Selectmen's meeting of Thursday, July 19, 2007

Present from the Board:

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

Selectman Dawson called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

Selectman Dawson announced there are two very brief non-public sessions that she would like to go into at this time rather than the end of the meeting. Selectman Pearson also has one item for non-public.

At 5:05PM Selectman Dawson made a motion to go into non-public session regarding (a) employee, (e) pending claims of litigation, seconded by Selectman LaPlante. Selectman Wadleigh, yes, Selectman Pearson, yes, Selectman Dawson, yes, Selectman Cavanaugh, yes, and Selectman LaPlante.

The Board resumed their regular meeting at 5:25PM.

The Tilton Sewer Commissioners, Peter Fogg, joined the meeting to review the scheduling of the bond closing on August 2nd, 2007. The bonds will be in the amount of $2,200,000 at 4.250% and $352,000 at 4.125%. The Town Administrator Bob Veloski said Devine & Millimet, bond Counsel have given their legal opinion on the bonds which is to move forward. Sewer Comm., Chair Peter Fogg said that once the bonds are in place he would like to check with Gregg Mac Pherson (USDA) to see if it would be possible to consolidate the two bonds into one bond or if they have to stay separate.
Selectman Cavanaugh asked once the project is moving forward and there are change orders, who will approve them. Mr. Fogg said the engineers will approve them in consultation with both D.E.S., and Rural Development. The Selectmen would like to know of any significant changes in the project.
Mr. Fogg informed the Board that they are in the process of getting the first change order due out at the end of July, listing everything that has changes to date. They are anticipating another change order at the end of September. Copies will be forwarded to the Selectmen. Franz Vale, D.E.S. and Gregg MacPherson, Rural Development approve the change orders.

APPROVAL: MINUTES OF JULY 12, 2007 Selectman LaPlante made a motion to approve the minutes of July 12, 2007 as written, seconded by Selectman Dawson. All were in favor with the exception of Selectman Cavanaugh who abstained.

Correspondence:

The Board discussed the response from Mr. Goodin, Church of St. Mary's Assumption regarding the changes to the ball field on Rte. 132 from the Friends of Winniesquam Football. Mr. Goodin said it would be okay to put in the temporary concession stand as long as it was not on a concrete pad, and electricity would be okay from a pole, but not underground wiring.

Selectman Dawson announced the dates for the annual Household Hazaderous Waste Collection Day Saturday, July 28, from 8:30A.M. to Noon. In Belmont at the Fire Station (267-8300), In Franklin at the Public Works Garage (934-4103) and August 4, 8:30AM to Noon in Bristol at the NH DOT garage (744-3183) and Laconia at the Public Works Garage (528-6379).

The Board reviewed the appeals from the Board of Tax and Land Appeals and discussed whether or not they subrogated their authority to Avitar to settle the cases. The Town Administration will research this information and get back to the Board. Loren Martin from Avitar will be in the office the first week of August and this will be discussed with her at that time.
From the Town Administrator Bob Veloski:

1. Request to the Northfield Selectmen to meet at the Tilton Board of Selectmen’s meeting of 7/26/07. They asked to have Tilton Selectmen meet with them at their 7/24/07 meeting. Selectmen Dawson suggested they try to schedule to meet with Northfield Selectmen sometime in August because of conflicting schedules.

2. Public Works Director Dennis Allen informed Bob that the Grange Hall is in need of some work on the chimney, bricks are falling down and there are other items. Bob will ask Dennis for the extent of the repairs on the Grange.

3. Letter from Judy Rich Main St., Director announcing they will be holding their rubber turtle race in the Winni River during the Summer Fair on August 11, 2007. The State D.O.T., has again granted them permission to close Main Street to vehicular traffic between School Street and Park Street from 8:30AM to 4:30PM. Police Officers and Cadets will be available on site for the event. The Fire Department is also aware of both phases of the event and the space down the middle of Main Street will allow for the passage of emergency vehicles as needed. Tilton Main Street Program would like permission again this year to place two large turtle signs by the monument (one on each side) opposite School Street. After the Board discussed this they agreed that it would not be appropriate to place the signs on the Veteran’s Monument, but rather they can place them on the front of the watering through. Bob will inform Judy of this decision.

4. A letter dated July 6th from Judy Rich, Main St, Director reminding the Selectmen that Norway Bank took care of the PSNH account for the Christmas tree lights next to the bank. Since that branch of the Bank will be closing in October, the Town will have to budget for the expense of the tree lights.

5. The Congressional Tour is coming through Town on Thursday, August 23, 2007 to tour Federal Projects. There will be a boxed lunch at noon at the Riverfront Park. Selectman Dawson, Selectman Cavanaugh, and Selectman LaPlante will attend.
Reports from Selectmen:

Selectman Cavanaugh informed the Board that he had a discussion with Melanie VanTassle, Welfare Director in Sanbornton who covered for Tilton Welfare Director (Heather Thibodeau) while she was on vacation last week. There was an article in the newspaper advising Tilton residents to call Ms. VanTassle while Heather was away. Ms. VanTassle was inundated with calls, receiving over 64 calls on her cell phone. In discussing this with Heather, Selectman Cavanaugh reported that Heather asked if the town would make a payment on her cell phone for the excess phone calls. The bill submitted to Heather is for $75.00. Selectman Cavanaugh made a motion to pay the $75.00 either directly to Sprint or some type of gift certificate to Ms. Van Tassle, whatever she would like, seconded by Selectman Pearson. All were in favor.

