Selectmen's meeting minutes of April 26, 2007

Present from the Board:

Selectman Katherine Dawson, Selectman Tom Cavanaugh, Selectman David Wadleigh, and Selectman Tim Pearson. Selectman Al LaPlante was not present.

Also present:
Town Administrator Robert Veloski, and Secretary Catherine A. Woessner.

Selectman Dawson called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.

At this time Selectman Dawson opened the Second Public Hearing, the purpose being:
To offer a second opportunity for public comment in regards to the proposed sidewalk ordinance allowing for seasonal closure of public sidewalks within the Town of Tilton. The proposed Ordinance is on file at the Tilton Town Hall. After reading the proposed Sidewalk Ordinance Selectman Dawson opened the hearing for public comment.

Bob Brown: Bob asked if there is an RSA that references this proposed ordinance. Selectman Dawson said the RSA is NH RSA 41:11, 47:17, VII. Bob asked if they were going to fine someone for walking on a closed sidewalk. Selectman Dawson said the Selectmen are in the process of finding out if they can eliminate the fine, if they can possibly change that.

Approval: Minutes of April 19, 2007. Selectman Dawson made a motion to accept the minutes of April 19, 2007 as written, seconded by Selectman Pearson. All were in favor.
Minutes of April 17th, 2007. Selectman Cavanaugh made a motion to accept the minutes of April 17th as written, seconded by Selectman Dawson. All were in favor.
Selectmen’s meeting minutes of 4/26/07

The Payroll and A/P manifests were approved and signed by the Board.

**Correspondence:**

**Northern Shores Water Co.:** The Board discussed this letter asking the Town to consider purchasing the Northern Shores Water Co., since the Town assumed The Tilton Aqueduct Company. The Board agreed they are not interested in purchasing this company and asked the Town Administrator to send a letter to Ms. Sprague informing her of this and to also let her know that the Town of Tilton has not assumed the Tilton Aqueduct Company.

**Ransmeier & Spellman, P.C.:** Selectman Pearson explained the letter he composed to Ransmeier & Spellman regarding their invoices for service to the Town of Tilton. Selectman Pearson said he gave the rationale for the disputed items that they would like credit for and went on to explain that there are many other issues that they have not asked for credit as they were much more difficult to pin down especially that the scope of work was really unknown by the Town at the time. The Board was in agreement and signed the letter. Selectman Pearson also prepared a letter to another professional firm asking for more detailed information for billable hours. The Board was in agreement.

**Selectmen’s summer meeting schedule:** The Board reviewed and approved the summer schedule and will be meeting every other Thursday. Their next meeting will be on May 10th, at Town Offices at 6:00PM.

**Appointments with Selectmen:**

**Lori Chase:** Ms. Chase informed the Board that she is interviewing the Selectmen for a school paper for American Government on a recent topic. Ms. Chase said she recently saw the Chief of Police, Kent Chapman on the news regarding the new Sex Offender Ordinance. Ms. Chase said she has ten questions she would like to ask the Selectmen. The Town Administrator Bob Veloski printed out copies of Chapter 651-B, Registration of Criminal Offenders. A copy was given to Ms. Chase.
Questions regarding Sex offender Ordinance:

The Board answered the questions from Ms. Chase and the ones they could not answer they referred her to Chief Chapman and Captain Wellington.

Vince Paratore: Proposed Sidewalk Ordinance Public Hearing:

Mr. Paratore asked if there are specific sidewalks that the Town will not maintain at this time. Selectman Dawson said they have a list of sidewalks that the Town does not maintain and a copy of the list was given to Mr. Paratore.

Mr. Fox asked what the rationale is for the need for a fine for the sidewalks rather than trusting people’s judgment to account for their own safety, why is the Board imposing this fine. Selectman Dawson said this is something the Selectmen are going to check into. The RSA that allows them to close the sidewalk allows for the fine so they are going to question the attorney that prepared this.

Mr. Fox then asked what the purpose is for this Ordinance. Selectman Dawson said it is not to expend monies to maintain sidewalks that they do not need to.

Mr. Brown asked to read a suggested change in Article II Section 2: after the word closure added “shall be at an individual’s own personal risk”. In Article III Mr. Brown is suggesting taking out Section 1 entirely and talking with town counsel to possibly add, use of a closed sidewalk negating the town’s liability, making the town non liable. The other change suggested is Article I, Section 1, to eliminate the wording of “exercise of police power”. Mr. Brown said otherwise he thinks the proposed ordinance is excellent and thanked them for their consideration.

