve stated that gear box for the sander is rusted out, and he and Randy gave permission to have John go to Concord to pick up replacement parts. Francis said that was fine, and suggested that Steve make a motion. Steve motioned to approve the replacement of parts for the international, seconded by Francis and approved.

Francis reviewed the agenda and stated that next week Bernie Waugh from Gardner, Fulton and Waugh will be here to present a 2013 Municipal Law status update. Also, the Selectmen's Budget Workshop is scheduled next week at 5 pm.

Steve read a letter regarding Ray Burton, which he drafted on behalf of the Board to be sent. Randy is not here this week, so he will hold it until next week for signature.

Peter Holden of Holden Engineering was in attendance and gave a status update of the Dufour Bridge project. Peter stated the project is on schedule, the bridge is in and the concrete overlay has been done. The guard rail is to be done tomorrow on Thursday, and paving on Friday. Peter stated that they have spoken with both property owners and they are satisfied. Peter stated when he comes next week it should be done. He will be back next Tuesday.

Steve made a motion to have Francis sign Payment Application #6 (final), for the Evans Bridge.

Martha Richards, Grafton County Commissioner, was in attendance to meet and greet, and answer any questions the Board or residents may have. Francis asked her what the basis is for determining the amounts of monies set for Grafton County taxes. Martha said set the rates are set by DRA. Francis asked why Warren is about .50 cheaper than us. She did not know, but said she would find out for Francis. Martha gave an overview of the Grafton County structure, the Registry of Deeds, the Nursing home, the new jail, and the farm. Martha summarized amounts yielded by farming, how much was made last year, and how much was donated to the needy and shelters. Requests to have tours are welcome, and she stated it is best to call in advance to schedule.

Steve motioned to go into Non-Public Meeting (1) at 7:20 pm per RSA 91-A:3, II(c) – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. The Board discussed and approved a request from a welfare recipient to work off the remaining balance owed to the Town through the work fare program. Steve motioned to come out of the Non-Public meeting at 7:29 pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Francis motioned to go into Non-Public Meeting (2) at 7:30 pm, per RSA 91-A:3, II(e) – Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the public body or any subdivision thereof, seconded by Steve and approved.
Selectmen reviewed and approved a drafted response by legal, and requested the office to contact legal. Francis motioned to come out of the meeting at 7:40 pm, seconded by Steve and approved.

Francis motioned to close the Public meeting at 7:41 pm, seconded by Steve and approved.

Respectfully submitted, Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by

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TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN
Non-Public (1) Minutes of Meeting November 19, 2013

Present: Francis Muzzey, Steve Davis, Catherine Stover

Also Present: Welfare Applicant

Steve motioned to go into Non-Public Meeting (1) at 7:20 pm per RSA 91-A:3, II(c) – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting.

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Francis motioned to come out of the meeting at 7:40 pm, seconded by Steve and approved

Respectfully submitted, Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by

_________________________  ________________________
Meeting Cancelled. Francis Muzzey present. Steve Davis and Randy Morrison unable to attend.

Respectfully submitted, Catherine Stover