

Minutes must be kept of all public meetings and must be available to the public upon request not more than five business days after the public meeting. A business day means the hours of 8 am to 5 pm on Monday through Friday, excluding national and state holidays. The minimum content of meeting minutes includes: (1) names of members present; (2) other people participating (it is not necessary to list everyone present, however); (3) a brief summary of subject matter discussed; and (4) any final decisions reached or action taken. There is no legal requirement to accept or approve the minutes. Even if minutes have not yet been approved, they still must be made available not more than five business days after the public meeting. When the five business day deadline is reached before the minutes are approved, they can be made available to the public with a notation that they are a draft version.

Taken from “*Knowing the Territory*,” a publication from the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

Selectmen’s Meeting
Minutes
Albany NH Selectmen’s Meeting
February 24, 2016 4:00 p.m.

Members present: Kelly Robitaille, Cathy Ryan and Rob Nadler
Public: Dorothy Solomon, Steve Knox, Rick Hiland and Sheriff Richardi

Call to Order: At 4:00 p.m., Chairman Robitaille called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Review & approve minutes: Selectman Nadler made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Selectman Ryan seconded the motion and all were in favor.

New Business:

- **Approval of consent file:** Selectman Nadler made a motion to approve the consent file as submitted, Chairman Robitaille seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Signed checks	\$51,920.70
Signed two pistol permits	
Approved one building permit	
Signed letter of support for County Commissioners	

Other Business:

Selectman Nadler discussed warrant article #19, to vote if the town wants to keep 2008 Passaconaway Rd. that was taken by Tax Collector's deed. He noted the assessed value jumped from \$153,000 to over \$300,000 a few years ago and it made no sense. The Town Administrator explained that the \$153,000 is the current use value. This value was used to calculate the former owner's property taxes. When the town took the property, the assessor had to categorize the property as "town owned-exempt." In order to do so, he had to remove the current use category in the assessing software. The property is still in current use. The market value of the property is \$300,000 if it were not in current use. The prior annual taxes were approximately \$2,000 per year. If the former owner repurchased the property he would pay approximately \$36,000 for all prior taxes, interest and penalties.

Selectman Nadler spoke with Linda Fox Philips, who told him the Conway Library is getting a 3-D printer. There will be a demonstration on how to use it on March 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the library. It will be available for the public to use. The Mount Washington Valley Economic Council will be hosting its annual science fair on May 12. They are looking for judges.

Correspondence: Chairman Robitaille said he received the public comment policy from County Commissioner David Sorenson. He understands the need, but feels it is unfortunate. He does not want to go there; he enjoys open conversations.

Chairman Robitaille is having a hard time figuring out how to respond to e-mails during the correspondence portion of the meeting. Some things should not be openly read. Selectman Nadler thought they should be taken into consideration individually. If it is relevant, the Board can comment. Chairman Robitaille spoke with Margaret from NH Municipal Association legal department. She said all incoming e-mails become a governmental document and open to the right to know law, so the e-mails may be read aloud no matter what it contains. But they do not have to be. Selectman Ryan suggested maybe to acknowledge the e-mails. If we were a large town, reading e-mails could take a lot of time. She would like to think about this. Chairman Robitaille said if the e-mails aren't read, the sender feels ignored. Selectman Ryan noted we must agree to disagree. Selectman Nadler thought the e-mails should be taken into consideration on a case by case basis.

Domenic Richardi (Carroll County Sheriff):

Sheriff Richardi spoke of recent on goings in town and what his deputies are doing for Albany. He said Albany is pretty busy for a small town. Even on the deputies down time, they are asked to drive through neighborhoods and look them over. The Town Administrator said she has received positive feedback from the townspeople. Piper Meadows manager, Steve Parker feels the deputies are vested in our community and he likes having them pass through the park randomly.

Sheriff Richardi spoke of the ongoing drug problem and the production of resources and how they are slowly happening. He said the police are there to abide by the laws and enforce them. There are different views as to how to handle it. They will do what they can for those individuals who need help and want it.

Chairman Robitaille asked the Sheriff about Albany's parking fines. One of the deputies felt they are too low. Sheriff Richardi thought Conway's fines should be a good rule of thumb to go by.

Sheriff Richardi said his recommended budget for Albany remains the same in 2016. Chairman Robitaille asked if the Sheriff's budget was cut at the county level, would that make Albany's budget go up. Sheriff Richardi replied no. It is considered revenue and they just spend it out. Sheriff Richardi has been through two subcommittee meetings and they praised his 2016 budget and there have been no cuts to it.

Steve Knox discussed what difficulties Merrimack County is facing and asked Sheriff Richardi what he is facing. Sheriff Richardi replied drugs and the difficulty finding resources. We need funding and then making it work. He thinks there needs to be penalties that get stiffer each time a person is arrested. The jail is trying to begin to get rehabilitation and counseling so offenders can get clean and stay clean. Lakeview has reopened as a facility but is only taking private pay patients right now. The needed resources are not happening quickly enough.

Although Rick Hiland supports Sheriff Richardi's position on enforcing the law, he thought the answer is to stop the drugs at its source. He would also like to see a deputy come to Selectmen's meetings from time to time. The Sheriff's Department is on a limited basis patrol and maybe the deputies could tell people what to look for. Selectman Ryan thanked Sheriff Richardi for his support. Sheriff Richardi left the meeting.

Public Comment:

Steve Knox wanted to continue the conversation about Albany's 250th anniversary celebration. He apologized for sounding like he was putting it all into June Johnson's lap. It was not his intention. He suggested creating a committee of which he will serve on. Selectman Nadler suggested having the celebration piggy back on the town's annual picnic as it would create a larger venue. Steve would like to increase the historical society's line item at town meeting in order to fund the celebration. Rick Hiland volunteered to serve on the committee. Chairman Robitaille made a motion to create a committee for Albany's 250th celebration and appoint Steve Knox as the chairman. Selectman Nadler wanted to make clear the committee was separate from the picnic committee and their funds. The Board was all in agreement, they will be separate. Selectman Nadler seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Steve Knox discussed the County Commissioner's public comment policy. He noted the obscene gesture that prompted the creation of the policy was unacceptable. He has no problem with limitation but he is uncomfortable that they do not take questions. He would hate to think one would have to go through the right to know process. Some citizens cannot attend Selectmen meetings and their only venue is through e-mail and Chairman Robitaille said he is not going to read them. Chairman Robitaille is uncomfortable with the way some things are worded. Some e-mails are unprofessional and it's something the Board does not need to get into. Selectman Nadler said they should be looked at on a case by case basis. Steve thought they should be recognized. Rick Hiland felt the Board works for the town and if there is a question, it should be answered. E-mails should be processed, legitimate or not. Selectman Nadler felt the Board has to use their judgment.

Adjournment:

At 4:45 p.m., Selectman Nadler made a motion to adjourn, Selectman Ryan seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Vizard
Town Administrator