

Selectmen's Meeting March 31, 2004

The minutes from the last meeting were approved and signed. The accounts payable and the payroll warrants were signed.

Sacopee Valley High School Seniors are looking for community service projects. The cleaning of the Town Hall would be a possibility, with supervision. Other projects mentioned: the cleaning along the town property on Little River and office work of setting up a filing system for the CED. Diane will contact the school.

The School Budget has been decreased from 6 to 4.7% increase. They have taken the Resource Officer out of the budget.

The deed for the Fire Dept. will be forthcoming as per conversation with the lawyer on Sat., Mar. 27th.

The selectmen had been asked by the Cornish Fairgrounds Advisory Board for approval of that entity becoming a member of the Cornish Association of Businesses. After a healthy discussion which included input from all members of the board, it was voted unanimously that it was not in the best interest of the town that this happen. The Cornish Fairgrounds Advisory Board was created by the town to maintain and manage this property in a manner that was in the best interest of the citizens. It was the intent that the Cornish Fairgrounds Advisory Board be comprised of a broad cross-section of the citizens of Cornish which would serve in their capacities with no area of self interest or bias towards the use of this property. The affiliation of this group with a private organization which has by virtue of it's name, the intent to promote businesses in this town could potentially influence their judgment in matters which they will address as board members. The selectmen welcome members of the Cornish Association of Businesses to serve on this committee, as is currently happening, as their input is considered invaluable.

Carlton was contacted by Diane to get an update on the final draft of the Trash Contract to be put out to bid. They have agreed that the commercial part of the contract will be amended to state that set published fees, container size and pickup frequency will be agreed upon by the hauler and the commercial customer. It will also include that the commercial customers can hire any hauler they want to, but the town of Cornish will only pay tipping fees brought in by the contracted town hauler. Vinal will update the contract to include the commercial part and will bring the final draft to the selectmen meeting for approval. They hope to have it out to bid by shortly after the April 15th meeting; then publish it in the Shopping Guide.

The request for people to join a committee to study the removal of snow on the town sidewalks from Rte. 5 Cumberland Street to Rte. 5 Sokokis Trail was placed in the Shopping Guide. There was a response of eight people interested. A Monday evening

meeting would be best. There is some concern that if the town is responsible for clearing the sidewalk – does that open the town to some liability. Peggy reported that in Portland some businesses shovel their sidewalks and some are taken care of by the city. John checked with the town of Fryeburg. They spend about \$9,000. yearly to maintain their sidewalks.

The Special Town Meeting for the Growth Ordinance and Ordinance Amendments scheduled for April 12 has been cancelled. There were some procedures and choice of wording that weren't in compliance with state regulations. The Selectmen are concerned about large tracts of land being placed in programs, such as Open Space, that would result in the town losing their tax base if this growth ordinance is passed. They feel it is essential to have a level of growth in the community to increase the tax base and bring in new taxes to keep up with the increase in costs that the town will occur. The other result would be an increase in taxes.

Linda Parker surveyed the hall and will give us an estimate on cleaning.

The selectmen were each given a generic personal policy to handle disputes, grievances and sexual harassment. They will review it and submit one appropriate for the town.

The Selectmen will review the fee schedule of the Cornish Fairgrounds Advisory Board in an upcoming meeting.

Diann Perkins is still working on getting information from the traveling Currier and Ives museum. There is nothing confirmed to date. She is trying to get the time frame reduced to 3 weeks.

John expressed that the Cornish United Church of Christ Ladies Guild is looking into renovating the upstairs of the Bargain shop. There is some concern that it needs to be reviewed by the Fire Marshall before they proceed with the renovations.

The Reed's Smoke Shop is a result of a home occupation permit, which the court required the town to issue. However, Mr. Reed has not paid the town the \$1,000. which was also part of the settlement. Mr. Millard will go back to the lawyer and get this issue resolved. Mr. Reed also hasn't obtained a permit to sell tobacco from the State Tobacco and Firearms, or a sign permit from the town.

A list of Assessing Agents and the website from the Maine Tax Revenue Service that listed the assessing agents and their info was given to the Selectmen. Vinal made some suggestions and Peggy will contact them.

Bond payment on new Fire Station is due May 1st.

A letter being sent out to unselected candidates for the Bookkeeper Position was reviewed.


Diane needs to call CMP to request to have the streetlight on Rte. 5 directly across the road from Berryvale Lane relocated on the pole at the entrance of Kimball Hill Rd.

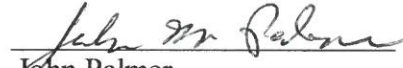
Citizen complaint was received about large amount of trash being dumped on River Road (road on right just before bridge crossing into Baldwin). Jordan's Trucking would clean it up but at town expense. There is a concern that this is private property and the road is not a town road.


A surveyor (Amos) came to the town asking to close off that River Road. According to past history, the road was not a town road. It was a dirt road leading to a sawmill. The proof of burden of the status of the road is with the person requesting information.

J.P. Carroll submitted Tree Growth applications for properties at R7-23B and R6-21.

Diane attended a Tax Lien workshop and would like to discuss collection procedures.


Vinal Pendexter


John Palmer


Margaret Aspinall