Selectman LaPlante asked Captain Wellington if he planned on using the space set aside for storage for the police department downstairs in Town Hall. Captain Wellington said the problem they have right now is there is no sprinkler system in the basement of Town Hall and there is one at the Police Station. Because of this they would have to purchase fire proof file cabinets which are very expensive.

Selectman Pearson discussed property on Grange Rd., and Rte. 3. The Planning Board approved the property for boat sales. Selectman Pearson said he has an issue with this as when the building was first built it looked like it was built with something specific in mind, but yet on the tax rolls it was not taxed as a commercial property during the time it was being built. It was originally built for storage. At the last Planning Board meeting the owner came in for approval to sell used boats. Selectman Pearson said his issue is that this seemed to be a loop hole. He feels this building was built with the intention of being something else. For tax purposes he will not be picked up as commercial property until the next tax billing. It appears that this has worked out to the advantage of the property owner. Selectman Dawson said the Panning Board has asked her to look into whether or not the Selectmen have the authority to impose fines for zoning violations.
Perambulation; Tilton/Sanbornton: The Selectmen discussed the perambulation that took place on Saturday, July 14th. There was only one marker that was not there (the one at the end of the culvert) and Selectman Cavanaugh suggested that they send a letter to Sanbornton Selectmen asking them to split the cost of a marker, or they may have a marker in the historical society to use so a marker can be put in place. This was the only boundary marker missing.

Selectman Cavanaugh discussed an invoice for CCR Data Systems cash register maintenance in the amount of $183.15 for the year. Selectman Cavanaugh made a motion to cancel the maintenance contract, seconded by Selectman Pearson. All were in favor. Bob will check to see if there is a contract. Selectman Cavanaugh amended his motion to read, if they can step out of paying this maintenance agreement that they do so now, Selectman Pearson seconded the amended motion. All were in favor.

Chief Chapman and Fire Chief Carrier re: 911:

Chief Carrier discussed the 911 Calef Hill Road situation with the Selectmen. He stated that after reviewing all of the options he feels there is still confusion if they still number the properties using the 2000 range. Therefore, he would strongly urge the town to reconsider re-naming Calef Hill Road in Tilton. Chief Carrier said as far as he is concerned the issue is not who is going to respond, but linking the property to the emergency call through 911. Chief Carrier believes we would be in violation of RSA 231:133 if we were to have two streets named the same in the same community. Selectman Dawson responded that that Street (Calef Hill Rd, Franklin) is not in our community, which is the problem and they cannot change it. A letter from Timothy Scott, 911 System Development Specialist recommends that Tilton keep the address as they are written, the six houses in question on Calef Hill Rd with addresses that are in accordance with Franklin’s addressing scheme and to change the name of Calef Hill Rd in Tilton to something that is not similar to any of the other road names in the town.
Chief Chapman asked for an explanation of the memorandum of understanding from the Town of Franklin. Selectman Dawson said this was presented to the Selectmen in the summer of 2006 it states " the city of Franklin accepts no liability for damages associated in connection with its response to emergency aid requests pursuant to this agreement. The Town of Tilton shall make no claim against the City of Franklin for lack of service or for failing to provide those services in any specific level. The City of Franklin makes no claim to guarantee a specific level of service or the timeliness of the delivery of said service. Further the Town of Tilton shall hold the City of Franklin harmless for any claim, action suit, or demand of any kind brought against the City of Franklin arising from its activities pursuant to this agreement.

Chief Chapman said the liability is going to be there no matter what they put on paper. If Franklin is responding and they hit somebody, they are going to be liable. Chief Chapman said they have their contingent agreements that they go by day by day. Chief Chapman said that memorandum of understanding is useless because if Franklin is responding to a call in Tilton and anything happens, by statute, civil and criminal statute they are liable. Chief recommends the Town go along with it and the law will cover the Town.

Selectman Dawson read the recommendation from town counsel and he states he would not recommend signing of the memorandum of understanding without the recommended additional steps first being taken which is the removal of the clauses that were read.

Fire Chief Carrier said they (City of Franklin) cannot contract away negligence; they will always be responsible for their own negligence if it should ever occur.

Selectman Dawson proposes they go with the regular street numbers, not adding the 2000 to the numbers and to meet with the City of Franklin as soon as possible to work out this Memorandum of Understanding. Both Chief Chapman and Chief Carrier are in agreement.
The Board asked Bob to contact the Franklin Town Manager to set up an appointment with them.

