Selectmen’s meeting minutes of September 11, 2014.


Also present, Town Administrator Joyce Fulweiler and Administrative Assistant Catherine Woessner.

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

Approval of minutes of August 14, 2014:

Sel. Scanlon stated he would like to table the minutes of August 14, 2014 until he has had a chance to review the video. He also noted that not included in those minutes were part of his report when he offered to help replace the shingles on the Gazebo at the T-N Island Park. Also under Sel. Dawson’s report she mentioned quite a few cons and other questions and only the pros are listed. Sel. Scanlon would like to review the video to make sure her comments are included too. Sel. Jesseman seconded the motion to table the minutes of August 14, 2014 until Sel. Scanlon can review the video. All were in favor.

Sel. Scanlon made a motion to table the minutes of the non public sessions of August 13 & 14, 2014 as the meetings were not properly held and he was not noticed of those meetings. Sel. Scanlon said he received an e-mail that the meeting was to be held on Thursday the 20th not the 19th. He received a telephone call that said the Selectmen were talking about having a meeting on the 19th at 5:00PM and he would receive a call back and all Selectmen would be present. Sell Scanlon said he never received a call back and he replied to the e-mail stating that he would attend the meeting on 8/20/14. Chair Consentino informed Sel. Scanlon that she personally made that phone call to him to personally have that meeting so that he would be available and he said he would be available between 5:00pm and 5:15pm and that is when the Selectmen held the meeting so that Sel. Scanlon would be available. The meeting was posted properly and it lasted between 15 and 20 minutes. Sel. Scanlon said he would like to make it very clear that he was told he would receive a call back to confirm that there was a meeting. At the same time he requested that if there was a meeting he would like copies of the budget amounts as to what was spent so far towards raises because he was concerned they would exceed that amount. Sel. Scanlon said he did not receive a phone call that the meeting was on. The only thing he received was an e-mail that he forwarded to the Selectmen stating that he would attend Thursday’s meeting. Scanlon said he did arrive at the Thursday’s meeting at 4:55PM as he said he would and there was no one here. Chair Consentino said that initially when Catherine Woessner sent out the e-mail to the Selectmen it was at 10:00am and Chair Consentino spoke to Sel. Scanlon at 1:00pm asking him when he can come to the meeting and he said he could be at the meeting on Tuesday evening between
Selectmen’s meeting of 9/11/2014

5:00pm and 5:15pm. Sel. Scanlon said that Chair Consentino would call back to confirm as she has not talked to any other of the Selectmen. Sel. Scanlon is also requesting they get the Town’s attorney involved in this because he is not being included in meetings and would like to make it public. Sel. LaPlante assured Sel. Scanlon that he has every right to discuss these issues with an attorney and also stated that there have been meetings that he was not present and decisions were made without him being present. Sel. Dawson said they have a Selectman who feels he is being disenfranchised from meetings and regardless of the reason they need to listen to him and be absolutely certain that this is not taking place. Chair Consentino stated they have tried to accommodate Sel. Scanlon in every way they could and is willing to go out of her way to try to accommodate all of the Selectmen. Sel. Jesseman asked Sel. Scanlon what he is trying to get out of discussing this with an attorney. Sel. Scanlon said that it should be very clear that at any time the Selectmen get together and discuss town business that it properly noticed to all of the Selectmen and all of the Selectmen have the opportunity to attend to. Also that they do not have these impromptu meetings during the day unless it is an absolute emergency and there is a consensus of the Board. Sel. Scanlon mentioned that previously when there has been an afternoon meeting and he could not attend there was a conference call set up. This meeting that he was not part of the Selectmen voted on major money amounts, a 23% raise and it exceeded the amount that the legislative body said they wanted for raises and he said he has a right for input on these decisions. Chair Consentino stated that they have three meetings and all three of those meetings you said you could not attend. There was discussion regarding discrepancies in notification of these meetings. Sel. Scanlon referenced the Selectmen’s meeting of March 20, 2014 where the Board discussed a time frame as to when they will start their Selectmen’s meetings. They agreed to meet at 4:00PM and go over the minutes, and housekeeping issues until Sel. Scanlon arrives between 4:30PM and 4:45PM as he works in Hudson. The Board will not make any decisions or change in policy until Sel. Scanlon arrives. The Board agrees they need to have better communication between them and also each Selectman needs to indicate the best way to be reached for a meeting, either by phone or via e-mail for a meeting other than the normal Thursday Selectmen’s meeting.

Chair Consentino presented the non public minutes of August 13, and August 19, 2014 for their review.

Chair Consentino asked the Board to discuss dates for the Annual Vicy Virgin Food Drive. The Board discussed dates for October and agreed on the 18th of October. Chair Consentino has the request for Market Basket and this year will also ask Wal-Mart. Chair Consentino is asking for volunteers and the hours are from 8:00am to 2:00pm. Sel. Scanlon volunteered to help out for some of the time.

