TOWN OF TILTON  
257 MAIN STREET  
TILTON, NEW HAMPHIRE 03276

Selectmen's meeting minutes of September 19, 2013.

Present from the Board: Chair Patricia Consentino, Sel. Sandy Plessner, Sel. Katherine Dawson, Sel. Joseph Jesseman, and Sel. Al LaPlante. All were in favor.

Also present, Town Administrator Joyce Fulweiler, and Administrative Assistant Catherine Woessner, Chief Cormier, Tim Pearson, and Cindy Reinartz.

Chair Consentino called the meeting to order at 2:10PM.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR BUDGET-2014: Cindy explained the salary line in her budget. The administrative merit pool included the town clerk/tax collector's increase for July of this year. She did not receive this increase because the Board of Selectmen could not move that money from the merit pool to her salary line. She has put in 2.5% for this year and 2.5% for next year and this can be voted on at town meeting of 2014. Cindy went over her budget and said the two big items in her budget are the salary line and supplies. The Selectmen asked if the clerks are still going to be attending training conferences next year. Cindy said that is a four year training for the deputy clerk and she still has two more years and this is in the budget. Also included in the budget are workshops. Cindy informed the Board that she will go over the agenda for the conference next year as to whether or not she will have the deputy clerk attend. This involves both clerks attending the conference and closing their offices for two days. The clerk's budget for 2013 is $103,266 and will be increased to $109,541 in 2014.
Sel. Jesseman asked if the town clerk is not reelected next year will the new town clerk receive the salary that is listed for $52,024.00. Sel. Dawson said the Selectmen will have to discuss this further. Chair Consentino said she supports what Cindy has done with the wage adjustment as it was voted on at town meeting for 2013 but the Selectmen were unable to give it to the town clerk because of the legalities.

**CHIEF CORMIER, POLICE BUDGET 2014.** Chief Cormier went over his budget with the Selectmen. Chief Cormier explained that under new uniforms he has $9,000 in the budget and this is also the line they replace vests from. They do receive grant money for the vests and should see $3,000 back if they spend $9,000 on bullet proof vests. Each year the Lieutenants review who needs a new vest and each year they usually purchase three vests.

Chair Consentino said the only change she sees right now is Health Insurance and also the legal line for contractual negotiations this year and it will also go into next year.

The Board discussed the decrease in the part-time parking attendant line item. Chief Cormier explained that they will only have one parking attendant at ten hours per week. The Selectmen would like to have a back up so there is consistency Monday through Saturday with patrolling Main Street and the parking attendant.

Chief Cormier went over the wages and reported that the merit raise pool would be any one who is eligible and cashes out any time at the end of the year. Dispatcher wages are determined by the collective bargaining agreement and this could change. There was discussion regarding the years of experience the dispatchers have and their hourly wages. Dispatcher Wiggins came to Tilton with 15 years experience as a dispatcher. Lisa Auger is in administration and covers dispatching when Terri is out. Chief Cormier will get more information and report back to the Board.

Chair Consentino discussed the legal expense line. Based on last year’s contract for the attorney’s fees for contract negotiations it was $16,000. Chief Cormier said he has $10,000 in the budget for the beginning of contract negotiations. There was discussion as to how much more needs to
be added to the legal line as the negotiations go into the first couple of months in 2014. There is $10,000 in the legal line now that they will be using because they are using the attorney from now until the end of 2014. Whatever they do not spend this year will be encumbered to be spent next year.

Sel. Dawson asked for a breakdown in the IT budget for 2013. Chief Cormier will get back to the Board with that information and also the information on the dispatcher before they start negotiations.

**NH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, PRESENTATION OF SILVER LAKE ROAD SAFETY AUDIT.**

MICHELLE MARSHALL, HW SAFETY ENGINEER, JOHN BUTLER, HW DESIGN, BILL LAMBERT, ADMINISTRATOR BUREAU OF TRAFFIC. STATE REPRESENTATIVES, IAN RAYMOND, TILTON, AND LEIGH WEBB, FRANKLIN.