In the audience was Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence who have one of the properties on Calef Hill Road. They said they have received all correspondence regarding the 911 issue on Calef Hill Road except for the latest letter of July 12, which they were given a copy of this evening. Chief Carrier and Chief Chapman said the six residents of these properties do not have to worry about any lack of emergency services, they are covered.

EMPLOYEE POLICY MANUAL:

VACATION: Selectman Dawson discussed the proposed vacation and would like to readdress it as she does not feel it is fair to the people who have been here the longest. Selectman Cavanaugh said under the new policy an employee would now receive 20 vacation days and under the current is receiving 25 days, he suggests paying that employee the week’s pay. Selectman Pearson discussed the financial aspect of this proposal and how it will affect the town. Selectman Cavanaugh asked Bob to prepare a spreadsheet of the employees hourly or weekly pay and their vacation time due. Selectman Pearson said what he is looking at is keeping the one, two, and six year schedule from the proposed policy and looking at the 10, 15, and 20 year in line with the old policy.

At this time Sandy and Joe Plessner announced that they will be retiring from their positions in the Land Use Office and Building Inspector/Health Officer and Code Administrator positions and gave the Selectmen two weeks notice which will be effective as of August 3rd, 2007. The Board congratulated them and wished them well.

EMPLOYEE POLICY MANUAL CONTINUED:

BEREAVEMENT: Selectman Dawson asked for clarification for the bereavement leave discussed at the last meeting. Full time employees will receive three days and part-time employees will receive one day. Selectman Dawson asked if they made an exception if it is an immediate family member.
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Selectman Cavanaugh said the exception is in the current policy and the suggestion for the proposed policy is that they make it the three days and one day.

Selectman Dawson discussed the two non public sessions this evening. The first was attorney/client, so there are no minutes. Regarding the second session of the non-public session, Selectman Cavanaugh made a motion to seal the minutes indefinitely, seconded by Selectman LaPlante. Selectman Wadleigh, yes, Selectman Dawson, yes, Selectman Pearson, yes, Selectman Cavanaugh, yes, and Selectman LaPlante, yes.

Appointments with Selectmen:

Megan Shaffer, Academy Street: Megan joined the meeting to ask the Board to install posted speed limit signs, (15 MPH) children at play sign on Academy Street. Megan said there are no posted speed limit signs and there are at least 12 kids on Academy Street. The Board discussed the speed limit they can post and if it can be enforced. Captain Wellington said they can try to enforce a 15MPH speed limit. Selectman Pearson made a motion to approve the speed limit sign as requested and a children at play sign, seconded by Selectman Cavanaugh. Selectman Dawson asked if Academy Street is within the posted School Zone on School Street (Tilton Prep) then the 15MPH can be enforced. Captain Wellington said he will research this. All are in favor of the motion. Selectman Wadleigh will notify Public Works Director Dennis Allen of this.

Selectman Cavanaugh announced that the Selectmen would like to give their heartfelt thanks to Robert Veloski for all of the work he has done this year as the interim administrator. Selectman Cavanaugh read a recommendation that was sent out; it is with great enthusiasm that the Tilton Board of Selectmen recommend Bob Veloski for a position in Municipal Government or as a Town Administrator. Bob stepped into an interim position after the town experienced a difficult parting of ways with the former town administrator who had been in place for many years.
During this time Bob faced a myriad of staff, budgetary and Board issues tackling each with a steady determination to set things right. He cleaned up many accounting issues and was able to get the town caught up in their annual audits. Most notable was his attention to detail, and his fiscal discipline he implemented which improved the cash flow to the point where the town has not needed a TAN this year. This alone saved the town tens of thousands of dollars in interest payments. In addition Bob has proven himself to be a moderating and stabilizing presence in town hall. He has calmed many personnel issues and has seen to a general improvement in our human resource practices while also implementing a new town-wide payroll system. Bob has shown resourcefulness in hunting down answers using as many State contacts as well as the Local Government Center and other sources. He was thorough in his approach and exhibited professionalism in dealing with the town’s people and employees alike. At the time they searched for an interim town administrator the town faced multiple immediate challenges while in total were surmountable given enough time and talent. However, these issues were dealt with that much quicker as a result of Bob’s skill and perseverance. He saw the town through a difficult time and set’s it up for a much brighter future for which they are most grateful. As a Board they are resolute in their support of his skill and reliability and recommend any municipality involved in a search to give Bob Veloski serious and thorough consideration. From the Tilton Board of Selectmen. Selectman Cavanaugh said the reason they are offering Bob a great recommendation is they have an agreement with Joyce Fulweiler. Joyce Fulweiler is going to be the permanent Town Administrator for the Town of Tilton effective August 27, 2007.

The Board discussed advertising the two vacancies in the Land use and Building Inspector’s office. Selectman Cavanaugh made a motion to have Selectman Pearson craft the advertisement, seconded by Selectman Wadleigh. All were in favor. The Board agreed to meet next week on July 26th, at 6:00PM.

Selectman Cavanaugh motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35PM, Selectman Dawson seconds the motion. All were in favor.