Selectmen’s meeting minutes of April 19, 2012.

Present from the Board: Chair Pat Consentino, Selectman Katherine Dawson, Selectman Sandy Plessner, Selectman Joseph Jesseman, and Selectman Al LaPlante.

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

Others present, Jane Alden and Peter Fogg.

Chair Consentino called the meeting to order at 4:30PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2/16/2012:** Selectman Jesseman made a motion to approve the minutes of February 16, 2012 as corrected, seconded by Selectman Dawson. All were in favor with the exception of Selectman LaPlante who abstained.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Peter Fogg, Sewer Commissioner discussed the letter regarding the sewer betterment in the warrant article that was passed at town meeting. Selectman Dawson explained that from that vote forward those betterment fees for those projects we currently have will be assessed over all of the taxpayers in the town without it changing, unless a vote at town meeting to change it. This is for the current sewer betterment projects. Selectman Dawson explained that town meeting subrogated that authority from the Sewer Commissioners as it pertained to those particular projects that are currently assessed. In future projects that authority remains that of the Sewer Commissioners to decide how the betterments will be paid. Chair Consentino said she would like to send the letter out to the residents informing them of the decision regarding the betterment.

Chair Consentino asked Peter if he would explain this to the Sewer
Commissioners at their next meeting and then take a poll on the letter and get back to the Selectmen.

Peter asked the Board what was the purpose of the purchase of a zero turn lawn mower. Chair Consentino informed him that it was purchased for the mowing of the Rte. 132 ball field. Peter informed the Board that the Parks Commissioners have prices for the mowing and if they keep it in house it will be cheaper. If the Public Works Department does the mowing it would be $50.00 per hour or $3,900 for the season. The other bids were $1,500 for the season and the other is $2,500 using their own equipment. Selectman Dawson said the zero turn mower was purchased specifically to mow Rte. 132 ball field. Peter said they have put $1,500 in the budget the past two years for mowing and regarding the Parks Commissioners conversation with the Budget Committee wanting them to keep their budget as low a possible. They are also looking at their part time employee to use the zero turn mower to mow the ball field so they would not have to have Public Works labor involved. Dennis has made it clear that he does not want to have this equipment used by the part time person. Selectman Dawson said the least expensive way to get the ball field mowed is to have the public works department mow it. Chair Consentino would like to have Public Works Director Dennis Allen present for this discussion and will ask Dennis to attend a Selectmen’s meeting with the Parks Commission. The Board will let them know when they will be on the agenda.

Chair Consentino reported that she has been informed by Liz Merry that there is a forum by the Institute of New Hampshire Fiscal Spending. It is on April 26th at 7:00PM at the Taylor Community Center regarding the effects of downshifting from the State, unfunded mandates and how this effects the towns. The Board discussed attending this meeting and agreed they will meet for their Selectmen’s meeting at 4:00pm so they can attend the meeting at 7:00pm.

Town Administrator Joyce Fulweiler, Agenda Items: Joyce presented two requests for hardship abatements for betterments that were sent to the Sewer Commissioners and they denied them. Selectman Dawson suggested
they have the Welfare Director review the abatements and go through the process and report back to the Board. After further discussion Chair Consentino asked Joyce to contact the Sewer Dept. secretary to have the Selectmen on their next agenda to discuss this. Joyce informed the Board Bob Hardy Chair of the Parks Commission sent her the notice to post for their seasonal part time labor position and a job description. Joyce presented the job description to the Board for their review and approval. The position is for three eight hour days per week for maintenance of Riverfront Park. After discussion, Chair Consentino made a motion to accept the job description for Laborer for Parks Commissioners seasonal, part time, hourly non exempt employee, seconded by Selectman Plessner. All were in favor.

Regarding redistricting, Joyce reported she contacted all 62 communities who are loosing state representatives. Joyce said the Board of Alderman in Manchester did authorize an attorney, Tom Donovan to represent them. Their situation is a little different from Tilton’s as they do have representatives for their wards. Their issue is with a floaterial that is including the town of Litchfield Joyce said Tilton is more closely in the same situation as Concord where their floaterial, one of their wards does not have their own representative where they previously did. Chair Consentino said she would be in favor of finding towns in Belknap County that would go along with Tilton as to what is fair and equitable for our towns. The Board would like Joyce to contact Gilford, Meredith, and Belmont.

Joyce informed the Board that the Northfield Selectmen can meet with them on May 2, 2012 at 6:30pm.

Joyce informed the Board that at yesterday’s staff meeting employees discussed security in the town hall. This generated a discussion for the need of an exit plan. Employees do have panic buttons that are checked periodically. Joyce informed employees that we will be getting video cameras in town hall. Joyce will look into having a workshop on safety in the workplace for a staff meeting.
Selectmen's meeting minutes of 4/19/2012

Selectman Dawson informed the Board that the Town Clerk/Tax collector is concerned that the Town Administrator's door is often locked if she is not there or Catherine's door is locked. If Cindy had to exit from her area quickly as an emergency exit, she would not be able to get through. Because of this Cindy is requesting a key. Joyce explained that she locks that door when she leaves at night, but try' to make a point of unlocking it in the morning. Joyce said it is only when Cindy is open to the public that her door needs to be unlocked and she will make sure it is unlocked during that time. After the Board discussed this they are not in favor of giving keys to Joyce's office.