Sel. Dawson asked to have a Birthday card sent to the Boston Post Cane’s recipient acknowledging and also to have something on the website. The Board agreed.
Sel. Dawson informed the Board that the Governor ordered flags at half staff today and asked the Board if they were aware there is a flag at the T-N Island Park that is on a staff that cannot be lowered to half mast. Sel. Dawson said if a flag cannot be lowered to half mast it should not be on a staff. The Board discussed having this changed so it can be displayed properly. Sel. Dawson said she would vote to remove it completely until they can do something better. The Board will discuss this with the Northfield Selectmen.

Chair Consentino made a motion to talk to the Northfield Board of Selectmen regarding removing the flag and the flag pole and coming up with a solution to replacing with an adjustable flag so it can be put at half-mast, seconded by Sel. Dawson.

Discussion: Sel. Scanlon suggested putting a solar light on the top of the flag pole. All were in favor.

Town Administrator Joyce Fulweiler, Agenda Items:

Joyce informed the Board that she received a letter from Lakes Region Planning Commission that said according to their records Sel. Joseph Jesseman’s appointment to the Planning Commission expires on November 18, 2014. The Board needs to send a letter to the Planning Commission informing them of who you would like to appoint for the four year term. Chair Consentino made a motion to appoint Joseph Jesseman to the Lakes Region Planning Commission if he so desires to accept the appointment, seconded by Sel. LaPlante.

Discussion: Sel. Jesseman suggests they give all of the Selectmen the opportunity to serve on the Commission if they wish to. Sel. Jesseman has three years experience but there have been conflicting meeting schedules where he has not been able to attend the LRPC meetings.

Discussion: Board appreciates the work Sel. Jesseman has been doing and would like him to continue. Sel. Jesseman accepted the appointment. All were in favor with the exception of Sel. Jesseman who abstained.

The Board also needs to appoint their representative to the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association. Chair Consentino said they Board all ready appointed Captain Joubert. The Board agreed to keep Tim Joubert as the Tilton’s representative. The Board asked Joyce to invite Captain Joubert to the Selectmen’s meeting and they can discuss whether or not he would like to remain their representative to the LRMFA.

Joyce informed the Board that they will be meeting with NH DOT, District 3 at the intersection of March Road and Calef Hill Road on Friday at 10:30AM. Joyce and Dennis will also attend.

Joyce informed the Board that they are scheduled to meet with the Northfield Selectmen on Tuesday, September 23, at 6:30PM at the Northfield Town Hall, regarding Cannon Bridge bid. Chair Consentino asked to have this noticed as a meeting, if they should need to make a decision.
Joyce reported that last week she met with our Health Trust Representative and was a very interesting meeting. Before they set the new rates they have to have a public hearing. Joyce will let the Board know when she has the date and time. Joyce said she will attend and all the Selectmen are invited to attend as well. Joyce has contacted School Care and they will be giving us a quote on Health and Dental Insurance. There is a new group started in 2012 called New Hampshire Interlocal Trust and they have taken over Harvard Pilgrim Insurance. They have a workshop on Thursday, September 18th that Joyce will plan on attending. Joyce reminded the Board that open enrollment begins December 1, 2014 so the Board would have to make a decision prior to December 1st. Joyce is hoping to have the new rates by the 20th of October. Sel. Scanlon suggested that in October it would be a good time to send out notices to employees letting them know about the health insurance buy-out plan the town offers.

Joyce asked the Board to review Tim’s recommended budget schedule for 2015. The Board discussed it would be difficult to have the budget meetings on the same night as Selectmen’s meetings. The Board agreed to reschedule the budget meetings to Monday, October 13, 20th, and 27th from 4:30PM to 6:30PM.

Joyce asked the Board if they would like to establish budget guidelines. Chair Consentino said they want to level fund they do not want department heads going over, level funded or less. Sel. Scanlon said department heads should be encouraged to start at zero, not what you got last year and not to exceed last year’s budget.

The Board discussed the request from Town Clerk/Tax Collector to approve her request to lower the fee for the filing fee for DES applications from $10.00 to $5.00 for the service. How it affects Tilton, the cost of retaining the documents for 7 years (storage), the cost to Tilton that will be mailing the application back to the applicant if requested. We will not be collecting any fees whatsoever. Gilford Board of Selectmen decided to implement a flat fee of $5.00 for the service. The applicant has a few choices, hand deliver, drop off & pick up. The applicant can either provide a postage paid envelope or a check in the amount of $5.00 made payable to the town for mailing/handling fee. Chair Consentino made a motion to accept the Town Clerk/Tax Collector’s proposal to lower the filing fee for DES application filing fee, seconded by Sel. LaPlante. All were in favor.

Chair Consentino informed the Board she received an e-mail from Marylee Gorham Managing director at the NH Humane Society inviting the Board to join them on Wednesday, September 17th from 4-6pm. They will be hosting the Lakes region Chamber of Commerce Business afterhours Meet and Greet.

Ms. Gorham took over the leadership role of the organization late December 2013 and has made some very positive changes to the agency and how they deliver services and programs. Ms. Gorham would like to open the dialogue, if the town is interested, discussing and presenting options to you regarding revisiting the contract that used to be in place for your constituents and their animal shelter. She would like to put the offer on the table that the New Hampshire Humane Society, are certainly ready and willing to
forge that option again and have much more to offer contract won residents than ever before and would be thrilled to do so again for the Town of Tilton. Ms. Gorham said she would be glad to put together a packet of information for you to review. Chair Consentino replied back that it would be great to have a packet of information for the Board’s review.