David Tryon: Mr. Tryon would like to make the Selectmen and the viewing audience aware of the program that is going to be held at the WRHS next week called “Rachel’s Challenge”. 
The speaker is one of the students that was wounded at Columbine. Mr. Tryon said in light of the things that have been happening in the schools feel's it is important that they cannot ask the schools to do all of this. The Schools, Parents, and the Communities all have to be involved. The event takes place at the WRHS on Wednesday evening, May 2nd, at 5:30PM. There will be a training group that will go on Wednesday afternoon from 1:00PM until 2:PM and that group will be asked to form Friends of Rachel's Club. This is to try to help each other deal with bullying and name calling. Rachel's motto is "an act of kindness can change things" and would like to start a chain reaction of kindness.

Mr. Tryon also informed the Board of the latest fad in alcoholic beverages is called "spikes", which Mr. Tryon believes is aimed at middle school and early high school kids and they sell for .75 cents. It is shaped like a bottle of finger nail polish. Mr. Tryon presented the Board with copies of information from the town of Bridgewater, Ma. where the Selectmen of that town voted to ban the sale of "spikes". Mr. Tryon said he does not know if it is in the Selectmen's power to do this or to send letters to the different merchants in town suggesting they not carry this product. This product will be sold in convenience stores as well as State Liquor stores. From what Mr. Tryon understands this product is sold in Massachusetts, but is not aware if it is New Hampshire yet.

Selectman Dawson said they Board can certainly investigate what they can and what they should do. The Board expressed their appreciation for Mr. Tryon making them aware of this.

Avitar's recommendations regarding abatements:

Avitar informed the Board of their recommendations for 10 Overlook Drive and 60 Ridge Road. They also informed the Board that there appear to be 19 more abatements they have yet to respond to. Ms. Martin is awaiting information on some and hopes to have a recommendation to the Board at their May 10th meeting which she will be attending.
Avitar continued: Avitar is recommending to deny the abatement for 10 Overlook Drive as they believe the $355,100 assessment is fair and consistent. Mr. Fleming who was sitting in the audience said he spoke with Ms. Martin from Avitar today and she said the assessment of $355,100 is 100 percent complete, not 85 percent. Mr. Fleming said he believes this is a fair assessment.

Selectman Pearson made a motion to accept the recommendation to deny the abatement for 10 Overlook Drive, seconded by Selectman Dawson. All were in favor.

The next abatement for Michael & Cynthia Fleming 60 Ridge Road is recommended by Avitar as they found adjustments were warranted. The revisions to the record reduce the assessment to $337,700 and an abatement is recommended on the $70,800 value difference.

After discussion Selectman Cavanaugh made a motion to approve the abatement recommendation from Avitar on Jeffrey and Colleen Hinds, 60 Ridge Road, seconded by Selectman Dawson. All were in favor.

Reports from Selectmen:

Selectman Pearson: Has an issues list regarding the software to bring up to Avitar when they attend the May 10th Selectmen’s meeting. Selectman Pearson would also like to discuss their contract and will talk to Ms. Martin regarding this. Selectman Pearson is looking at the Ordinances to see about getting them on the town’s website for public viewing.

Selectman Pearson reported to the Board that he attended the Planning Board CIP hearing at which time the Planning Board did adopt the CIP plan for the Town. Selectman Pearson reported that there was discussion regarding having better communication between the Budget Committee, CIP committee, and the Selectmen.

As there was no other public comment on the Proposed Sidewalk Ordinance, Selectman Dawson closed the Public Hearing at 7:30PM.
Public Works Director, Dennis Allen: Dennis reported that he has the second estimate on replacing the posts rather than trying to straighten them at the Rte. 132 ball field. The total is $1,250, vs. the $750.00. Dennis has submitted the estimate to the company that damaged the posts.

Dennis announced that Spring Clean-up is next week starting Wednesday May 2nd, thru Saturday May 5th, 9:00AM to 4:30PM. Dennis said he would like to put a sign out letting residents know the dates for the drop-off of leaves and brush opening up at the upper yard at the Town Garage. The dates for drop-off are Saturday, May 12, 19th, and 26th and June 2nd, from 9:00AM to 1:00PM.

Dennis reported that Riverfront Park has been opened today and the water has been turned on. Two of the sidewalks at the park are being replaced as there were certain sections that were not ADA compliant.