Michelle Marshall, NH DOT Highway Safety Engineer presented the overall process of the road safety audit for the Town of Tilton. The study area included the intersection of Silver Lake Road and US 3/NH 11 (Laconia Road) and the surrounding areas. Ms. Marshall presented this project to the front office of DOT in August and they are here this evening to present it to the Board and public for their input and opinions as to where they should be going with the project. After this presentation DOT would like the Selectmen to provide a letter back to the DOT stating if you support or not support the Road Safety Audit project that will come out of this. This will document that the town would like DOT to move forward with the federally funded project.

John Butler, DOT, Highway Design went over the concepts of the project. Mr. Butler went over the seven major safety issues identified during the audit of Rte. 3.
Selectmen's meeting minutes of 9/19/2013

- Driver Behavior Issues, speeding along Rte. 3.
- Visibility of Intersection and Intersection sight distance, problem; sight distance from Silver Lake road to approaching traffic from either direction on Rte. 3 &11 is limited; excessive traffic and speeds along this section of Highway, Silver Lake road can be hidden by wide open pavement and parking for abutting “Smoke & Barley”. The vertical crest east of the intersection also makes it difficult for left turns into Silver Lake Road, as there is little to no shoulders for vehicles to go around turning vehicles. There is also limited sight distance for turning vehicles.
- Pedestrians and Bicyclists; did the road safety audit in December so they did not see pedestrians and bicyclists but the town has made them aware that they need to be taken into account.
- Narrow cross section; on Rte., 3 where there are no turning lanes on Rte. 3 there is no safe way if you are turning onto Silver Lake Rd., to get out of the flow of the thru traffic. There are relatively narrow shoulders as well in this area.
- Intersection Skew; Silver Lake Road intersection Rte.3 today is at a 4 to 5 degree angle and that creates some difficulties in being able to see in both directions and also making those turns awkward when there is such a severely skewed intersection angle.

These are the deficiencies that were identified during the Road Safety Audit.

Mr. Butler went over the proposed strategies;

**Long Term Strategies associated with crashes in the study period:**

- Consider installing southbound let-turn lane to remove left-turn vehicles from through lane.
- Reduce crest vertical curve to the north of intersection to improve sight distance.
- Consider installing northbound right-turn lane to separate turning vehicles from through traffic.
- Realign Silver Lake Road to reduce intersection skew.

**Intermediate Strategies Associated with crashes in the study period:**
• Consider implementing lane narrowing “effect” through striping and rumble strips on north bound approach. Interest in trying to get people to slow down.

• Consider installing traffic signal if warrant is met. DOT collected traffic data in July. They ran through the signal warrant analysis. It looks at certain thresholds of traffic volume at the intersection over certain periods of time. It looks at both having a certain threshold of volume on the main road, Rte. 3, and on the minor road, Silver Lake Road. The signal warrant analysis that they did with the traffic data they collected this year indicated that this intersection really does not meet the criteria for installing a traffic signal. There is plenty of traffic on Rte. 3 to meet that portion of the warrant but the volume of traffic on Silver Lake Road did not meet the criteria that they would want to see for justifying the installation of a traffic signal. Mr. Butler said that even if this met the warrants for installing a traffic signal they would still have some concerns in this particular location as it is in a relatively steep grade on Rte.3. Stopping and starting during inclement weather would be a concern. Mr. Butler said in their view installing a traffic signal there is not necessarily the right way to go.

• Consider installing overhead flashing beacon to draw attention to the presence and location of intersection.

• Acquire sightline easements to move fence lines and signs. (fence and signage along the Nursery.

• Consider restricting left-turns from Silver Lake Road.

• Identify opportunities to combine, delineate, and/or relocate access point to improve safety and operations.

• Implement improvements to channelize access point to Smoke and Barley along US 3 and modify flow of vehicles.

• Improve existing “wide” shoulder on southbound approach of US 3 to create a formal bypass lane.

