

Minutes

Albany NH Selectmen's Meeting

January 5, 2011

At 3:00 p.m., the Selectmen's meeting was called to order. In attendance were Jack Rose, Sara Young-Knox and Joe Ferris. Also present was Daymond Steer of the Conway Daily Sun. Colleen Cormack joined the meeting at 3:15 p.m. The following business was conducted.

Daymond asked the Board for more information regarding the upcoming Local Law Enforcement Forum as he is writing an article for the Conway Daily Sun. Jack began by saying Albany does not have a police force and cannot afford one. A forum was formed to allow law enforcement representatives to help us brainstorm as to the best direction for Albany.

Sara Young-Knox added crime is not a town by town issue, it is regional. The Board wanted to get more regional ideas from all the different law enforcement agencies as to what crimes do go on in our region and what ways can we work together to effectively prevent crime. Sara noted for instance, many properties in Albany are rental properties and a target of theft. What could a neighbor do to assist in its prevention?

The AA added Albany is not the only town with recurring crime issues and the Board thought by creating a panel of law enforcement officers from surrounding towns as well as the Sheriff's Department and State Police and inviting the public from all towns, it would enlighten the general public on what they could do to help prevent ongoing crime in their neighborhoods. The AA said drugs and theft are notable recurring crimes in Albany and it happens in all of our towns.

Daymond asked the Board if it was their intent to create a warrant article to contract some sort of law enforcement coverage for Albany. Jack replied that he did hope there will be a high turnout of the voting population but thought it was too late in the budget season to create a warrant article.

Daymond then asked the Board about the rumble strips they requested of NHDOT. Jack told Daymond to date, the project has support from the Selectmen, Fire Chief and Police Chief of Madison, Selectmen of Tamworth, Carroll County Sheriff Christopher Conley and Senator John Gallus. NHDOT responded saying the 2010 yearly program had been established and awarded for approved locations and an investigation for their need was proposed for the winter months. The Board is optimistic that the conditions

on Route 16 will be evaluated and meets the guidelines to establish the rumble strips.

Colleen Cormack:

Colleen suggested to the Board that the Town of Albany create a Facebook page and invite members of Facebook to “like” the page which links the member to anything the Town of Albany posts on their page such as office closings, activities, elections, etc. She added it’s an easy way to reach many townspeople who are already Facebook users. Colleen offered to set up the page and will authorize Kathy Vizard an administrator. Jack made a motion to have Colleen set up the Facebook page for Albany, Joe seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Colleen informed the Board she attended the Conway Solid Waste public hearing on behalf of the town of Albany. She noted Sara Young-Knox was also in attendance. Sara was asked to get a formal position from the Board of Selectmen on the issue of the solid waste facility closing on Sundays. There will be another public hearing on January 25. Sara’s position is that Tuesdays would be a better day to close as she knows people spend Saturday cleaning and Sunday disposing of their trash. Saturdays are a busy day with long lines which will only increase if the dump is closed on Sunday. Joe concurred.

Sara made a motion to advise the Conway Selectmen the Albany Selectmen prefer to keep the solid waste facility open on Sunday and close another day. If anyone from Albany has a differing opinion please contact the office via e-mail at contact@albanynh.org. Joe seconded the motion and all were in favor. Colleen noted she has not formed an opinion one way or another.

Sara thought at one point Albany had purchased a part of the solid waste district, and then remembered the town had bought in on the bond in the late 80’s or early 90’s but would have to research it to be certain. Colleen told the Board that the town’s solid waste cost is down this year compared to last year and it will go down again next year as the bond on the first landfill will be paid off.

At the public hearing Colleen brought up the increase in fees for the deposit of old furniture noting people who cannot afford these fees are either tearing them up, bagging them to throw away with their garbage, or they burn them in their backyards, defeating the purpose of recycling. She hoped a program to reduce the fees could be created for residents who already receive

assistance through the state. She was told the fees are a pass through cost as furniture is recycled now and no longer goes into the landfill.

Colleen reviewed the suggestion list from the town hall energy audit. Some things on the list had been done and checked off. After a discussion about replacing the thermostats with seven day programmable ones, it is not feasible to do so. A label will be placed above one of the current thermostats notating it's use is for the hallway and planning board room. Jack said he thought an energy saver would be to build a vestibule at the entrance of the town hall. Joe thought a vestibule would be a low cost worthwhile energy saver for the town. It will be added to the suggestion list. One suggestion is to replace the refrigerator and stoves in the town hall kitchen with energy efficient ones, or unplug the refrigerator while it is not in use and purchase a smaller one for day to day usage. Sara thought the purchase of the appliances should be put off for now. Joe agreed. Colleen said although the new light fixture illuminating the flag in front of the chapel will save money, a solar fixture would save even more in the long term. It will be added to the list of suggestions. A rough estimate will be submitted by Brian Taylor and the work will soon go out to bid.

Regular Business:

- Reviewed & approved December 22 & December 29 minutes—Jack made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, Joe seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- Signed checks totaling \$1,201.04.
- Reviewed & approved two pistol permits.
- Reviewed & approved tabled building permit.
- Reviewed letter to NHDOT Commissioner William Lambert from Sheriff Christopher Conley supporting Selectmen's request for rumble strips on Route 16.
- Reviewed the approved three year contract with Time Warner for phone and internet service.
- Reviewed letter of rate increase from Mitchell Municipal Group.
- Reviewed letter from North Country Council & signed a letter of support for their application of a grant for solid waste technical assistance.
- Reviewed letter from White Mountain National Forest
- Reviewed letter from Time Warner Cable

JR____
SYK____
JF____

Miscellaneous:

Joe noted that he found minutes from the Planning Board citing Moat View Drive is to be gated and used only for emergency vehicles.

Sara informed the Board that the guardrails over Dry Brook on Passaconaway Road have been replaced and look beautiful.

Jack asked the AA to obtain the names of the law enforcement officials who will be present for the local law enforcement forum so he can introduce them on Tuesday night.

At 5:15 p.m., Sara made a motion to adjourn, Jack seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Vizard
Administrative Assistant

DRAFT