Chair Consentino announced that the Tilton-Northfield Fire and EMS Open House is October 11th, from 10:00AM to 2:00PM, Fire Prevention Week.

At 6:20PM Chair Consentino made a motion to enter into non public session as per RSA 91 A:3, legal and personnel, seconded by Sel. LaPlante. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor.

At 7:05PM the Board resumed their regular session. Chair Consentino made a motion to seal the minutes of the non public as they pertain to personnel permanently, and legal, until matters are resolved, seconded by Sel.LaPlante. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor.

Joyce informed the Board that she received a call from Robin at Lowe’s and they have a number of volunteers to help restore the Gazebo at the Tilton-Northfield Island. One of their suppliers, Olympic Stains has offered to donate the stain and also to dip the shingles for the roof on the Gazebo. Lowe’s is supplying the shingles for the Gazebo. Robin will let Joyce know if they will be able to do the work on September 22, or if it may be the following week. Lowe’s landscaping department will be cleaning up the flower beds and also some planting, perennials and annuals.

Chair Consentino announced the Winter Farmer’s Market will be starting December 13th at the old Agway, which is now Autoserv. The Board will ask Chief Cormier whether or not the Farmer’s Market will need a detail.

Reports from Selectmen:

Sel. Scanlon informed the Board that the School Formula Committee met last night and have a consensus and will be voting on recommendations. A Public Hearing will be held along with the School Districts. One of the issues is the spikes that they see and one of the things the committee noticed is it also corresponds with what towns get assessed and what dates. The School Formula Committee is asking their Board’s of Selectmen to ask them if they would be interested in getting their towns on the same year for their re-assessment so they are all on the same schedule. Sel. Scanlon said that if everyone is assessed at the same time it prevents “spikes”. The Selectmen discussed that Tilton was just assessed this year and the cost to have this done again is a big expense. Sel. Dawson stated that the Selectmen were on board with this after the last session with the School Formula Committee, which she served on that committee at that time and Northfield changed their mind.
Sel. Scanlon asked the Selectmen if they would participate in looking into that possibility or are they adamantly against it. The Selectmen were in agreement into looking into Tilton, Northfield and Sanbornton having the same assessment schedule. Sel. Scanlon said the committee also discussed the town’s having the same assessment company. Sel. Dawson asked why the School Formula Committee feel they should not change the formula. Sel. Scanlon said first there will be a vote on the formula with all members to decide on what they want to report to the school board and this will be done at the next meeting in two weeks. Next that recommendation will be brought to the public hearing at the School Board Meeting. Sel. Dawson asked why there were no discussions with the Selectmen regarding the formula before the committee made their decision. Chair Consentino stated that it is important when you serve as a Selectman on a board that the communication comes back to the Board so they know what is going on. The Board asked Sel. Scanlon if he could give them this information so they can review it before the public hearing.

Sel. Dawson discussed the process for lowering the speed limit on town roads. She has had several residents ask about this.
Sel. Dawson discussed the culvert in front of John Chase’s house. Sel. Dawson and Public Works Dir. Dennis Allen met and took the cover off the catch basin and found a pipe that goes across to Mr. Chase’s house and is buried under ground and this is why it backs up. In one of the pictures you can see the damage and the flooding that takes place there. At prior Selectmen’s meetings Dennis said he was going to look at it to see what the elevation of the pipe is to see if it would work. Sel. Dawson said that when she spoke to Dennis he needed to see the end of the pipe and asked to have Mr. Chase uncover it. Dennis will be at the Selectmen’s meeting next week so the Board can further discuss this with him. There was discussion as to who put the culvert in. Sel. Dawson said the person who developed that area put the culvert in. Sel. Dawson said she cannot find an easement or right of way that would indicate the town owns the culvert. The catch basin is the town’s but there is nothing that shows we can drain the culvert on his property. Mr. Chase said he is willing to sign an easement.

Chair Consentino informed the Board that the police department called Dennis, public works department, to have the sand swept from the end of their driveway that has built up. The motorcycles entering and exiting the driveway are skidding and sliding. As of today it still has not been done. The Selectmen asked Joyce to call Dennis and let him know the Board wants the sand removed as it is dangerous to motorcycles going in and out of the driveway to the police station.

Sel. Dawson discussed sharing road costs with other utilities. The highway department just paved Academy Street and the Water Company had done work on Academy Street and did not pay anything to pave the road. Sel. Dawson feels they should pay half the cost. Dennis will be meeting with the Board next week and this will be discussed with him.
Sel. Dawson reported the State of NH prisoners were at Riverfront Park on Tuesday and Wednesday and did a very good job. They did the brick work and the stone dust path and cleared all of the brush along the river.

Sel. Dawson said that driveway permits should be placed in the tax card files and they are not. The Town Clerk does not keep copies when they come in from NH DOT.

Sel. LaPlante made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45PM, seconded by Sel. Jesseman. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tilton Board