Joyce reported on 29 Beach Street. The attorney from the title company came in today to review our documents for being able to approve title and everything seemed to be fine. Greg Peverly called today and he will be sending the Selectmen an expense report. Joyce also reported that the contingent buyer received their refund.

Chair Consentino read a letter to the Selectmen from the Business Connection asking if the town would have an interest in the purchase of 10.7 plus acres at 18 Bittern Lane with a small pond, Map R24 Lot 5 with the possibility of creating a public park. The original listed price was $950,000 it has been reduced to $699,000. The location is opposite MB Tractor.

Reports from Selectmen:

Selectman Dawson reported that at the ZBA meeting this week an attorney for one of the cases suggested that our ordinance for setbacks has not been applied as written and cannot continue to apply as it reads. It was suggested to the ZBA, as this sets a precedent, that they seek the opinion of an attorney rather than take the advice of the contractor's attorney. Selectman Dawson made a motion to authorize the Zoning Board of Adjustment to contact an attorney to seek legal opinion on their question of the ordinance, seconded by Selectman LaPlante. All were in favor with the exception of Selectman LaPlante who opposed.
Selectmen's meeting minutes of 4/19/2012

Selectman Dawson said as the owners of the abutting property affected by this zoning variance the Selectmen may want to seek their own legal opinion. The Board agreed to have Selectman Dawson contact the Local Government Center, Legal Department for an opinion.

Selectman Dawson informed the Board that she has been contacted by the Tilton-Northfield Methodist Church wishing to donate a small shrub to the town. Selectman Dawson suggested the Highway department and contacted Dennis to see if he would like the shrub planted at the highway dept., Dennis said he would accept it. Selectman Dawson asked the Board if they had any objections to the Tilton-Methodist donating a shrub to the Town that will be planted at the Public Works Dept., The Board has no objections. Selectman Dawson said they will plant it on Earth Day, Sunday April 22, at 11:00am.

Selectman Dawson also asked Dennis if he could come up with names for the Road Committee. Dennis said he will make some contacts and get back to Selectman Dawson.

Selectman Dawson called Mark Morrill to see if he had an answer regarding the accessing of the manhole drain issue in front of town hall. Mr. Morrill said he will stop by next week to look at the area.

Chair Consentino reported that the spaghetti dinner fund raiser for the Senior Center was a great success. They raised over $2,000. Chair Consentino thanked all that contributed, all of the business that contributed to the raffle, to BJ’s for their contribution of food items, and to Gerry Chaille for the use of the Greenside Restaurant.

The Executive Committee of the Senior Center met with the Director of the Community Action Program. During this meeting the problem with the squirrels has reappeared. Chair Consentino contacted Terminex and they will send someone out tomorrow. Public Works Dir., Dennis Allen will also come out and check the foundation to fill in any holes. He will also power wash the foundation. Kelly’s sign will make a sign to put over the porch of the Senior Center.
Chair Consentino discussed the Ice Cream truck that is coming through town and has not applied for a Hawker's & Peddlers license. The Police Department will be asked to look into this.

Selectman Dawson read a letter from resident Judy Tilton asking the Board of Selectmen to review the Town's Hawkers and Peddlers Permit. She said it appears the intent of this permit is for out of Town vendors doing a specific event. Although she understands the importance of the Town knowing where vendors are located, she feels the cost is very high for a long term local vendor. The State Hawker & Peddlers license is $50.00 per year. The town's is $50.00 per month (plus the cost of the ID from the Police Dept. Judy thanks the Board for their consideration.

Selectman Dawson has looked at other town's ordinances for Hawker's & Peddlers licenses and came across a clause that says "no person shall vend, hawk, sell, peddle, entertain, parade, perform, solicit, or exhibit for a period no longer than 30 continuous days at the same location. Those persons seeking to vend longer than 30 continuous days shall be subject to site plan review as authorized by the Town's Zoning Ordinances.

Chair Consentino said she feels the fee is excessive when a particular peddler is in a permanent location for two or three months, the fee is $150.00. Chair Consentino feels there should be something in the ordinance that allows for long term Hawkers & Peddlers such as six months at a certain fee. The Board will further discuss this next week.

Selectman Plessner reported that the Conservation Commission is looking into the purchase of a piece of property and she is doing some research on this property to help them.

At 7:05PM Chair Consentino made a motion to enter into non public session as per RSA 91-A:3 (e) consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation, seconded by Selectman Plessner. Selectman Dawson, yes, Selectman Plessner, yes, Selectman LaPlante, yes, Chair Consentino, yes, and Selectman Jesseman, yes.

At 7:58PM the Board resumed their regular public session. Chair Consentino made a motion to seal the minutes of the non public session as pertaining to
legal matters until the matters are resolved, seconded by Selectman Jesseman. Selectman Dawson, yes, Selectman Jesseman, yes, Selectman LaPlante, yes, Chair Consentino, yes. Selectman Plessner left the non public meeting at 7:30PM.

At 8:00PM Chair Consentino made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Jesseman. All were in favor.