Selectmen’s minutes of February 14, 2008

Present from the Board:
Selectman Katherine Dawson, Selectman David Wadleigh, Selectman Tim Pearson, and Selectman LaPlante. Selectman Cavanaugh was not present.

Also present: Town Administrator Joyce Fulweiler and Secretary Catherine A. Woessner.

Selectman Dawson called the meeting to order at 6:15PM.

APPROVAL: MINUTES OF 1/31/08, 2/6/08, & 2/13/08

Selectman Dawson made a motion to accept the minutes of January 31, 2008, seconded by Selectman LaPlante. All were in favor with the exception of Selectman Pearson who abstained.
Selectman Dawson made a motion to accept the minutes of February 6, 2008, seconded by Selectman Pearson. All were in favor.
Selectman Dawson made a motion to accept the minutes of February 13, 2008 as corrected, seconded by Selectman LaPlante. All were in favor.

Town Administrator Joyce Fulweiler recommended to the Board that they withdraw the last warrant article regarding the acceptance of credit cards. Joyce attended a workshop this morning on this subject and there are so many more questions and things that need to be worked out and they need to be better prepared and have their ordinance in place before they ask the voters to allow the town to do this.

The Board reviewed the Warrant Articles as presented by Joyce.

Selectman Cavanaugh joined the meeting.
Warrant Articles:

Article #19 Credit Cards: Selectman Dawson informed the Board that she spoke to the Tax Collector regarding the use of credit cards and has been very rarely asked by a taxpayer to use a credit card for taxes. After further discussion Selectman Cavanaugh made a motion to leave out Warrant Article #19, Credit Card, seconded by Selectman LaPlante. All were in favor.

Chief of Police Robert Cormier introduced Officer Steven Henry who is joining the Tilton Police Department. Selectman Cavanaugh read the oath of office and Chief Cormier pinned on his badge.

The Selectmen continued their discussion of the Warrant Articles.

Article #7: Selectman Pearson informed the Board that the Budget Committee presentation went well last night but they were confused that the Selectmen are recommending both warrant articles and feel they should take a position for one or the other. Selectman Pearson said not speaking for the entire Board but believe they are in favor of the warehouse property on Rte., 132, but the Bank property is better than the present police department. Ideally the Selectmen would be approving the warrant article to do the Nickerson property. The Budget Committee feels the Selectmen should recommend that. Selectman Pearson asks that they reconsider going into town meeting recommending both properties and would like to discuss this.

Selectman Dawson asked to discuss the money issue first. CMK Associates, the architect firm came up with $900,000 for the Northway Bank build out figure with a 15% contingency. Mr. Klause did not feel $750,000 was right for the bank building build out. After much discussion Selectman Dawson made a motion to increase the $750,000 for Northway Bank to $900,000, seconded by Selectman Wadleigh. Discussion; Selectman Cavanaugh feels they should leave it at $750,000 and will be able to do the build out at this price. Selectman Dawson asked for a vote to increase Article #7 for $900,000 for retrofitting.
Selectmen’s meeting minutes of 2/14/08

Selectman Dawson and Selectman Pearson in favor, Selectman Cavanaugh and Selectmen LaPlante opposed. Selectman Wadleigh, opposed. Motion failed. The Board further discussed articles #6 & 7 and Selectman Cavanaugh made a motion that they add a sentence to the end of Article #6 “the Selectmen do feel that supporting Article #6 and leaving Article #7 alone is the best fit for the town’s best long term needs”, seconded by Selectman Dawson. All were in favor with the exception of Selectman Wadleigh.

Public Works Director, Dennis Allen: Dennis reported a complaint he received from the Town Administrator regarding Pest House Road as not being plowed. Dennis said he returned the call to the resident and left a message. Dennis said he plowed last night and again today. Selectman Dawson informed Dennis she received a complaint regarding the plowing on Noyes Road and drove around the circle where there seems to be a problem on the inside corners where the snow has built up. Dennis will check into this.

Resident Peter Fogg asked what is going to be done on Mansville Road as this has been the third year he has asked for salt on that road. There was discussion regarding Mansville Road being a non salt road. Selectman Dawson said Mansville Rd is a no salt because of the wetlands. Selectman Pearson suggested 50 percent salt and 50 percent sand. Dennis said this would take care of some of the problems. They could start this next year and it would take care of some of the ice problems. Selectman Pearson asked for a solution to the problem for this year. Dennis suggested filling in the potholes (one tenth of a mile after the RR tracks) with stone dust packed down. Selectman Pearson said if this does not work they need to have a solution for next winter. The Board was in agreement.

Dennis asked the Board to consider an Ordinance for next year regarding resident’s plowing snow onto entrances of sidewalks. Dennis said Laconia has imposed an Ordinance with a $500.00 fine for anyone blocking, plowing exit and entrances, plowing snow across the road. Dennis said his Department has asked businesses in the Lochmere area not to block entrances and to inform their contractors who do the plowing of this. Dennis will obtain a copy of the Laconia Ordinance for the Board’s review.
Dennis informed the Board that the worst snow build up is on West Street as it is very narrow and there is no where to put the snow. Dennis would like to rent another loader to remove the snow. The Board was in agreement.

Selectman Dawson informed the Board that she drove by the house on Autumn Drive that is draining their basement into the road and suggests they send them a letter to tell them to stop as this is creating an ice hazard.

Selectman Dawson informed the Board of a request for an abatement of interest due on taxes that arrived late. The Tax Collector presented this letter. The letter stated that it takes ten business days to receive mail in or out of the country. The tax payment was postmarked on the envelope December 19, 2009. There is $83.37 interest due. After the Board further discussed this they did not approve to authorize the abatement of interest.

Selectman Pearson asked if there financial statements, such as a balance sheet or income statement. Joyce said she does not have that yet.

Selectman LaPlante made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04PM, seconded by Selectman Cavanaugh. All were in favor.