Mr. Butler said these are what he would call the more significant strategies that are outlined in the report. These three concepts which are also in the report are an attempt to combine some of those into an overall safety improvement project. Mr. Butler said from DOT’s perspective would be the idea of the left turn lane for southbound traffic to the left to Silver Lake
Road. Realign Silver Lake Road to reduce intersection skew. Implement improvements to channelize access point to Smoke and Barley along U 3 and modify flow of vehicles. Add advance intersection signage to improve intersection such as a flashing beacon tied to vehicles exiting Silver Lake Road. The Selectmen’s concerns are with the parking situation at Smoke and Barley and also the ingress and egress going onto Rte.3. Chair Consentino asked if DOT looked at the ingress and egress to Silver Lake Road. There was also discussion to look into reducing the speed on Silver Lake Road.

State Rep. Leigh Webb discussed the study for the traffic signal and asked DOT to take into consideration that if a traffic signal were installed you might find that more people would be using it to turn left. Also the accident data does not take into account the near misses of accidents and if there is the potential there for a horrendous accident the signal seems to be the most economical, quickest and most effective way to go.

The Selectmen also discussed the obstructive of driver’s view turning left from Silver Lake Road onto Rte. 3 from the signs and trees from the Nursery on that corner.

**Bill Lambert, DOT Traffic Engineer** addressed the concern of speed on Silver Lake Road. Mr. Lambert said he agrees it is very inexpensive to change signs and put a different speed limit number on them, but the reality is it if that is all you do, you have not changed the speed of traffic. New Hampshire is a reasonable and prudent standard state which means that drivers are expected to drive at a speed that is reasonable and prudent for conditions and typically that is defined as the 85th percentile. Mr. Lambert said he would be happy to do a speed study and work with Chief Cormier on this. Mr. Lambert said what they really want to do is they want the posted speed limit to be what they think is reasonable and prudent for the conditions and not ten miles below that so they can set the tickets higher. Chair Consentino went over the options presented by DOT; to skew the corner of Silver Lake Rd., discussion regarding ingress, egress corner of the property of Smoke and Barley, looking at the sight view on the property of the Nursery on the left hand turn in the south direction or narrowing the lane to slow the traffic down so traffic can safely take a left hand turn.
Chair Consentino expressed some concern regarding putting in a speed bump in that area as to whether or not it would work safely and taking a right hand turn onto Rte. 3 is not quite as much a problem as taking a left hand turn onto Rte.3. Chair Consentino asked if DOT can start doing short term things that are cost effective and if the burden would be on the state. Mr. Lambert said some of those things under short term strategies, some of those things are town type things such as increased enforcement. Mr. Lambert said it is possible to start short term in one month or next year. Sel. Jesseman suggested contacting the State Police to help with enforcing the speed limit as Rte. 3 is a state road. Ms. Marshall said they would like a letter to DOT from the Selectmen with their input and decisions regarding tonight’s meeting so they can get started as soon as possible.

**Approval of minutes of September 12, 2013:**

Sel. Jesseman made a motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2013 as corrected, seconded by Sel. Plessner. All were in favor.

**Reports from Selectmen:**

**Sel. Dawson** reported that today was the west side of town’s compliance for PAYT and white trash bags were dropped off in front of Headsfirst Hair Salon and they do not belong to them and the tenants upstairs from the salon said they did not belong to them. Trash was also deposited in front of the jewelry store at 281 Main Street. The trash was in green bags and not picked up by Casella, they put a sticker on the bags. Someone removed the bags and put them in a recycle bin. Sel. Dawson said it is not in a place where she can declare it a public nuisance. Sel. Dawson said she has discussed this with Dennis as they are not going to be picking up trash all over town as this would defeat the whole purpose of PAYT. Sel. Dawson said that trash in a bag is not a nuisance, it is littering. If the bag should become ripped open then it becomes a public health nuisance.
Sel. Dawson reported that the Parks Commissioners would like to have two more recycle bins at the Rte., 132 ball field for the football season. The Commissioners will police the field themselves picking up bottles and cans and put them in the bins. The Board was in agreement and Joyce will inform Dennis of this. Sel. Dawson is still looking into prices for the wetlands delineation on Andrews Rd. There is a town easement that borders the property so it is something the town should be responsible for. This property owner is violating the conservation easement. Sel. Plessner said according to case law she received from LGC attorney it is not legal to use taxpayer's money for anything on private property.