Dennis reported that he would like to take the weight limit signs down on Monday depending on the weather. The State will be taking their signs down on Tuesday, May 1st.

Dennis reported that the trailer he would like to purchase is a 14,000 GVW trailer, 18ft. of deck. Dennis said the need for the new trailer is to transport the asphalt roller that was just purchased at a much lower price than was expected. Dennis said the price for the trailer is $4,300.00. After discussion Selectman Cavanaugh made a motion to authorize Dennis to purchase the trailer for $4,300.00, seconded by Selectman Dawson. All were in favor.

Selectman Dawson reported a letter has been sent to Marie Mahoney, Assistant Health Officer, informing her the Selectmen have eliminated the funding for that position and reduced it to $1.00 for the rest of the year, effective April 30, 2007.
Selectmen's meeting minutes of 4/26/07

Reports from Selectmen:

Selectman Cavanaugh: Selectman Cavanaugh asked to clarify an article in last week's Echo regarding the Tilton-Northfield Fire District spending. Selectman Cavanaugh said Fire Chief Carrier said that Selectman Cavanaugh indicated that they have spend 28 percent more in 2006 than in 2005 and said that was not true, it was actually 8.7 percent. Selectman Cavanaugh said there was another $320,000, that was added into the budget at the end of the year, and possibly he did not take that into consideration. Selectman Cavanaugh said if the numbers are wrong, then perhaps Chief Carrier can help him with it, but these are the numbers he received from the Town Administrator he received before the meeting. Selectman Cavanaugh said he would like to discuss this with Chief Carrier. Selectman Dawson said they need to talk to Chief Carrier before they initiate the study to get input from them.

Selectman Dawson asked if they heard from D.O.T., regarding the Exit 20 study. Town Administrator Bob Veloski said he talked to Mr. Brillhardt last week and indicated that the State does not want to pay for the suggestion by Chief Chapman and Captain Wellington which was to the US 3 eastbound to NH 132 northbound left turn lane be shortened so as to not extend past the Evans Express mart driveway. Instead the segment of the left turn lane west of the driveway would be reconfigured to be a part of the raised median island that exists between the driveway and NH 140 intersection. Bob informed Joe Thornton of Franklin Savings Bank and he said he would talk to the rest of the business owners. Bob has not heard back from Mr. Thornton yet. After the Board discussed this they agreed to send a letter to D.O.T., expressing their disappointment that the State is asking for the money for this solution. The Board asked the Town Administration to send a letter to D.O.T.
Town Administrator Bob Veloski:

1. Snow plow agreement with 1875 Inn. The Board discussed this and agreed to have Bob draft a letter rather than a contract.

2. Auditor has forwarded several letters to the Town Administrator that they need to send out to the different companies and is requesting the Town Administrator sign the audit requests. After discussion, Selectman Cavanaugh made a motion to allow the Town Administrator Bob Veloski to sign audit requests as requested from the Town Auditor, seconded by Selectman Dawson. All were in favor.

3. Bob reminded the Board that on May 10th, at 5:00PM they are meeting with Avitar and Mr. Christie, Jay's Marina.

Selectman Wadleigh discussed the issue of Brook Road and Silver Lake Road being re-aligned, but needed to take land from a property owner in order to do this. Selectman Wadleigh said this issue needs to be resolved because if it is not then they will put the intersection back where it is. Selectman Dawson said she obtained the agreements from the property owners to allow the State access to people's driveways. Selectman Dawson spoke to Nancy Mayville, D.O.T., several months ago and informed her what she has accomplished and she should have received the ones that were signed and the ones that were not. Selectman Dawson has not heard back from Ms. Mayville. After further discussion Selectman Dawson said she will check into this and see where the State stands on the issue and report back to the Board.

Selectman Pearson reported that in reviewing invoices from the various firms the Town uses he feels it is critical for the Town to maintain a log of time when attorneys, accountants or other professional people that are billing the Town on an hourly basis where it is a billable expense for the Town that they log in when in Town Hall to meet with the Selectmen, or the Town maintains a log of this so there is a record of this in Town and a better track of billing can be kept.
Bob reported to the Board that they would probably be ready with the change of Banks by June 1st.

At this time Bob asked to go into non public session regarding personnel issues.

At 8:16PM Selectman Dawson made a motion to go into non public session for the purpose of personnel issues, seconded by Selectman Cavanaugh. Selectman Wadleigh, yes, Selectman Pearson, yes, Selectman Cavanaugh, yes, and Selectman Dawson, yes.