**Chief Cormier, Lt. Martin, Det. Mat Dawson and Corporal Pinault: Update on Police Department.**

Chief Cormier reported that there is an increase in calls and right now they are at 7,000 calls. In 2009 they averaged 4,900 calls per year and now they average around 10,000 calls per year. Chief Cormier said the types of calls they have seen an increase in this year are, forgeries, fraud, and check cases. Also a lot of drugs and gas station robberies. They have seen a fair amount of sexual assaults this year and a slight increase in forcible rapes. Simple assaults started up beginning in the first quarter of this year. They have just started to see an increase last month in burglaries. Detectives picked up several cases between July and August that they are working on right now. Chief Cormier explained that one thing that does not give a clear picture of regarding crime and calls for service are the amount of hours that go into a call number. Chief Cormier discussed a report of six months of case load going to district court only. For Franklin Court Tilton is the busiest agency that goes through the court as far as arraignments and trials. There were also drug sales cases in July and cases of over doses. Chief said the majority of their work is drug related or also involves theft and burglary. Right now they have taken a very aggressive stand towards sales, if they do not they will see an increase in overdoses. The Police Department is also working closely with the Schools.
Chief Cormier meets with the schools the first Friday of the month to talk about the drug cases and ask for input as to what they are seeing in the schools, is it working are they keeping drugs out of the schools.

Chief Cormier said in the last few years they have made huge increases because a lot of the known drug dealers have been arrested and in jail.

Detective Dawson reported that the Police Union sponsored someone to talk to the High School assembly regarding drug addiction and how it has affected his life and turned it around. The Middle School was also at the High School assembly.

Lt. Martin said that a lot of the drug related cases are very labor intensive. It takes days and weeks to follow up on the burglaries. The two detectives are inundated; they have light patrol staff so they are more reactive. They cannot be proactive as much and without being proactive they are going to get more burglaries and robberies as they do not see the presence of police officers out there as much. This then increases the detectives work load.

Det. Dawson explained a work load of between 200 and 300 calls per week which would be 16 calls a shift; one Officer is handling this in an 8 hour shift and all the other calls that are coming in. Corporal Pinault said that the enormous amount of thefts is what is taking up the Officers time. The Selectmen discussed the need for more officers because of all of the crime that is going on in Tilton, but they are also concerned about the cost to the taxpayers.

Sel. Dawson said that the 3,600 residents in Tilton cannot continue to afford the rate our police department grows. Unfortunately, proportionally it is not offset by the taxes we receive from exit 20. Tilton also has a transient population that is huge. Chair Consentino said they have to come up with a balance of giving the police department the staff and resources to continue to keep up with the workload and to be able to keep the tax rate down so our residents can afford to pay their taxes. Chair Consentino asked the officers realistically what they foresee the department's needs are to do their job effectively. Det. Dawson said the detectives are busier than they have ever been. Currently there are two detectives handling the work
load. There were in the past three detectives and a part time detective of 32 hours per week. They are definitely not being proactive, they are more reactive. With their current work load having another detective would be better than what they have right now. Corporal Pinault said seven patrolmen is what they need to effectively run two patrolmen on each shift and one on midnight they need seven patrolmen. Having eight patrolmen would be ideal. Chair Consentino thanked the Officers for coming in and invited them to come back.

At 5:55PM Chair Consentino made a motion to enter into non public session as per RSA 91-A:3, legal, seconded by Sel. Jesseman. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor.

At 5:55PM the Board resumed their regular session. At this time Chair Consentino made a motion to seal the minutes of the non public session as they retain to legal, until the matters are resolved. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor.

Chair Consentino announced the swearing in of new Police Officer Abraham Gilman and proceeded with swearing in the new officer.

Chair Consentino read a letter from Peter Fogg, Chair of the Sewer Commissioners regarding the Public Works Department reclaiming and paving Center Street, Tyron Lane, Rescue Road and municipal parking lot. Part of the project entails raising and lowering a sewer manhole. The Sewer Department has been asked to pay $350 for this work. After discussion the Board agreed to have Sel. Dawson draft an e-mail in response to Commissioner Fogg’s e-mail to the Board.

Sel. LaPlante made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15PM, seconded by Sel. Plessner. All were in favor.